

**Andrew Jackson to John Clark, November 23, 1819,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO GOVERNOR JOHN CLARKE.

Nashville, November 23, 1819.

D'r Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the recpt of your letter of the 2nd instant, with the news paper you had the goodness to send me.

I have read it with pleasure, and congratulate you and your country in your exaltation to the Executive chair of Georgia,¹ as well as the prospects of bringing to light those engaged in the illegal and inhuman traffic of the poor african.

¹ Clark had just been elected governor of Georgia over Troup, a friend of Crawford's, by a large majority. He continued his pursuit of General Mitchell, laying charges against him before the national government. They were investigated by the President, who decided that they were substantially true and ordered that Mitchell be dismissed from his Indian agency. *Niles' Register*, XVII. 177, 194, XVIII. 118, XX. 116.

The documents published clearly shew the guilt of the agent in this illegal traffic, and when we discover officers of the Government violating their duties and the laws of our country for their own benefit it is a proof that corruption abounds—and I have such confidence in the integrity and virtue of Mr Munroe, that on reading those documents, he will either dismiss the agent, or order a strict enquiry into his whole conduct that must eventuate in his removal, and bring to light the whole combination.

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I thank you for the certificate of Doctor Moore which you have enclosed to me, I have given it a proper direction. I informed you that Mr Monroe had positively declared that no such division in the cabinet ever existed, and the information, if given, to the Editor of the Georgia Journal, was a positive falshood. This in the first place must lead to Mr Crawfords removal from office, in the second it enables me, when a fit time arrives to expose this miscreant to the world in his true charector and afford evidence to the good [people] of the u states of the baseness of this man whose vanity lead him to offer his pretensions for the Presidential chair. When corruption so far prevades the human mind, to induce it to state a positive falshood, to the injury of his fellow being— *the being* , thus degenerated, affords ample proof of his unfitness to fill any office in a republican Goverment, which can exist alone upon the virtue of the people composing it, and particularly the officers of the goverment who execute it, hence the certificate of Doctor Tho Moor afford ample proof, that William H. Crawford is unworthy and ought not to hold any office under the Goverment of the U. States.

It is a source of great pleasure to all the friends of their country, to think that the good people of Georgia has at length opened their eyes to the intrigues of your enemies, and has at length done Justice to your merits, by placing you in the executive chair by such an honourable vote. Error may for a while do injustice, but truth is mighty and will ultimately prevail. your enemy Genl Mitchel must be in the pangs of death, and hard run for exculpatory proof when he introduces his own affidavit to prove his innocence. It is remarked by everyone that this shews his guilt as much as the proof aduced, and that any individual base enough to violate the law that he has sworn to execute would perjure himself, to exonerate himself from punishment for an infraction of that law he had sworn to support and execute. I will thank you to forward me any of your papers that contain farther proof on this subject.² I will file them.

² May 23, 1820, Governor Clark sent Jackson part of a pamphlet against Crawford, saying he had shown in it that Crawford was once dishonest, whatever he might be then.

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