

Henry Dilworth Gilpin to Andrew Jackson, August 20, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

HENRY D. GILPIN TO JACKSON.

Philadelphia, August 20, 1833.

Dear Sir, We completed today the official report which you requested us to make, relative to the Expense Account of the Bank of the United States, in your letter of the 3d inst. The examination has resulted in ascertaining, that expenditures have been made to an amount, in a manner and for objects which I could never have conceived, and notwithstanding our remonstrances, they are not likely as you will see to be either discontinued or changed. The report has been made as fully and carefully as our means admitted and I trust will embrace all the information you desire. Mr. McElderry, for whom we sent and who assisted in the examination, but left here a few days since, expressed a wish to sign it and I therefore transmitted it to him by a careful messenger with a request that he would forward it to you without delay.

I will take the liberty while writing on the subject of this institution to add a remark, which I am led to solely from my knowledge of its course and the interests of the government. It is highly desirable that we should have as generally as possible the influence and the united judgment of all the government directors. The distance of New York or other engagements have prevented Mr. Alley¹ from meeting us except on one occasion. Since then, upon a request from me that he wd. come on, he informed me that "he had written to the Secy. of the Treasy. to decline again taking his seat at the Board." There is no gentleman to whose judgment, talents and correct views we could more readily look for aid than Mr. Alley and whose cooperation we would more anxiously retain. But I deemed it probable from his

Library of Congress

language that he had resigned his seat. And it is only under that impression that I now say what I do: Should it be so, it would be useful to the government and gratifying to me, and I am sure to my colleagues, that his place shd. be supplied, should you so think proper with a gentleman residing as near as possible. The number from Pennsylvania being full, one from Delaware would be able to attend with the most frequency and certainty. Mr. James A. Bayard² a lawyer of great eminence there, a decided and tried friend of the administration, a gentleman of promptness, talents and eloquence in whose firmness and readiness to cooperate with us (at the present moment so necessary) we might I am sure entirely rely, has occurred to me as a person highly suitable and he could always be with us on a few hours' notice. Last winter I believe Mr. Bayard expressed some reluctance to serve in this office—but, though I have had no opportunity to speak with him on the subject, I think that if appointed he would not decline.

1 Saul Alley.

2 U. S. senator from Delaware 1851–1864, 1867–1869.

I beg, Sir, that you will pardon these remarks, which have no object, but a desire faithfully to communicate my views relative to the institution in the direction of which you have placed me and to protect the interests of the government there in the most effectual manner. They are communicated solely to you, for your own consideration in the result of which we have all learned to entertain such entire confidence.

I remain with great respect