

**George Gibson to Andrew Jackson, March 29, 1820,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**COLONEL GEORGE GIBSON TO JACKSON.**

Washington, March 29, 1820.

*Dear General,* It is now ascertained that We will not occupy Florida this season and I am sorry for it; for it was the only chance left me of joining you. Spain has, I much fear, out manouvered us in this affair and particularly at Madrid where it is quite certain we are but poorly represented. Mr Forsyth it is said begins to sigh after home and from what I hear he will, no doubt, be indulged with permission to repose in retirement.

Your memorial is read by every body and it is flattering to your friends to hear it spoken of as greater than anything which has appeared on the subject—even your enemies affect to admire it.

The fate of our lamented Decatur has thrown a gloom over this district which as yet exhibits no change. More than eight thousand persons followed him to the grave and testified by their quiet and orderly behavior how much they respected him in life as a gallant officer and as a Gentleman. I am sorry to say that Mrs Decatur remains in a state of stupor; she has shed no tear.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Commodore Decatur fought a duel with Commodore Barron at Bladensburg, Md., Mar. 22, 1820, and received a mortal wound. He was a very popular officer and his tragic death was a great shock to the country. In his intrepid character and patriotism he was a kindred spirit to Jackson, and the two men had become personal friends during Jackson's visit to

## Library of Congress

Washington early in 1819. In later years Jackson showed his friendship by helping Mrs. Decatur, who was left in a strained financial condition by her husband's death.

Present my sincere and friendly respects to Mrs Jackson.

I remain with affectionate regard yours sincerely