

Hardy Murfree Cryer to Andrew Jackson, December 26, 1829, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

REV. HARDY M. CRYER TO JACKSON.

Gallatin, Tenn., December 26, 1829.

My Dear friend, I wrote to you some ten or fifteen days ago, giving you a brief account of the situation of your affairs at the Hermitage, as well as my own temporal concerns, which letter you will have received before this reaches you. And I would not have written to you again so soon, knowing that your time is *precious*, and your mind is employed about the weighty concerns of our common Country. But when you shall have read this letter you will not deem it amiss for me to have written you at this time.

The young men to whom I sold your grey Colt in Kentucky, made a good season with him, all things considered. He neated something like \$570. But as many young beginners in business, not satisfied with the prospects of a moderate lawful income they must needs close a race on him for \$500, which was run on 25th Novr. two mile heats. And owing doubtless to the *condition* of the turf, they lost the race. 4 days previous to the race, there fell a very heavy rain, followed by a hard freeze, very unusual in this country for the time of year. And on the morning of the race a *thaw* commenced, the surface was soft, and I am told by Col. Elliott who prepared the grey horse ' *Tariff* ' and attended the race, that every *jump* he went through the crust sometimes nearly to the knees, etc. which made the labour so great that the *difficulty* of breathing the *supposed* effects of colts distemper lost him the race. And Moore and Shaw lost a considerable sum, for them.

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As there are always some *poor wretches* , like summer flies not only given to defile the polished surface of a fair reputation, but would eat out the very cement of good society so in this instance, there was not wanting the *officious* services of some *poor divils* , who endeavoured to impress the minds of Moore and Shaw that there was fraud practiced upon them in the sale of the horse. I am informed that my *English Daddy* , Foxall, publicly proclaimed that I had knowingly imposed upon the young men, selling them an unsound horse etc. I was a little sprung at hearing *such lies* , called upon this *poor* vagabond immediately, and *he denied every word* of it. I then hastened over to see the *unfortunate* sports men. They were very much *under par* , in feeling and prospect. I was told by a mutual friend of your's and mine, that there might be a *difficulty* and a *long delay* in getting the pay for the horse. Some foul unmanly insinuations have been dropt. And knowing something of the influence of *party spirit* about the county of *Simpson and Logan* , I looked around for a little, And heard their proposition. One was to take the Horse at half the *purchase price*—the other was to give him up to me with the proceeds of the season allowing them a reasonable sum for expenses etc. I said to them in presence of several of your friends and mine, that I *would not act* on either of their propositions until every thing like fraud, imposition etc. be withdrawn—then I would proceed as your agent on the principle of *generosity* , that I knew you would much rather extend the hand of *relief* to the needy, than *oppress* the poor—all things being ready as above. I told Mr. Moore, as he had been *unfortunate* , and was like to become *embarrassed* , I would take back the Horse, with \$370, of the season and he might have the ballance—to which proposition he agreed. He is to collect the money *forthwith* , and pay it over to me or order as your agent, etc. The horse is in fine hea[l]th and spirits, plays and looks well—he is now in *the care* of old Parson Martin where he will remain until I hear from you.

If I have done *wrong* in this transaction I rely upon your *clemency for relief* and *forgiveness* both. Moore is a *newly* married man (the son in law of your Old friend Given) and the loss of time from his daily avocation (a Clerk of the Court), for the last 6 or 9 months, the losses he sustained on the race etc. would have *crippled* his circumstances very *materially* if not

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broken him up, which I knew you would not have wished or desired. I told him I knew you too well to think for a moment, that you would injure a *hair* of his head, *although* he was a strong Clay and Adams *Politician*, that you would rather give *him* the Colt, than see him *and family* injured to any considerable extent. Now sir what shall I do with this fine young horse. It may be, you may have an opening for sale to some of the *breeders* of Baltimore or Pennsylvania, or shall I try to sell him in this Country? Dr. Wm. E. Butler was here a few weeks since looking for a horse for the Western District. I am pretty well assured there can be a sale made of him, so as to cover the sum of \$800, including the \$370, made or taken with him, which last mentioned sum will be available from 2 to 5 months from this time. An answer to the above I shall expect to receive from you as soon as circumstances will permit. . . .

P. S. Col. Elliott and his friends were very sanguine of winning. I am told they bet 2 and 3 to one on the grey horse, and would have bet a great deal more if they could have gotten the opportunity. H M C.

[*Indorsement in Jackson's handwriting* :] The Revd. Hardy M Cryers letter Decbr 26th 1829, on the subject of taking back my stud colt Bolivar, by him called Tariff. his conduct approved. directed to place him in Col Elliot hand for training if he should advise it— otherwise place him at a stand, advertising him at \$15 in the season or \$20 out and insurance and the crop in proportion. If sold no less than \$1000 in one, two and three years with interest. If a good stand cannot be got for him to stand at the Hermitage.