

## Andrew Jackson to James Gadsden, May 2, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

**TO COLONEL JAMES GADSDEN.**

Hermitage, May 2, 1822.

*D'r Gadsden.* On yesterday I had the pleasure to receive your two letters of the 10th and 13th ult. It affords me sincere pleasure to find that Mr. Monroe has renomenated you, and has with that firmness and energy, due to himself, the nation, and the army explained to the Senate the causes that lead to your appointment. Your renomenation with the reasons assigned will convince the Senate, that the President is determined, to support his own constitutional powers, and will not be awed to the silent acquiescence, of a faction, whose object has long been to demolish 13 the army regardless of the injury which must inevitably result to the nation thereby. It will afford me great pleasure to read the Presidents communication on this subject,<sup>1</sup> and I shall anxiously await the arival of the news of your confirmation by the Senate.

<sup>1</sup> Message of Apr. 13, 1822. Richardson, *Messages*, II. 129–136.

I am happy to learn that my letter to Mr. Monroe of the 19th of March last under cover to you, has been delivered to him. from the friendship that existed between us, upon mature reflection, I did believe the course I have adopted, was the only magnanimous one that I could pursue, consistant with that friendship I allways had for Mr. Monroe, and I am happy to learn from your letter, that he will answer it with that Frankness that I have exercised toward him. When I first received the anonymous letter<sup>2</sup> I had doubts as to who was the writer or from what source it could originate. My belief is and I have but little doubt now

## Library of Congress

but that it was written by the conivance of William H. Crawford or some of his parasites, because it details some facts that could only be known to myself and family; or Mr. Monroe and his Cabinet. This trick is in unison with the information given in 1818 to the Editor of the Georgia Journal, 'that the Cabinet was divided on the subject of my arrest' which Mr. Monroe told me (when I produced to him the letter of my friend from Georgia enclosing Doctor Moors (brotherinlaw of the editor) certificate that Grantland the Editor told him that he recd. the information from Mr. Crawfor[d] or Mr. Cobb, but he believed from the former)<sup>3</sup> was as positive a falshood as ever was fabricated, is pretty much of a peace with the anonymous letter and affords strong presumptive evidence, of it originating from Mr. Crawfords fertile genius or intrigue. I know he is incapable of writing such a letter, still I believe it was written through his agency. If it had been as it states from a friend of mine, he would have come out and produced proof of the hypocrisy and wickedness of those professing to be my friends; and whose views was to destroy me. I am free to confess to you, that there are misteries in these things that I cannot fathom, when I view Judge Fromentines communications, he being selected as a Judge, devoid as he was known to be of legal knowled[g]e, as well as moral principle in preferren[c]e to Judge Haywood who was recommended by me, and not an officer appointed that I had recommended or could have confidence in for the want of a knowledge of him and the attachment that is alledged to exist between Mr. Munroe and Mr. Crawford. after Mr. Monroes knowledge of the baseness of this man, and the willfull lie he propagated in 1818 to injure me by forstalling public opinion in which if it had been true he violated that pledge of secrecy as one of the Cabinet, for which Mr. Monroe ought in Justice to himself to me and the nation to have removed him from his cabinet, as an unworthy member, however I have never let those things take deep root in my breast, still hoping that Mr. Monroe would be able to explain satisfactory to me those things that have tended to my injury, and of the

2 This anonymous letter, and the copy of Jackson's letter of Mar. 19 enclosing it to Monroe, have not been found by the editor. The anonymous letter is doubtless the one referred to in the "Memorandoms", *ante*, p. 150.

## Library of Congress

3 See vol. II., pp. 417, 420, 424.

injustice of which, I had a right to complain. I therefore suspend any opinion for the present and await his answer. There is no fear ought to be entertained that I shall ever be led astray from the support of Mr. Monroes administration, as long as he persues principle; I love my friend and will support him, as far as he pursues the principles of our constitution, and acts Justly to all with the sole view to the public good, and I never can believe without good proof that my friend will abandon principle, for the base and unworthy motives of self agrandizement but I would abandon any man who for selfish motives would act unjustly abandon principle, with a view to enhance his own popularity or his own views, that were seperate from the public good. I hope and trust Mr. Monroe never has or will do this, and as long as he takes Justice for his guide, public good his end, I will, as I have heretofore continue to support his administration.

Dear Gadsden I would to god my health and other circumstances combined would permit me to take with you the proposed Tour to the north and East. The pleasure of travelling with you would be sufficient inducement, but there are many opposing obstacles—first, my present strength would not Justify the attempt at such a Journey—my private concerns require my attention, when my health will permit it, being much deranged from my long absence. The state of our paper money would preclude the Possibility of procuring Eastern funds without a great sacrafice. I have my little sons including Lyncoya, at school, and their education has been greatly neglected in my absence. Justice to them, require my attention when I have health to give it. in short Sir I must take rest or my stay here on Earth cannot be long. for four months I have been oppressed with a violent cough, and costiveness, which had determined me as I wrote you to spend a few weeks at the (Herrodburgh)<sup>4</sup> springs in the month of July next. I have been recently vissitted by my old bowell complaint, which has weakened me very much, having a constant flow, in the last twelve hours, upwards of Twenty passages. my cough has nearly subsided, altho I continue to throw up great quan[titi]es of flime. If I can moderately check this loss I am still in hopes of getting my health again, and be relieved from the cough. to these I might add

## Library of Congress

other cogent reasons but those I trust already named will suffice. Present my thanks to Mr. Calhoun for his friendly offer. My public papers I have long since given to you, I will have them carefully colated and Boxed for you, and if health permits will make a memorandom of those things requested. there is no man, I have more confidence in than you and I resign to you my papers with great pleasure; with this request that they be preserved and returned to my adopted son when you are done with them, that he may peruse them when of mature age.

4 Harrodsburg, Ky.

In my last I named to you that I had not shewn your letter to Colo. Butler. I have since seeing him determined that I will not. Colo. Butler assures me in the most positive manner that he never wrote but the one letter to the military committee of the house of representatives, that he has never written to any member of the senate upon that subject and requests me to say to you, if such a statement has been made to you, that it is a positive falshood. I have no doubt but he despises both Benton and Williams as much as any other man.

I am much pleased that Genl Houstons account has been allowed, it is Just, and well supported by law. Houston is a noble minded fellow and should he be returned for congress at our next election of which there is but little doubt, I expect him and Colo. Williams will see each other. The latter has shunned him it is said for some years.

Your mare will soon bring you another Pacolet or Pacolets, her appearence would evidence the latter, and I hope you will have better luck with them. contemplating a vissit from you this Spring I was looking out to be prepared with a good horse for you. I have not seen Colo. Hays since I recd. your letter—he is to be in here in a few days, he has moved to the forked Deer. I will endeavour to have the business eranged for you with him. I am so

## Library of Congress

weak I must close for the present. Mrs. J. Joins me in best wishes for your prosperity and happiness. believe me your friend.