

Andrew Hynes to Andrew Jackson, July 16, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

ANDREW HYNES TO JACKSON.1

1 This letter well illustrates the gossip of a backwoods community. After writing much that would excite Jackson's anger against Benton, Hynes concludes by urging him to take no notice of it.

Nashville, July 16, 1813.

Dear General , Your favour by your Boy of to day is recd., together with the enclosures which are put into the Post Office.

With respect to the rumors that are in circulation of ill natured expressions of Colo. Benton toward you, I have but little knowledge. Yet I have heard thus much, that he, on his return from Washington was represented to be very wrothfull against you for your friendship to Majr Carroll in the affair with his Brother Jesse. I Probably should have heard more, had I been in the confidence of the colo's Friends, but moving in the Sphere that I do, I have never come within the Circle of his Slander, nor would any of his minions dare retail it in my presence without being checked.

The Colo. has kept himself remarkably close since his return. he has scarcely been in town , and I have never had an opp'y of a single word with him. His august consequence is not calculated to procure him many real friends, altho' he may have some Sycophants who will be panders to his ambition. I would extremely regret that the Colo. would be so far lost to himself and all Sense of Honour and Gratitude as to forget that he is indebted to you for the consideration in which he is held in society. I am unwilling to believe that

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any man could be so stamped with ingratitude as to turn traitor to this Patron and to be the Reviler of Him, who brought him out of obscurity into fame and consequence in the world. Ingratitude has always been considered among all nations and in all countries the basest of crimes. Yet there can be no punishment for it, except the honest indignation of all good men. A man who is ungratefull, renounces all moral obligation, and is capable of committing every Species of iniquity.

You I know can foresee that there are persons behind the curtain, who would be willing to make any body an instrument to act as a kind of *Autoumaton* to excite and promote disaffection toward you in order to keep themselves from danger. I would not take any notice of the Idle rumors that are floating in this Slanderous world. They can do no harm, when the source from which they originate is known, but will recoil on their authors. Your standing in society is like the Rock in the Ocean. It may be assailed, but it cannot be moved. The swift winds of Slander may blow, and the rough billows of Detraction roll, yet you are stedfast and no impression is made. You can stand secure within [your] self and look with contempt on [the pe]tty rascality of designing men. . . .

Sincerely yrs