

John Rhea to Andrew Jackson, January 12, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN RHEA TO JACKSON.1

1 In the editor's *Life of Jackson*, I. 249, n. 1, is a suggested explanation of the disagreement between Jackson and Monroe with regard to the so-called "Johnny Rhea" letter. It is there suggested that Jackson, getting a letter from Rhea containing indefinite expressions of approval with reference to the Long order, understood them as the hints he had asked for, through Rhea, with respect of the invasion of Florida. This letter, not accessible when the *Life* was written, is additional evidence that the explanation suggested may be the true means of reconciling the opposite assertions of two honest men. See the preface to the present volume.

Washington, January 12, 1818.

Dear General, I received your letter of the 20th last month. I am glad that the Message came to you and that you are pleased with it. in my opinion it is an elegant and grand state paper and at any time will command attention. it manifests a great knowledge of the affairs of the U States.

I expected you would receive the letter you allude to, and it gives me pleasure to know you have it, for I was certain it would be satisfactory to you. You see by it the sentiments of the President respecting you are the same. as to me, I wish I could do you any good. I have also received your letter of the 22d last month, and read it carefully. I am gratified indeed that the plan of the President is satisfactory to you. I am confident that he intended it to be so. You have given me great pleasure in saying you will not resign before you see him. I

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will enquire when he intends taking his southern journey and the rout and will write to you, and probably about other things—at present will write no more relative to things mentioned in your letter of the 22d above mentioned. another letter from me you do not say whether you received it—it is the last I wrote to you. I expect you to write with every wish for your happiness

sincerely yours