

## Andrew Jackson to Amos Kendall, May 15, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO AMOS KENDALL. 1

1 Cincinnati Commercial , Feb. 5, 1879.

Hermitage, May 15, 1841.

My Dear Sir: I have this moment rec&apos;d your letter of the 5th instant; I wrote you on yesterday a concise note. Never did I so much regret the ingratitude and depravity of man, more than I have the course of Major Eaton in his conduct towards you, in the case you have unfolded in your letter before me. He is a lost man. I have never seen him—and that casually—but twice since his return from Spain; once on his first visit to Nashville, when disgracing himself in his stump speeches in favour of General Harrison, and in opposition to his former declared principles of democracy, which he had acted upon and ever and anon declared to me. He never visited me, for I suppose he knew I must view him as one of the basest apostates that ever lived, trying to destroy the fame of those who had risked much, in time of his need, to save him and his family from degradation and infamy. And I well recollect your able aid with your pen to save him. What want of gratitude is by him here displayed! If ever I have the opportunity personally , I will make him feel upon 0137 113 this subject. I have a perfect recollection of the principles upon which you accepted the appointment of Postmaster Genl, and I well know with what fidelity you carried them out, rendering every justice to individuals, as well as guarding the Department and the Government from many attempts of fraud upon it, by claims of large allowances for extra services never performed. I well recollect the case of Stockton and Stokes, 2 and how many times I examined the case, and all my conclusions were that you had paid them

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many thousands more than was justly due them. The days of virtue, honesty and truth have passed away, and the swindler, forger and depredator upon the public, are supported by the powers that be, whilst the honest, faithful and useful officers are attempted to be crushed. But what can now be expected by the honest and faithful. when such men as Badger 3 and others of his clique are brought into office, and when such men as Major Eaton is guilty of such damning ingratitude—cringing to power, abandoning his principles, and fawning upon those who he once denounced; and all to obtain office. O, tempora, O mores! I feel a heart felt contempt and hatred for all such men. . . .

2 Concerning the suit brought by Postmaster General Kendall against Stockton and Stokes, mail contractors, see vol. V., p. 356. In the long fight in the courts and in Congress the contractors obtained the money they claimed. Then they sued Kendall for damages in delaying payment, and got a verdict for \$12,000. Kendall was unable to pay and was put into “prison bounds”, while the case went to the Supreme Court, where Kendall won. He held that he was the victim of political persecution, and said that the jury that gave judgment against him comprised eleven Whigs and one Democrat.

3 Bela Badger had been appointed naval officer at Philadelphia.