

Arthur Peronneau Hayne to Andrew Jackson, June 10, 1820, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ARTHUR P. HAYNE TO JACKSON.

Hayne's Bluff, West Bank of the Alabama, June 10, 1820.

. . . . We are first on the West side of the Alabama—our situation is a beautiful one, 12 miles by Land below Fort Jackson, our Spring is equal to any one I ever saw or tasted of, the Land of the very first order, the Tract consisting of 700 acres. I prefer it to any settlement I have seen in the Country. My little Crop which consists of Corn and few acres of Cotton, is very fine, and I expect to average 75 bushels to the acre. The Alabama Low Grounds can yield us in Corn # more than the best Kentucky Lands. I have upon my Farm 100 acres of Low Grounds cleared and in most excellent order, and which is more than my small force can manage.

We find ourselves very much in debt in this Country, to the United States, for Land; and we are anxious to devise some scheme, that will upon fair and honorable terms meet the Exigency. The following is my plan. We will suppose, in order to elucidate the principle, that, I have purchased of the Government \$10,000 worth of Land—that in Augt. 1817, I paid \$2,500, leaving a balance of \$7,500, which if not paid till the expiration of the 5 yrs will again amt. to \$10,000. Under this view, I should have to pay the Govt. in Augt. 1822 \$10,000. Now at the expiration of Augt. 1822, instead of paying the Govt. \$10,000, I would divide it into 10 equal instalments payable yearly, and at the end of each year, let the Govt. demand from the purchaser one instalment, with the interest on the whole debt, and so on in succession till the expiration of the 10 yrs. when the whole debt would be liquidated. I would also give an additional six months grace on each instalment, after which

Library of Congress

if not paid forfeiture is to take place upon the principle of the original Contract. According to the above scheme, I should have to pay in Jany. 1824, \$1000, and every subsequent instalment would become less, and less—the last payable at the expiration of the Tenth year would amount to \$1060. A vast majority of the purchasers in this State have given from \$2 to \$10 pr acre, and my plan would afford them complete relief, and the principles upon which it stands are so fair, that the Government could not refuse to sanction it. I should demand it as a right, and not ask it as a favor. You will perceive that the Govt. is not to lose a single cent of the principal of the Debt and to receive a yearly interest. I confess tho' that my principle will not afford relief to those gentlemen who have given from \$30 to \$40 to \$50 for Land. The question then arises will Government pass any Law for the relief of men who acted so imprudently. I fear not. The Govt. will never give up any part of the debt which is due to them, and to extend the period of payt. to those who have given \$40 pr. acre for Land, would afford them no relief. *Permit me if you please to ask the plan, which in your opinion the Govt. ought to adopt, and extend to the purchaser's of Land in our State.* Whatever is done, ought to take place at the next meeting of Congress. . . .