

John Randolph to Andrew Jackson, April 6, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN RANDOLPH TO JACKSON.

London, April 6, 1831.

My dear Sir, In your letter of the 3d of December last, you most kindly invited me “to speak my feelings and wishes in regard to the future without reserve and to count with confidence on the steadiness of your friendship for me.” At the time when I received that letter, I had sanguine hopes of being able to return to Russia in the Spring, and accordingly wrote to you to that effect. But, subsequently, my health has been so entirely undermined that I despair of my ability to do so. I cannot express to you the anxiety and distress which I have endured from reflecting on this circumstance. It amounts, at times, to intense misery. As you were so good as to put my return to St. Petersburg upon the contingencies “that my health would admit of it, and that I should have reason to believe that I would be able to accomplish the whole, or part of what was desired”, I feel some consolation; for I see not the most distant prospect of success (at present) in either object.

I must therefore, my dear Sir, avail myself of your indulgent invitation “to let you know my wishes freely” and to request that “the necessary directions may be sent to me without delay.” I regret most deeply that I have delayed this communication so long. I have been cheated by the delusions of Hope. I have now none left but that I may be permitted to lay my bones in my native land.

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Let me beg your excuse if there be any thing improper in the above, for it is written in great bodily pain, but much more of the mind: and believe me Dear Sir, with the truest respect and regard