

Andrew Jackson to Amos Kendall, January 15, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO AMOS KENDALL. 1

1 Cincinnati Commercial , Jan. 15, 1879.

Hermitage, January 15, 1845.

My Dear Sir: Your confidential letter of the 5th instant is received, and reaches me almost prostrate, so that I have scarcely strength to wield my pen.

I sincerely thank you for the date of Mr. Munroe's letter to me on the subject of the Florida treaty—his pacific course towards Spain, and the extract of my reply. It proves one thing at least that Mr. J. Q. Adams's diary is false, for if he had requested Mr. A. in February 1819 to consult me on the subject of the treaty, Mr. Monroe would not have wrote me on the subject in 1825. The truth is I never heard of the Treaty until whilst under negotiation, or until long after I left the city in March 1819. The first I heard of it as I positively believe, was from Mr. Munroe, in the fall of 1819, as I was escorting him thro Indiana and to Lexington Ky., when he applied to me to accept the Government of Florida, which I positively refused, altho on a third application and on condition that as soon as the country was received and the Govt. organized, I should be permitted to resign my military and civil office. This was the way I got clear of my military office, as the rules and regulations of the War Dept. prevented an officer whilst under orders to resign, and from the close of the war until this arrangement I was kept constantly under orders. My answer was written before any information that a larger boundery than the Sabine could be obtained. Whilst Mr Munroe was under the abuse of Clay and others

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about this treaty, and the country in the hands of Spain no danger could be expected from that quarter, whilst I knew from the projected invasion of Britain, thro the Floridas as long as our Southern Coast was open to British influence over our Indians, etc. etc., we were vulnerable from that quarter. The Indians removed west Great Britain gains an ascendancy in Texas, [and] the same danger arises, as I apprehend from Florida. The moment I got hold of Mr. Erving's papers, and found that we could have got Texas as far as the Colorado, or Rio grand, I was truly astounded, and at once tried to obtain a retrocession and believed that Mr. Munroe had been imposed upon by Mr Adams withholding Erving's Communication from him, etc. etc., Thus was my approval in 1820 drew from me by Mr. Munroe's letter, which, if my recollection don't fail me, will be found the 0389 365 only approval I ever gave to that unfortunate and ill-advised treaty, under the circumstances it was entered into. At that time Deonis had alarmed the Executive and the heads of Departments, until Mr Jefferson wrote Mr Munroe that all my acts in Florida were Justifiable on the broad basis of well acknowledged international law, and all he had to do to satisfy all Europe on this point was to address a circular to our Diplomatic Corps at all the Courts in Europe, that his commanding General had done no act but those well warranted by the laws of nations under the circumstances of the case. This was done; all clamour ceased; the Executive got calm, and hence his letter to me of the 23d of May, etc., this letter of Mr Jefferson's, Mr Munroe shew me in '23 when I went to Congress as Senator.

I have wrote Major Lewis to apply to Mr Gouverneur for copies of all Mr Munroes private letters to me and my answers, as is probable several of them got burnt with my House. I think the one you have is the only one that treats upon the subject of the Floridas and Texas.