

## William Rabun to Andrew Jackson, September 1, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### GOVERNOR RABUN TO JACKSON.

Milledgeville, September 1, 1818.

*Sir*, I have lately had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st. Ultimo. I supposed that our correspondence on this subject had finally terminated, but a renewal on your part has induced me to make this reply. I find that the same angry disposition which (no doubt) dictated your letter of the 7th of May last, is still rankling within your breast. It is very certain, that I have never intentionally assailed your feelings, or wantonly provoked your frowns, and I flatter my self, that it is equally certain, that I shall never find it necessary to court your smiles.

*“ You are not disposed to enter into a controversy with me, relative to our respective duties, but recommend an examination of the Laws of our Country before I again hazard an opinion on the subject .”* Your advice is very good, and should be attended to (at least) by all public officers. I hope you will now permit me in turn to recommend to you, that before you undertake to prosecute another Campaign, you examine the orders of your superiors with more attention than usual. You assert, “that the better part of the Community know too well, that they have nothing to apprehend from a Military despotism;” and in proof of this assertion it might have been well to have Called my attention to your late proceedings at St. Marks and Pensacola, as affording Conclusive evidence on that point.

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The situation of our bleeding frontier you say, “ *was magnified by the apprehensions of a few frontier settlers, and those who had not understanding enough to penetrate into the design of your operations .*” Indeed sir, we had expected that your presence at the head of an overwhelming force, would have afforded Complete protection of our bleeding and distressed Citizens bordering on an extensive and unprotected frontier, but our prospect was only delusive; for it would seem that the laurels expected in Florida was the object that excelerated your march far more than the protection of the “ *ignorant*” Georgians. If “ *Colo. Hayne and his 3 or 400 Tennesseans made a movement for the security of the pretended assailed front of Georgia* ”, it certainly was a very unsuccessful one.

When you shall have explained to me by what authority you sent Major Davis into this state, with orders to apprehend Capt: Wright (who was not under your Command) and place him in Irons etc. then I shall deem it my duty to explain the motives which induced me to call for a reinforcement from Fort Early.

I am Sir, Yours etc.