

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, September 28, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, September 28, 1844.

My Dear General: I received your kind letter dated the 19th Inst: It gives me pain to discover, that it costs you so much labor to write. I beg you not to tax your strength to reply to me, although every word you utter is a pleasure to me, yet your health and ease is so valued, that it really distresses me to find that your returns to the letters my affection prompts cost you so much trouble. You are so punctual in your correspondence that I confess I should be unhappy not to receive responses from you. Hereafter, I pray you will write just so many lines as will say how you are; and only so much more, as you can write without fatigue.

What I told you Mr. Walker said to me was said in the presence of Major Lewis: viz that he urged on Mr. Tyler and his cabinet annexation by a Bill instead of a Treaty. It is clear therefore that after he wrote the letter to you sent to President Houston, he discovered that a Treaty stood no chance of ratification and what I blame Tyler and Calhoun for, was the persistence in a course which they knew would end in defeat, which the strongest friend of the measure and he who broached it, considered hopeless and which by defeat laid Houston and Texas open to their enemies in all quarters. But if Tyler did badly in this, I admit to you that I think our friends did not much better. When I saw the false step taken by the Administration and the attitude taken by Mr. V. B. in his letter, I sent my son Montgomery to Messrs. Wright, Benton and Allen, And although my sickness had run into a dangerous nervous fever accompanied by rising on the neckbone, which forbade

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my seeing any body according to the instruction of the physician I held a conversation with Mr. Wright in which I begged him to set our party in the right and to put Mr. V. B. on his legs again and to have a Bill brought into the House for the annexation as the best means of doing it. He held a consultation with the other gentlemen in the next room and they soothed me with a promise that something of the sort should be done. Finding that no steps towards congressional annexation was attempted by them, 0348 324 I urged it on Mr. Weller of the house, ¹ who promised that he would do it without consulting these Senators, but he also failed me, and never explained why. The result of his temporizing was fatal to Mr. Van Buren and but for the lucky nomination of Colo. Polk would have bred a disastrous schism in our party. If we triumph in the election, Texas I think will be recovered, and all will be well with our party. I trust in god, that you will live to see this last labor for your country accomplished. If I live, whenever it is effected, the information you have confided to me will enable the historian I have chosen for your biography, to do full justice to your patriotic agency in restoring the union to its full stature.

¹ John B. Weller of Ohio.

That Colo. Benton misjudged, with all the rest of our friends, in not giving the direction you suggest to the Texas affair when he saw that the administration scheme was about to fail (and was meant to fail by Calhoun ,) I most deeply regret. They are all in heart with you as to the main point and I trust will adapt their means to the end, better hereafter. Your kind feelings and wishes for the Colonel I will communicate to Mr. V.B. who has felt some uneasiness about it.

Our prospects throughout the union look bright, and brighten every day for the success of the Young Hickory. We out-poll them in one sense all over the Union—in Hickory poles—which in all time to come will be the liberty Pole in this and in other countries and forever associate it with your name. I hope god will preserve you to witness the new triumphs which are to attend the glorious standard.

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My Household are all well, and send affectionate greetings to yours. My wife and Daughter scan your letters with filial affection. They peruse them and reperuse them. It gives them great delight to see that there is no shaking in the hand notwithstanding your great debility. They insist that it augurs well. Yet now and then you drop an expression that makes all our hearts fill. A kind providence will I trust preserve you longer than you hope for your country and friends.

Yo. affectionately