

## Arthur Peronneau Hayne to Andrew Jackson, November 15, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### COLONEL ARTHUR P. HAYNE TO JACKSON.

Charleston, November 15, 1828.

. . . . Our venerable and distinguished Townsman Majr. Genl. Thos. Pinckney is no more. He breathed his last on Sunday the 2nd instt. His last moments, were those of a Christian and Philosopher, calm and self collected. For the last 40 years Genl. Pinckney had past his Summers at Moultrie-Ville, Sullivan's Island, the most pleasant Summer climate in the World. The Genl. being an Uncle of Mrs. Hayne, and during the Summer, our next Door neighbour, I saw him every day during his last illness. I assisted in taking him on a *Litter* , from his House on the Island, to the Boat which was to convey him to Charleston. He was so reduced, that he had not the strength of an infant remaining—he could only turn in his Bed, but could not sit up. The distance from his House to the Boat which was to receive and convey him to Charleston was near half a mile.

Before and after we left his house, the following *peculiarly interesting* Conversation, took place between the Genl. and myself. Let me here remark, in order to be clearly understood, that for the past year, Genl. Pinckney's health had been gradually declining—but now it was entirely wasted and gone—yet by the blessing of God, his *mind* remained in every respect unimpaired—he could articulate distinctly—indeed it was only a few hours before his Death, that his voice failed him. When I entered his room on the morning, he was to be conveyed to Charleston, he was lying on his Litter. I bid him good morning, and inquired after his health. I then *intentionally* drew back a few paces from him, for you know *his Constitutional politeness* , and I was fearful he would commence conversation, and

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I thought it might exhaust him, at a moment, when he was about to encounter so much fatigue. However, I was but a little while in the room, when the Genl. called me to him. He lay covered with his Military Cloak, the one he had worn during the late war. “Coll. said he, I believe you knew Capt. Armistead, who died at Fort Moultrie during the late War. These buttons, pointing to the Cloak, remind me of poor Armistead—he presented them to me, at the commencement of the late War, and begged as a token of his esteem for me, that I would wear them. Armistead, said he, was a good fellow.” I replied to the Genl. that I had known him very well, that in my first tour of duty, after having joined the Army in 1808, Armistead and myself served together in the harbour of Charleston—that he was a much older man than myself—we were Captains at the same time—and that he had all the warmth of feeling and character of a true hearted Virginian. The Genl. then took hold of my hand, as we were about to lift up the *Litter* ; and which circumstance helped very much to *steady* his *Nerves* , and he continued to hold my hand till we reached the Boat.

“Coll. Hayne, said Genl. Pinckney to me, *I go to Charleston* , because I know, I can hold out, but a little longer, and it is my wish to give as little trouble to my friends after my death as possible—for said he, I know Sir, when an old Soldier dies, one who fought in the war of the Revolution, the rising generation feel it to be their duty to pay some respect to his memory—they will have it so—it may be all right—and we must yield—and you know in Charleston I shall be near at hand. This makes me desirous of proceeding to the City.” I assured the Genl. (as one of the rising generation, and that I would take upon myself, to speak for all of them) he ought not for a moment to suppose that any thing we could perform for the “ *fathers' of our Revolution* ”, would be looked upon by us, in the light of trouble—but on the contrary we felt the debt of gratitude, so justly their due, to be so great, that we knew we never could do enough for them. Now, finding that Genl. Pinckney, could converse, notwithstanding his body was, *as it were dead* , with all that good sense and wisdom, for which he was so eminently distinguished during his whole life, I now felt it my duty to say something that might cheer his spirits—and thus for [the] moment assuage his sufferings. Before I proceed to state the Conversation which follows, let me first inform

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you that between Genl. Thos. Pinckney and the ex-President Monroe, their had existed a personal intimacy and long friendship which commenced during the Revolution, and was *renewed* in Paris during the french Revolution, and was continued to the day of the Genl's death. Now, the fact which I am about to relate, I never became possessed of, till three weeks ago, and I am persuaded the circumstance is new to yourself—it is this: Towards the close of your brilliant Campaigns in the Creek Nation, Genl. Pinckney in the strongest terms, (availing himself of his intimacy with Mr. Monroe) recommended to the Government, that you should forthwith be brought into the Regular Army. He told the Government, that in justice to your distinguished talents, and great usefulness, in justice to his own feelings—and *above all in justice to the Government and Nation* , you ought at once to be brought into the Regular Service. I embraced, *the then solemn occasion* , to say to Genl. P.—that it must afford him peculiar pleasure, after so eventful a life as you had exhibited to the World, to know that he had recommended your Name so warmly and *disinterestedly* to the Govt. for the very appointment, which shortly after was given you. I at once perceived, that I had touched upon a Cord, to which his every feeling responded. He became at once animated, and I believe for the last time during his life. He thus addressed me: “Coll. Hayne, said the Genl. I had never intended during my life, to lisp the fact you have just uttered; to my brother *Charles* , now dead, I alone mentioned the circumstance; and he some how let it drop—but now Sir, you have introduced the matter, I can only say it is true, my letters on the subject are in my letter book, and known to my military Staff. In doing, what I did, I only acted from a sense of duty—it was due to Genl. Jackson, and the Country. And Sir, said he, when Genl. Lafayette was in Charleston, some of my friends had heard the fact, and having been selected to welcome the, “Nation's Guest”, they were desirous and had introduced into their Addresses, the *Circumstance* , but so soon as I had understood what they were about to do I told them I could not consent to it, and requested they would alter that part of their Address”.

Genl. Pinckney again said “he had recommended Genl. Jackson, and that it now afforded him pleasure—for besides the great services he had already rendered the Country, I

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still look up to Genl. Jackson, as a man, who, in the hands, of a kind and superintending providence, *will be the happy instrument of still doing much more good*. Coll. said he, *I shall never again see Genl. Jackson in this World, but you will I hope, and when you do recollect to remember me kindly and respectfully to him*. Say to him I always respected his talents, and great usefulness, and from the commencement of the present struggle for President, I have looked upon *his success, as being completely identified, with the honor and prosperity of the Country*".

Genl. P—then went on and said, "Coll. Hayne ours is a great and blessed Country—who can tell what will be its future Destiny, and happy am I to say, and I say it with peculiar pleasure and delight— *that our Children* —that the present and rising generation are in every respect worthy of the blessings growing out of our Revolution". Genl. P—then spoke in a beautiful manner of the future prospects [of] our beloved Country—that the Soldiers of the War of the Revolution, had lived for some purpose, and had been abundantly rewarded for all the toils and hardships, which they had encountered—and he thus continued to discourse with the greatest intelligence on subjects connected, with his Countrie's glory and prosperity, until he reached the boat, which for the *last time* was to convey him to Charleston. On the present occasion he was in physical strength a mere infant—but in *mind to the glory of human nature, clear headed and powerful*. Genl. P—was 78 years of age and 11 days, and till the last year of his life enjoyed a large share of good health. I assure you my dear Genl. that the Conversation which *I have so feebly and hastily* narated, was every thing that, Christianity and philosophy could have exhibited. Indeed so perfect a Union of philosophy and Christianity, I never before witnessed. . . .