

**Andrew Jackson to John Branch, April 19, 1831, from
Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John
Spencer Bassett.**

TO SECRETARY JOHN BRANCH.

Washington, April 19, 1831.

Sir, Your letter of this date by your son is just recd. accompanying it, is your commission as Secretary of the Navy. The sending of the latter was not necessary, it is your own private property, and by no means to be considered part of the archives of the Government. Accordingly I return it.

There is one expression in your letter to which I take leave to except. I did not as to *yourself* express a wish that you should retire. The Secretary of State and of war, haveing tendered their resignations, I remarked to you that I felt it to be indispensable to reorganise my Cabinet, proper—that it had come in harmoniously and as a unit, and as a part was about to leave me which would on tomorrow be announced, a reorganization was necessary to guard against misrepresentation. These were my remarks made to you in candeur and sincerity. Your letter gives a different import to my words. your letter contains no remark as to your performing the duties of the office until a successor can be selected

On this subject I should be glad to know your views. I am very respectfully yours,