

**Andrew Jackson to James Gadsden, August 9, 1822,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

To COLONEL JAMES GADSDEN.

Hermitage, August 9, 1822.

Dear Gadsden, I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 16th and 17th ult. with the inclosure of the 17th and on yesterday laid your letter before Colo. Butler. the inclosed note from Colo. Butler will inform you of his feelings and wishes on this subject; his letter I have therefore committed to the flames. I feel happy on the termination of those unpleasant feelings which had been excited by groundless reports between two friends which I had a right to believe cherished for each other, that pure friendship, which prevades none but the real virtuous breast. The late conduct of Colo. Butler when I sent you, to make known to him the project proposed to the Secretary of war, the object of which was to enable the Executive to bring you again into the Adjut Genl office, when disclosed, will convince you of his friendship for you—you say to me in yours of the 16th that Mr Calhoun has not recd the letter I adrest to [him].¹ This to me is unaccountable, I wrote him on the 28th of June the same day I wrote you, and inclosed the one to you under cover to him (and as I believe under the same cover). Colo. Butlers letters were placed in the post office on the same day by me, with those to you and Mr Calhoun but for reasons after the mail had closed—the one to you and Colo. B. to the Department referred to in mine were recd, it is strange that mine to Mr Calhoun miscarried, it was a private letter and marked private, and I believe under the same envelope that inclosed mine of the 28th to you. When I have the pleasure of seeing you, we will converse this thing over between ourselves.

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1 p. 164, *ante*.

On taking a full view of the report of the military committee, seeing it contends that Butler or Jones were Legally entitled to fill the adjutant genl office and on this ground you were rejected, that Colo. Towson had been as well as yourself repected, and the President had given evidences of his intention of yielding to the wishes of the Senate, by bringing Colo. Towson into the pay department again, a way was opened as I believed for the Executive, to bring you into that office by the unanimous vote of the senate, and to have destroyed the intention of his enemies by their own weapons. Colo. Butler had tendered his resignation, which had not been accepted, he was by the report of the Senates committee Legally adjt Genl. it was only necessary therefore to have ordered Colo. Butler to the city as adjt Genl, at next session of Congress, this arrangement to have been laid before the Senate. Their own report debarred them from raising any objection to it, its confirmation was certain. So soon as that was done, Colo. Butler had the right to have resigned, as soon as he pleased, (which he certainly would have done) and the Executive had the right to bring you before the Senate to fill the vacancy occasioned by B. resignation. Under these circumstances those who had objected to your nomination upon legal grounds before, would have been under this circumstance compelled to approve, and having in the case of Colo. Towson Yielded to the wishes of the Senate as expressed in the report, I could see no impropriety in Mr Monroes yielding to it in the case of the adjt Genl; It appeared to be the wish of Mr Calhoun and Mr Monroe to continue you in that appointment. I therefore after consulting Major Eaton and he approving, and Colo. B giving me assurance that he would conform to my wishes, I adressed the project to the Sec of War, with the assurance that Colo. Butler would, if ordered obey, it being understood that he should be permitted 14 to resign as soon after the meeting of the First Congress as it could be convenient for him under existing circumstances to do so.

I had written a letter recapitulating my letter of the 28th of June, which on the recpt of the answer to the letters by Colo. B. I destroyed and would not forward believing that the

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project had been received and not approved. I wish to see you, when I will fully unboosom myself to you, indeed I cannot understand, the modern course pursued by the Executive. I cannot foresee any plan but the one I proposed by which you can be brought into the office of adjt. Genl, and I am aware that Benton and Williams intend reviewing the investigation at the next meeting of Congress, their object to injure Calhoun. I inclose this to the care of Genl Gains at Louisville Kentucky, and hope to see you shortly and believe me to be with great respect your real friend