

Thomas Hart Benton to Andrew Jackson, March 10, 1842, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>THOMAS H. BENTON TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 10, 1842.

Dear Sir, We shall have a discussion upon the restoration of the New Orleans fine by way of expunging that sentence from the judicial records 0167 143 of the country, and as we may look out for all sorts of statements in relation to its payment, as that it was paid by subscription, etc., I think it would be well for us to have a brief statement from under your own hand, which we will use in the Senate and thus make a part of the history of the case. If sent to me, or to any of our friends, we will take care to make good use of it.

It seems that the Bank of the States is sunk too low for its friends to mix themselves with its cause again by undertaking to rescind the expunging resolution. Above three months of the session has passed without their moving in it, nor do we hear from them. I am lying in wait for them, not with malice, but with a good resolution to be substituted, and to thank you for saving the money, and the morals and the honor of the country from was [te] and pollution by the two great acts—the veto of the charter and the removal of the deposits.

Clay is to have a hurrah raised over him the moment he quits the Senate. 1 There is a plan to nominate him every where, and to make a great demonstration to eclipse Scott and the rest of the smaller fry and drive them out of the field. His first nomination is to be in North Carolina. I take it he will nearly blow out before 1844. Our friend, Mr. Van Buren, will be our man, and I think will have an easy race—nearly walking round the tract. The administration here is sinking daily. The ruined state of its finances, incessant calls for

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loans and taxes, exclusive depreciated paper money payments, with other things, are all carrying it to the bottom of the Sea. It has not a particle of strength, and Tyler, who keeps Webster for the sake of the support which he thinks he can bring him from New England, is cheated just as often as he needs that support. Witness Claiborne's rejection, the vote on which is made public and which shows that not a single Webster man supported the nomination—no one in fact but the democracy. The administration was without a single vote on that occasion; for the democracy voted on their views of the case and not as supporters of the administration.

1 Clay resigned from the Senate Mar. 31, 1842.

Mrs. Benton and family are well, and she joins me in the kindest remembrance to you.

Yours truly,