

Andrew Jackson to Josiah Nichol, June 9, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOSIAH NICHOLS.¹

¹ Josiah Nichols was a prosperous merchant in Nashville, with whom Jackson had a firm friendship. His substantial brick residence, still seen by one who travels the road from Nashville to the Hermitage, is much like the pictures of the mansion at the Hermitage before it was burned and restored with some alterations. Capt. Robert Armstrong was one of Jackson's favorite officers. He distinguished himself at the bank of Enotachopco Creek. Jackson, while President, appointed him postmaster at Nashville, and in other ways showed his friendship for him.

Hermitage, June 9, 1814.

D'r Sir: I have the pleasure to inform you, that Captain Armstrong, and his lady is now, with me, and I had the pleasure of seeing them united in the holy bonds of matrimony. believe me when I say to you, that I had no agency in, or knowledge of the intended union before yesterday. The merits of Captain Armstrong, entitled him to my friendship, the respect I had for you and your family and the merits of your daughter entitled, her to every attention and respect Mrs. Jackson and myself could pay her, *they are a happy couple worthy of each other* . I hear with regret, that this union did not meet with your approbation. I have been acquainted with Captain Armstrong since his childhood. so have you! Is there a blemish in his charector? both you and I can answer this in the negative!!! he is honest, he is brave, he is enterprising. he is Esteemed by every person who knows him. he is worthy of the Esteem of all, and without a cent of property he is worthy of any lady, of any grade, of any family of any fortune! It cannot be possible, that the want of property, was

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the ground work of your objections! If it was, permit me barely to bring to your view that he possesses, charector, and the good will of all who know him. he possesses enterprise and will make a fortune, whilst many who possess *fortune by descent will spend it, and make their family wretched* . The prudence and enterprise of Captain Armstrong is a sure pledge for the welfare and happiness of your daughter. They are now married, whatever may be the grounds of your objection, can have no avail, the happiness therefore of your daughter your family, (and if I can properly Judge of *parental* feelings) your own happiness depends upon your smiles and forgiveness. I beg of you not to believe, that I Justify disobedience in children, far be it from me, but such is the fact, that where a pure and sincere affection exists, between a young couple, disobedience will exist, where the attachments are strong, and the objects of the affection meritorious. your daughter as I am informed has disobayed your parental injunction. it cannot be Justified, but may be the more Easily pardoned, when the object of her affections are so worthy of them. in fine the Knot is tied, the paths of life are rugged at best, and it is certainly the duty of parents, who are capable of reasoning, to throw as few thorns in the path of life of their children as possible. It only remains therefore, for the completion of the happiness of Capt armstrong and his lady to meet with your and your ladies pardon, and a restoration to your friendship. The enterprise of Captain armstrong will ensure them plenty. Be good enough to present my respects and that of Mrs. Jackson to Mrs. Nichol, and assure her untill her daughter meets with a full forgiveness from her, she will find in Mrs. Jackson the tender care of a mother, and both will find in me the tender care of a father. on friday the 17th. instant, I am to have my frends with me to partake of a dinner, will you and your lady do Mrs. Jackson and myself the pleasure of dinning with us on that day. I am respectfully your mo. ob. serv.