

Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, February 24, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON TO JACKSON.

Confidential

New York, February 24, 1836.

My Dear General, Your last message¹ nobly closes the contest with France. it is calm and conciliating but dignified, and forms an admirable contrast to, and corrective of Clays pitiful commentary. he and Calhoun seem to vie with each other in the contest which shall utter speeches least becoming an American Senator. they have both sunk themselves beyond recovery in public Opinion but may still have influence enough by corrupt schemes for the distribution of the public funds to do much mischief,

¹ Annual message of Dec. 3, 1835. *Messages*, III, 147–177.

in which they will find powerful aid from the new vamped up bank of the US. It seems as if your labors were not to cease until the last day of your magistracy. after having settled all our foreign difficulties every patriot looks to you for some plan to free the country from the banking aristocracy that is rising to enslave it. The task will be more than herculean, his hydra had only three heads, yours has a thousand. Yet I have the fullest confidence that you will atchieve this last conquest before you retire to the retreat and enjoy the repose you have so richly merited.

From Philada. I wrote you a hurried note to enclose a letter I had just received from Baron De Rotshchild, which I requested might be returned, not having heard from you I fear it may have miscarried. Many circumstances concur to make me give full credit to what

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he says respecting my return and I feel the Desire growing on me to enjoy on the spot your triumph and partly my own. From the present position of affairs I can not see how the Diplomatic intercourse is to be resumed except by an agreement through England to appoint ministers simultaneously, but this will necessarily take some time to arrange.

I am with the greatest respect