

Andrew Jackson to John Clark, April 20, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN CLARK.1

1 Copy. Clark was a prominent Georgia politician, opponent of Crawford, and governor from November, 1819, to 1823.

Nashville, April 20, 1819.

D'r Sir. You will pardon the libirty I have taken in addressing you, on the small personal acquaintance I have with you and permit me to hope that you will indulge me with such facts relative to the Character of Mr Wm H Crawford now Secty. of State² as may belong to his public Character, or have any connection with his private deoprtment. Mr. Crawford and myself have (whilst he was Secty, of war,) differed in opinion in relation to our respective duties and privileges, he having assumed to himself such as were in my opinion unconnected with the duties of the Office over which he presided, to which I chose to demurr. In the Investigation of the Seminole Question, lately before Congress, I have been Confirmd, in the opinion that Mr Crawford has been materially Concerned in writing the report for Mr Laecock³ and in instituting such Questions and Interogations as he believed would materially result in my injury, and prejudice, I therefore think it my privilege to search for such Evidence, as I believe it is easy to obtain to prove to the world that Mr Crawford has not only with me swerved from that strictly honorable deoprtment which it is usual for one gentleman to obse[r]ve towards another, but that his depravity of heart has permitted him to do so, on many former occasions, particularly with yourself for the particulars of which I shall be under many obligations to you

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2 Crawford was Secretary of the Treasury.

3 Lacock's Senate committee reported adversely to Jackson on Feb. 24, 1819, and the House committee reported adversely on Jan. 12, 1819. (See *Annals of Congress*, 15 Cong., 2 sess., I. 256 and 515, and appendix, pp. 2350–2378.) The report of the House committee was rejected on Feb. 8 by a vote of 63 to 107 (*ibid.*, p. 1136). The Senate report was announced so late in the session that it could not be debated before Congress adjourned on March 4. It was allowed to lie on the table, and when Congress met again the opponents of Jackson were willing to let the matter lie undisturbed. His friends urged him not to take it up again, and he took their advice, after laying before the Senate a long and carefully prepared defense, which Rufus King presented on Feb. 23, 1820. *Annals of Congress*, 15 Cong., 2 sess., II. 2308.

Most Resptly. your Obt Ser