

private -

Hermitage

Major Wm B Lewis,

Feb 28th 1845

My dear Major,

Your interesting letter, of the 17th instant is received, advising that mine of the 4th and 5th had reached you - Before this reaches you Col Polks cabinet will be known, and I am sure there will no one compose it unless under the terms I named to you should there be, then Col Polk must have changed his mind after he left me. Your observations with regard to Mr. Buchanan, are correct - He shewd a want of moral courage in the affair of the intrigue of Adams and Clay - did not do me justice in the expose he then made and I am sure about that time did believe there was a perfect understanding between Adams and Clay about the presidency and the Secretary of State - This I am sure of - But whether he viewed that there was any corruption in the case or not I found not, but one thing I do know, that he wished me to combat them and with their own weapons - that was to let my friends say if I was elected I would make Mr. Clay Secretary of State - This, to me appeared deep corruption and I repelled it with that honest indignation, as I thought such corruption deserved!! Mr. Buchanan is a man of fine talents and if he enters into the Department of State will execute the duties with ability -

I was truly astonished at some information brought by Mr A Jackson Jr from Nashville the other day. It was this, that Col Laughlin had went on to Washington - had bought an interest in the Madisonian, and expected to make it the organ of the administration This if true would be one of the most fatal steps for Col Polk that could be taken - it would be placing him in the shoes of Mr Tyler, and Laughlin travelling on with the Col to Washington

would place Col Polk under the implication of taking him on then for the purpose which I am sure was not the case. Common sense will at once shew the evil consequences that must ensue to Col Polk, to put himself in the attitude of favouring Mr Tyler for the succession - It would split the democracy to pieces, and redound to the great injury of Polks administration - I have from the moment I heard it put my face against it, and I hope I have checked this inconsiderate movement - I hope there is no truth in the rumor - if there is, there is less common sense in the movers than I calculated upon, let me hear from you. Your sister Mrs Leister, and one of her daughters spent day before yesterday with us - They all enjoy good health -

All my Houshold join me in the kindest salutations, ye friend.

Andrew Jackson -

P. S. My shortings of breath increases - I am greatly afflicted - A J.