

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, February 9, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 9, 1843.

My Dear Gen., I wrote you a letter day before yesterday on the subject of your last letter—the comparison of the Records. Since then I have seen Ingersoll and had application made by him to Mr. Kendall for the record made right by Livingston, Duncan and Reed. I have also seen Mr. Wright and put him in possession of all the facts. He has not yet appeared in the debate and as he is the most exact and clearest and most authoritative stater of facts and the best reasoner from them, the senate holds he will do the matter full justice. He has promised to give the whole matter a thorough, patient scrutiny and lay the whole subject fully before the country. You may rest satisfied therefore that Conrad and his record will be called to strict accountability. Buchanan, Linn, Benton, Walker will all put in and push the rascal to the wall.

You may have observed in the Globe, that I replied to Botts's argument that you had received the fine—a statement he made based on Kendall's article, in which he said you had "ACCEPTED" the money, but had done so for the widows and orphans etc. etc. In the first part of my article I defended Kendall's argument and showed that if you had "accepted" it under the circumstances stated by Mr. Kendall, it would have been no payment of the fine. But I went on to show from Eatons Book that you had not "accepted" the money. Kendall (still keeping up his design of broaching a public dissention with me) you will observe in his Expositor to day garbles my article—cuts out the defence I made of his position and quotes only what I say to show that he had mistaken and "in truth mistated

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the facts." You will see that he receives any correction of his error with ill-will, although he could not but perceive that it was necessary to disarm your enemies of the pretexts they found in his article to deceive the public. You will remark that in his article of this days Expositor, he fortifies his assertion that you " accepted " the $1000 tendered by the ladies of New Orleans by saying that it was deposited to your order and drawn out on your check. I have [no] doubt the artful Federalists will seize on this new assertion of Mr. K. to propagate the idea that you really received the money and disposed of it as your own in charity to the widows and orphans and so cover themselves from the vote for the refunding , under the pretext that it was thus refunded. I should be glad you would let me know if your memory serves, whether you did dispose of the money on your checks. I wish the information with no view to a controversy with Mr. Kendall, which I will not enter upon unless he compels it, by some strong personal provocation. But I wish to have a knowledge of the exact fact to meet the opponents of the Bill on this point, if they should avail themselves of it. All well.

Affectionately yo. friend