

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, May 20, 1839, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, May 20, 1839.

My Dear General, I received your encouraging letter post-marked 5 Inst, a few days since. Your doctrine of faith in providence and the people is with you, a sort of experimental philosophy. You have never found either to fail you, through a most eventful life. After Truxton won his race on three legs, I can&apos;t well see why you might not look for miracles in any cause in which you were embarked, and indeed I cannot but think we have your luck with us still, else it would have been impossible to have withstood such a general treachery of Banks and political Leaders.

If you will look back to the beginning of the disaffection, the vote on the distribution Bill, the currency Bill, and the land Bill, you will see only 0039 15 Wright and Benton and some two or three others remaining true in the senate and a defection almost proportionate in the House. But I think the second panic, under the state Bank Catastrophe, is nearly passed and that we shall gather strength until your cause is carried. New-York is certainly redeemed, and a few days will shew Virginia pretty well out of the woods. I have a letter from Ritchie 1 and some from other friends, all concurring in assuring me that there is a good prospect of beating both parties and getting a majority of real Republicans returned to both branches of the Assembly as well as to Congress. If we fail in beating the Rives Squad and the Whigs together, there is no doubt of getting a Legislature of such a complexion, as to defeat Rives for Senator, and there is not the slightest doubt, but Mr. Van Buren will get the State for the Presidency. North Carolina promises better than

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ever, and Colo. Twiggs, 2 just from Georgia, assures us there never was such a thorough reaction ever known there, He says it is admitted by all but the most reckless Whigs, that the state will go for Mr. Van Buren. He was himself at one time, pretty much a doubter , so much so, as to tell me that Mr. V. B. was done up in Georgia. He is now convinced, that it was all a mistake!

1 Thomas Ritchie, who from 1804 to 1845 edited the Richmond Enquirer.

2 David E. Twiggs, of Georgia, colonel of the 2d Dragoons; distinguished in the Mexican War; surrendered Texas to the Confederates in 1861.

I am glad to hear of Major Donolson's good fortune in the race. I hope it will not draw him too much into the spirit of racing, if it does he had better have lost, than won. Nothing is so ruinous as to get too much fascinated with such sport. It requires the most extraordinary ballast of character, to keep from capsizing under the full sail of the feeling inspired, by such success. If you can fortify the major with some of the sound Judgment by which you kept yourself always apart from the class with which achievements on the turf is apt to identify one, it will be well for him. Tell the major, that I shall rival him as a breeder, if not as a racer. I have a fine yearling colt by Captain (Genl. Hunter's) out of my cart-mare, which has all the racing points. I mean to banter Genl. Gibson, to run against some of his young nags. He never wins a race, unless the opposing horse throws the rider (as was the case last year) and surely I can manage to beat one, who can only succeed by such a contingency.

After the elections are over in August I mean to take up the line of march, with my wife and Betsy, on a pilgrimage to the Hermitage. I think I shall get there by the middle of Sepr, or 1st Octo. stopping possibly at the Springs to recruit. These springs have had as fine an affect on my daughter as "the matchless sanative" 3 on you. I shall fall out with this "matchless" medicine if as you say, it makes "a new man of you." It was the old man who was a father to me and mine and I would not have him changed, though I should be most

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happy to find him restored to his health and strength. The President was laid up a day or so,

3 This was a patent medicine which Jackson took frequently and with satisfaction to himself. He recommended it in several of his letters.

class=MsoNormal>0040 16 by violent cold settling in his eyes and head. But he is up and out and well again. My wife and Daughter join me in love to Mrs. Jackson, the little pets and the whole Household of the Hermitage and to it&apos;s founder especially

Yr. friend