

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, October 31, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, October 31, 1843.

Private.

My dear Mr. Blair, The death of my friend Doctor Linn has thrown me into a gloom for several days, I may truly say ever since I heard it.

The Doctor, one of those men of high, decorous, honorable bearing, steadfast in friendship and of undeviating principle, and of high talents, his loss to his country is great, but not less so to his family and friends—his place, in the senate, can scarcely be filled. I rejoice to see that proper respect paid to his memory and merit in Missouri, and I have no doubt it will over the whole Union by the democracy. I sincerely regret that he was not spared to carry thro the senate his orragon bill. From a letter I have received from one of the Representatives of Missouri, elect, that he will in the House urge its passage, It ought to be passed forthwith to shew to great Britain that we know our rights, and will both 0262 238 possess, and defend them. Mr. Calhoun will feel the effect of voting against that bill, both in the south, and west.

I sincerely regret to see the course Mr. Penn jnr. is taking in his reporter. 1 He has come out against Col. Benton—he appears to be unfriendly to you, and you may look out for opposition to you, as a candidate for the printer to congress. But the real democracy will sustain you and I hope to live to hear that you have been elected printer to the House of Representatives, to repudiate Clays repudiation of your written contract in the senate.

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This can only be well done by your election by the House. This I think is a debt due you by the Democrats, whose cause you have so nobly sustained—be upon your guard, against Treachery and false friends, and you cannot, like a faithfull general, be surprised and defeated. . . .

1 Shadrach Penn, jr., editor of the Missouri Reporter ; originally of Louisville Ky.

The democrats in Tennessee are for the first time organising, and will cary the state against Clay. Hear what you may, set it down for certain, that the state will go for VanBuren and Polk, should they be the nominees. I conclude by urging you to watch. The Tyler, the Calhoun, and some others will endeavour to prevent your election as printer. We still have an afflicted baby, Sarahs health is measurably restored. My whole household join me in kind salutations to you and yours, wishing you success over all your enemies. Say to Mrs Blair how much comfort I have found these cold and changeable weather from the comfort of her and the other Ladies present, to all whom I present my sincere gratitude, and prayers for their long life and happiness, and am your sincere friend