

## Andrew Jackson to William Carroll, July 15, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

**TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM CARROLL.**

Washington, July 15, 1833.

*My D'r sir,* The inclosed papers laid before me by Sir Charles Vaugh[an], in his private capacity and in the most delicate manner, will speak for themselves, and bring to your view the real object of the officers who give the certificate, which are to snatch from the memory of Sir E. Packingham the odium of having any knowledge of the watchword Beauty and Booty found on some of the prisoners on the 8th of Janry, 1815.

The object of these officers is laudable and to be admired. That justice may be done as far as truth will warrent, these papers are inclosed to you, that you may in reply furnish all the evidence within your reach and knowledge detailing fully how the watchword of the British army on the 8th came to your knowledge. I well recollect that you laid before me these papers at the time, and afterwards at Tennessee, which I think were all returned to you by me if not, they are on file at the Hermitage.

I wish you to give *in detail* the *whole facts* as far as you are in possession of them. If my recollection does not fail me, I think it was found in their orderly Books as after orders by the adjutant—in all this you can set me right from your journal of that day. All these things were noted in my aids, Major Reids journal, which was lost about the time of his death, and I never could regain it.

It is strange, as this fact was published in all the papers in the U. States at the time (1815) that it never was attempted to be contradicted untill 1833. Still the order may have

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been Issued by some subordinate of the Command'g Genl without the knowledge of the commander in chief (a hazardous step for a subordinate) and in our army would have cost him his life. From the delicate manner Sir Charles has placed them before me I wish in return to afford him all the facts you are in possession of in the reply. His letter will not be answered until I receive your reply, which I will expect at as early a day as you can *search up your old papers* , and make it. It will be well for you to look at what Major Eaton says, in the life of Jackson, page 380, in which he says the information was obtained, from prisoners, and confirmed by the Books of two of their orderly sergeants taken in Battle, which contained record proof of the fact. . . . .