

Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, January 8, 1797, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ROBERT HAYS.

Philadelphia, January 8, 1797

D'r Col , I set down to give you the news of the place and a little family Chat.

By yesterdays paper it is announced, that there is an insurrection in Ireland, that the[y] have made themselves masters of a Considerable Stand of arms, viz 30,000 and attacked 10,000 of the British Troops and Defeated them, this is not as yet well authenticated, but this much I believe to be true that there are great Commotions in Ireland. the same paper announces further successes of the french, the masterly retreat of Morreau, 100 leagues through the heart of the enemy, and tho it has been reported under the london head that he was Captured, it appears that on his retreat he Captured 7000 Troops 2 Stand of Coulours 18 Cannon and 80 officers, and now is again advancing. It is further announced that the British minister has been ordered from paris and has returned without bringing about any thing by negotiations.

The Directory of France has given orders to their armed vessels to capture all american vessels bound to or from a British port which is bottomed on the Decree, to Treat all Nutral flags in the same manner Nutral flags suffers themselves to be treated by the english, the english still Continuing their Captures of our vessels when bound to a french port. In what this may end I cannot Conjecture. I Believe it to be a fact that France has acquired by Barter From the Spaniards the East and west floridas and part of Louisiana in exchange

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for part of St. Domingo, therefore the[y] will be masters of the mouth of the Mississippi, but I hope they will be good neighbours.

The Legislature of the Union progress slowly in business the greater part of the time as yet have been taken up in committees preparing business for the house. It is much talked off to increase the salaries of the officers of Government and to lay a direct Tax, neither of which I hope will take effect. It is strongly urged the necessity of a direct tax, it appears necessary by the Secretarys Report to raise for the next year a further sum than is annually raised of 1,200000 Dollars to meet the exigencies of Government. this is urged in favour.

Seviers Campaign has been before a Committee of the whole house on the report of the secretary at war on the petition of Hugh L White, and now referred to a select Committee to report. If a favourable determination should be had I will next bring forward our campaign.

I named to you the steps I had taken to Bring into view the subject of Col. Manskers¹ and men who marched to the Chickasaw nation in my

¹ Kaspar Mansker was one of the early explorers of the Cumberland Valley and took a group of settlers thither in 1779. In 1781 the Chickasaw Indians made a treaty with the whites and lived peaceably with them thereafter. George Colbert was one of their chiefs and was a strong friend of the whites. In 1795 they were beset by the Creeks and appealed to the whites, and a band of forty-five volunteers, led, it seems, by Mansker, and supplied by Capt. David Smith, responded to the call and drove off the attacking Creeks. Jackson's petition of 1797 did not succeed, but in the treaty with the Chickasaw, 1818, the United States government agreed to pay, for those Indians, \$2000 to Capt. David Smith, then of Kentucky, for the supplies alluded to. The expedition of 1795 was frequently mentioned in the correspondence of the whites with the Chickasaw. See Jackson to

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George Colbert, June 5, 1812, and *Am. St. Papers, Indian Affairs*, I. 363, 378, 384, 408, 441, 442, 451, 456, 465, 536, 556.

last, by preferring a petition in the name of G. Colbert, to obtain pay for the provisions and relieve Smith, but I think the Claim will be negated.

Now for family Chat; I have got Genl Winchester² to lay Jay in the necessaries, wanted, Nails Glass etc. is already sent on to fort pit the Ballance of the Memorandum he is to lay in at Baltimore. I am Dobtfull of Receiving your pay unless, a Certificate should reach me from Hanley before I present the account, but to answer our purpose I have given Winchester a power to sell 1250 acres of land on the Bluffs which he says he can do, and to lay in to that amount, and should I receive your pay has promised to transmit him to Baltimore some money. Thus far I have taken care of the needfull, but I do not expect they will be as well Chozen as tho I had got the money and laid them in myself, but Winchester is verry accomodating and obliging.

² James Winchester, a Revolutionary soldier from Maryland, settled in Sumner County, Tenn., where he rose to the rank of brigadier-general of militia. He was given the same rank in the regular army in 1812 and served, first in the Northwest and later, under Jackson, in the South.

I have no expectation of receiving any thing from Allison. I think that firm in a bad way.

I have nothing more to say at present, but trust you to Deliver the inclosed letter and take care of my little rachael until I return, and give my compliments to your lady and all friends and believe me to be as usual yours

P S Adams will be president and Jeferson vice. Adams has 71 votes Jeferson 68. you will be certain of the m[ar]sh[al] but who will be Judge I know not but I expect Rhea,³ the senate being in his Interest. . . .

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3 John Rhea. On Feb. 17, 1797, President Washington nominated John McNairy for judge of the United States district court for Tennessee, and Robert Hays for marshal; the nominations were confirmed. *Exec. Journal of Senate*, I. 226, 227.