

**Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, November 12, 1816,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO SECRETARY MONROE.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> This letter is the second of the Jackson-Monroe series of 1816, which later did service in politics. It was printed in many papers during the campaigns of 1824 and 1828.

Private

Nashville, November 12, 1816.

*Sir.* In my last to you, I took the liberty to draw your attention to the benefits that would result both to the Treasury and defence of the lower Mississippi and its dependencies, by bringing into markett the country at the disposal of the u states by the late treaties with the creeks, cherokees, and chikesaws etc

Lt Gadsdone<sup>2</sup> who carries on those treaties and who will hand you this, and who I beg leave to introduce to yr notice affording a safe convayance, I am so deeply impressed with the importance of this subject, that I cannot forego the present opportunity of again bringing it to your view.

<sup>2</sup> James Gadsden.

I have this moment wrote the comptroller on this interesting subject, and if the plan proposed is adopted, the land can be brought into markett in a very short time, and a permanent, and strong settlement, given to that section of country by american citizens, competant to its defence—should the Government divide the survayors District as

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proposed, and place Genl Coffee as survayor of the no[r]thern District, his Energy and industry will bring it into markt in all June next—should this event take place it will leave open the appointment of receiver of publick money promised to the Genl. If this should occur from the late delicate state of health of Lt. Gadsdone, which has occasioned a desire to retire from the service to regain it, I warmly recommend him to fill that office. In this, as in all my recommendations, I have publick good in view. from the acquirements of Lt. Gadsdone he will be a great loss to the army, but by retireing at present, his services may at a future day be preserved to his country, his constitution may be restored his health regained, should he remain and fall a victim to the insalubrious climates his present duty calls him, he is lost, both to the army and his country. his Education being of the best kind, has cost much. tho, both moral, oeconomical and prudent, a Lt can lay up nothing—his situation therefore requires some office that would procure him a competency, whilst preparing himself for some professional persuit. This office would afford it. These are they reasons that induce me, to warmly recommend him, seeing the treasures of his mind, that at a future day his country (if in Peril) may benefit by them. Lt Gadsdone is every way fit for this office, and on the events occuring aluded to, I warmly recommend him.

Being deeply impressed with the importance of another subject as relates to yourself as well as to the Government, I will beg leave in this as I did in my last to mention it, That is the charector who fills the vacancy in the war office occasioned by the transfer of Mr Crawford to the Treasury.

your happiness, and the nations benefit, materially depend upon, a good selection to fill the heads of Departments. I need not tell you that feuds exists and has existed to an injurious degree in the no[r]thern army. To fill the Dept. of war with a charector whose feelings has taken a part in those feuds, is feeding it with a fewel, that will extend the flame. This and other consideration induced me to enter on the enquiry for the most fit charector to fill the Department of war, it resulted in the selection of Colo. William Drayton, and give rise to the hasty production on this subject in my last—since which, Genl Ripley has arived here, and on enquiry of him, he gives it decidedly as his opinion that Colo.

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Drayton is the best selection that can be made for the next Presidential term. Pardon me for the following remark. Every thing depends upon the selecting of your ministry, both as to yourself and country, in every selection party, and party feeling ought to be laid out of view (for now is the time to put them down) by selecting those the most honest, possessing capacity, virtue, and firmness, by this course you steer the national ship to honor and preferment; and yourself to the united plaudits of a happy country—consult no party or party feelings in your choice, persue that unerring Judgment you possess, that for so many years has added so much to the benefit of our common country.

accept assurances of my sincere friendship and believe me to be respectfully yr mo ob,  
serv,