

## **William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, January 4, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 4, 1845.

My dear Genl, The enclosed slip, as you will perceive, is from the National Intelligencer, and was written by Mr. Gouverneur, the son in law of the late President Monroe. Not knowing how far the “written approbation, as to boundaries, etc.,” spoken of by Mr. Gouverneur, might commit you I called to see him soon after its appearance to satisfy myself upon that subject, but he was not at home, having left the city on a visit to his farm in Virga. the late residence of Mr. Monroe. He has, however, returned and yesterday, as well as the day previous, I had a conversation with him in relation to the matter. On these occasions I understand from him that the written approval of which he speaks, in his communication to the Intelligencer, is to be found in a correspondence between you and Mr. Monroe—beginning, as will be seen by reference to his letter to me also herewith enclosed, in the fall of 1819 and ending in Jany 1821, all of which was long after the Florida Treaty was made and ratified.

I remarked to Mr. Gouverneur, in the course of our conversation, that I should like to see your letters to Mr. Monroe, if he had no objection; but he declined showing them, upon the ground, as I understood him to say, that he had refused permission to Mr. Adams to see them who, probably, had heard Mr. Monroe speak of them when a member of his Cabinet. He offers, however, to furnish you with copies, as you will perceive in his letter to me. Now, my dear General, as it is important that your friends here should know the contents of those letters as soon as possible, you had better write to me , immediately on

## Library of Congress

the receipt of this, to call on Mr. Gouverneur, not only for copies of the letters referred to in his to me, but for all others , if any there be, having reference to that Treaty, to be placed in my hands for you. And I would suggest that your letter be such an one as I could show to him. Should you desire to write, at the same time, about other matters, of a confidential nature, you had better do it on a separate sheet of paper.

In justice to Mr. Gouverneur I will say that I believe he is entirely sincere in his expressions of friendship for you. Besides what he says in his letter to me, he has even, in his conversations, spoken of you in terms of great kindness. I have no doubt that he has been greatly importuned by Mr. Adams and his friends for copies of your letters to Mr. Monroe as no doubt they were apprised of the existence of that correspondence, as stated above. Indeed it is not at all improbable but that Mr. Adams may have seen and read your letters at the time. I will state further that in my opinion if Mr. Gouverneur has any bias , in relation to this matter, it is in your favor. I have good reason for believing it. I should like you, therefore, to express yourself kindly about him in your letter to me. This can do no harm, and in the end may be serviceable; as it might induce him to look more carefully over Mr. Monroes papers and furnish you with other copies of letters, important to you, if 0384 360 any others there be. With regard to the copies of Mr. Monroes letters, he asks for, I am sure you will cheerfully furnish them, if you shall be able to lay your hands on them, and I have so assured him. It is possible you may have kept copies of your letters to Mr. Monroe, but still I think, even if you did, that we ought by all means to have copies of those in the hands of Mr. Gouverneur, as they may differ some what from the original drafts of your letters which you were usually in the habit of keeping.

I took occasion, in my conversation with Mr. Gouverneur to ask him if he had found any thing, in your hand writing, among Mr. Monroes papers, which would authorise the belief that you had ever been furnished with a copy of the Treaty, before it had received the signatures of the parties, with the view of obtaining your opinion of its boundary and other provisions, and received for answer that he had not. I incline to the belief that Mr. Monroe, in his correspondence with you, undertakes to show that no better terms could be had, and

## Library of Congress

that you expressed yourself satisfied with his explanations. This, I understand, was the case with Mr. Jefferson who was opposed to the Treaty. Indeed Mr. Gouverneur told me that had the Treaty fixed our Western limit at the Rio Grande , or at any point west of the Sabine, the Senate would not have confirmed it, as he, Mr. Monroe, was given distinctly to understand. That is, the Senators from the non-Slave-holding-States, would not consent that Florida should be added to the Southern States, unless Texas was given up to Spain, in exchange for it. He added, unfortunately, this Treaty was negotiated at the very time of the Missouri difficulty and trouble. A full explanation of all this, I have no doubt, Mr. Monroe enters into, in his correspondence with you, as you will perceive on referring to it. . . .

[ Jackson's indorsement on envelope as follows: ] (January 15, 1845) Major Lewis enclosing Mr. Gouverneur's letter to him and publication in the Intelligencer—replied to this 15th Janry 1845 and requesting him to call upon Mr. G. for all the private letters of Mr. Monroe with my answers from January 1818 to the month of Decbr. 1821. This is to be kept. A. J.