

Private

Beauvoir House
24th April '86.

Ans D. Woods Esqr.

My Dear Sir,

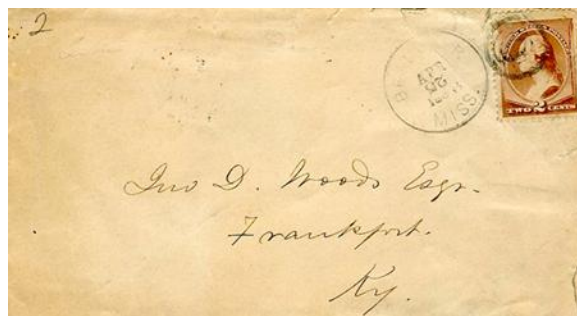
I have received your letter with the printed slip claiming to be a report of a conversation held with me. The Reporter and the Publisher of the story must have been vastly ignorant of our system of Govt. You cannot have failed to perceive the absurdity of my tendering my resignation as President to my Cabinet provided they would put General Johnston in my place. A schoolboy in the lowest form would be pronounced a dunce if he supposed the Cabinet could receive my resignation and

appoint my successor as President of the Confederacy. I had the highest opinion of Albert Sydney Johnston, had known him long, intimately and under trying circumstances & may have expressed the opinion which I now entertain, that he was better qualified for the office of President of our Govt. than myself, but I knew very well that that office did not go by appointment.

Respectfully & truly
yours.

Jefferson Davis.

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Jno D. Woods Esqr.

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