

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, December 16, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 16, 1843.

My Dear General: I received your kind letter of the 8 Inst to day. That my success should give you pleasure makes it a double pleasure to me. You have taken all the interest in my fate that a father could for a son's, and this I am sure had a great influence on the feelings of members of the House. They considered the Globe as an establishment built up by you, they considered me your protegee, that I had never deviated from your principles or been found wanting in devotion to your policy or person and they felt that it would be a blow in some sense at you personally to strike me down. This, with the evident design, on the part of the whole combination, to divide the party permanently by the question of Printer and to set up a press to maintain that third party organization to the defeat of the national convention nomination had the effect to rally 0274 250 around me here every sincere friend of the cause. That Mr. Kendall should have made himself the centre of such a combination after what you have done for him, and Mr. V. Buren and myself, amazes me and how he became reduced to the necessity which he urges for justification, is equally a matter of wonder. From the offices you gave him he received $48,000. From me he has received $29,000 in cash. I have to pay for him in a few days as his Bank endorser under execution $2000 more and I arranged for him with a man who owes me $2,000 more—making in all $33,000. The Boston Land Company (of which Henshaw was a partner) gave him land valued by him at $30,000, for his influence in getting their speculations in the Choctaws and Chickasaws through the War Office. Here then is an aggregate of $111,000

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which Mr. Kendall has realized since he came to Washington without the outlay of a dollar. He has lived with exceeding economy and yet he says he is very poor. It is a most singular case and his friends should be sorry for it, but he should not be willing to destroy the friends and the party which have served him so essentially, if he has been ever so unfortunate in the use of the favors they have bestowed on him. He threw into the caucus after nightfall a circular stating among other things that he owed me money, which he sought the printing to enable him to pay. This coupled with the charge made in the Madisonian that I oppressed Mr. Kendall was calculated to impress the idea on members, that instead of being his friend I was his persecutor. He will find that I will never act the part so ascribed to me, however much he may be in my power.

What you say about Mr. Van Buren's friends seeking a coalition with Calhoun as Vice President has its origin I have no doubt with some who affected the latter more than the former. I do not believe that any wish of the sort is harbored by any individual among all those who have an intimacy with Mr. Van Buren and opportunity to sound his wishes. I see the idea thrown out in Mr. Ritchie's paper 1 in a letter from this place and it was mentioned to me by a rotten New York Politician now on an office seeking errand to Mr. Tyler. I am persuaded that all such pressure will be brought to bear. I have little doubt that both Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Calhoun would be averse to the experiment. The probability is that the choice will be confined to Polk and King, if the present posture of the presidential candidates be maintained and I am sure this would be the safest for the cause and Mr. Van Buren. I have sent your letter to Wright that Mr. V. B. may know its contents. . . .

1 The Richmond Enquirer.

Emuckfau is getting to be a prodigy. She looks like old Eclipse. She is filling up in the flanks and my hostler thinks her bag is growing. I shall have a Priam and three years hence will win a Sweepstakes. I think I am in luck. . . .