

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, December 22, 1839, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 22, 1839.

My Dear Genl., The House after 3 weeks struggle to consummate the New Jersey fraud is at last organized so far as to have a Speaker clerk and Sergeant at arms. 1 The Election of Printer, which has really been the greatest matter of solicitude with the Opposition, is postponed until tomorrow. The probability is strongly in my favor, but there is no telling what a day may bring forth. At present the Nullifiers (Wonderful to be said) are openly and it would seem zealously in my favor. Duff Green, I have understood, urged his pretensions on the Nullifiers and insisting that the whole Opposition would go for him against me, besought them to make him their candidate. But I have positive assurances, that Mr. Calhoun has forbid the Banns so far as his friends are concerned in regard to this marriage proposed between them and the Northern Whigs. Unless then, some new and sudden change comes over the Southern wing of those who are pledged to support Mr. Van Buren against Harrison, there is little doubt that the Globe will be made printer by the Nullifiers votes. This would be a marvellous record but not inexplicable. Hunter, the Speaker, is a Calhoun man. If then the Nullifiers who elected him

1 Five seats in New Jersey were contested and the clerk refused, without instructions from the House, to decide which of the contestants should be admitted temporarily to the House rolls. A confused debate followed, at the end of which it was decided not to place on the roll the names of the contestants from New Jersey, of either side. This decision was followed by the election of R. M. T. Hunter of Virginia as Speaker, on Dec. 16. Later, the

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House seated the five Democratic contestants from New Jersey, repudiating the action of the governor of that state, who had given certificates to the Whigs. The question turned on counting of the votes of Millville and South Amboy. See *Congressional Globe* , 26 Cong., 1 sess., Mar. 5, 1840, p. 241. The incident is discussed in McMaster, *History of the People of the United States* , VI. 533–541.

class=MsoNormal>0068 44 with the aid of opposition votes, were to elect a Printer against the Administration it would be setting up for themselves again and excluding themselves from all favor with the Democratic party, north or south for the future. On the contrary, they think a vote for me would have the effect of reconciling thousands of your friends to them who would not forgive them, unless they paid their homage to your principles. These principles they know I will never compromise. They know that I will cling to your farewell address , as the inheritance for which I will contend to the bitter end, and if they take me, they know that it can only be construed into a recognition of the doctrines advanced by you and to which I have devoted my press. I may be selfish in it, but I think that Calhoun's policy is wiser than his former opposition. If his friends support me it will be set down by some as a magnanimous sacrifice of personal resentments to sustain the cause to which he devotes himself and THE CAUSE, being that of the Democracy engaged against all the blackest combinations of federalism, and at a crisis of deep and universal interest, his new course will do much to recover him from the obloquy of the past. These are, I think his calculations and I shall not regret if they sway him and his friends. It will consolidate our power in the Senate, make the *Globe* more useful by its greater means and cripple federalism by destroying its invidious organ, *The Nat. Intelligencer*. . . .