

**Andrew Jackson to Thomas H. Benton, July 19, 1813,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO THOMAS H. BENTON.1

1 Copy.

Hermitage, July 19, 1813.

Sir: When I first extended to you the arm of Friendship, I never expected to substitute the language of reproach instead of Friendship. But late rumors and information has reached me of some conduct, expressions and threats of yours as they relate to me of the basest kind. It is always due to Friendship, Justice and propriety that credit should not be given to reports, altho' coming thro' the most respectable channels, untill the person who is said to be the author is called upon for an avowal or disavowel of them.

I have therefore to call upon you to say whether you did not leave my house on the loth. of May in perfect Friendship with me carrying with you a letter from me to the secretary of war to promote your welfare and your views? Have you not on your return and since spoken disrespectfully of me, and when chided by my Friend who said he would write to me, Did you not say to him that you rode a good Horse, would soon be with me and give me personally the information of your conduct and language to save him of the trouble? And have you given me any Such information since your return? Have you threatened to make a Publication against me since you left my House on the loth. of May? Has any act of my life towards you since I took you by the hand in Friendship and appointed you my Aid de Camp been inconsistent with the strictest principles of Friendship? And if any, in

Library of Congress

what did it consist? and lastly have you or have you not threat [e]ned to challenge me.² I am Sir respectfully yours

² This sentence is inserted in Jackson's handwriting. The rest of the letter is in the handwriting of a clerk.