

-private-

Hermitage August 31st, 1837-

My dear Sir,

Better late than never- I at last take up my pen to acknowledge the receipt of your much esteemed favour of the 14th of June last- it was duly received- but has been too long neglected by me, for which I have no good apology to offer. My health has been delicate, & very much checked- my feelings mortified by the temporising policy of our political friends in Nashville, & its vicinity, which proved fatal to the republican cause for the present, and gave to the Federal Shin plaster party, the ascendancy ~~for the present~~ in this and adjoining Congressional Districts.

At the time we wanted the aid of the press most, the Union was useless to the party- it was permitted to remain in the hands, of a worthy man, but dissipated Editor, & worse than useless to the cause- added to this evil, a temporising policy was adopted, and Mr Bell permitted to be without an opposing candidate- this gave him the whole field, and permitted him to roame over the whole country making speeches, calumniating the party, and poisoning the ears of the community with such falshoods as he conceived would benefit his cause, & injure the republicans, and no one to explain to the people his reckless course, or refute his calumnies. I warned our friends of the impolicy

-of-

of this temporising course- that it would defeat them,  
 -urged them to bring out Mr. Benton, tho late, {(though late)}  
 who was able to meet Mr Bell upon the stump,  
 was prepared with the means to expose, and  
 prostrate him, & his party- that if this was  
 not done, the assiduity of Bell, who was constantly  
 riding through & over every neighbourhood,  
 that they would loose, not only the Representative  
 in this District, but the two adjoining ones;  
 & the whole representation to our State Legis-  
 -lature- My admonitions were unheeded, and  
 their temporising policy ended, as all such  
 must in defeat- When the elections were over,  
 then indeed when too late, it was admitted that my views  
 were right. I do not yet despair but that old  
 republican Tennessee will, in less than  
 two years, be again in full communion  
 with the republican States- I trust our friend  
 Grundy, will learn wisdom from experience,  
 and never lend his countenance to a tempori-  
 -sing policy again.

The situation of the {"}union{"} was the  
 cause of my not answering your letter- the piece  
 I had prepared, from some cause (as I had written  
 it, I could not get published in the Union- I  
 fear the influence of the Banks was the cause &  
 I abandoned it, until another Editor could be  
 got, which made it too late for the object I had in  
 view;

and turned my attention to some of our friends in Washington, to stimulate them to union & energy and I have no doubt but the message of the president will be full & strong and meet the wishes of all his friends on the subject of an entire separation of the Government from all Banks, as [A] repository for the public revenue- you will see.

I dislike the temporising policy of Mr. Richie' paper- it seems to be wedded to the state Banks- I fear we will be disappointed in our friend Mr [Rives]- I dislike the signs of the times in that quarter, as much as I did the course last winter on the subject of his resolution regarding the Treasury circular which played so well in to the hands of the opposition- we will not prejudge- we will wait and judge the tree by its fruit.

Is it possible that any true republican, of talents & experience can have confidence in Banks as a safe repository for the public revenue, after witnessing their late treacherous conduct to the Government, joining in league with Biddle & the Bearings to Bankrupt the government, degrade its character, both at home, & abroad; ?Where can there be any security that were they entrusted again with the deposits that upon another opening for speculation upon the specie, & depreciated paper, that they Banks would not again suspend, if again trusted! Suppose we were in a war with Great Britain- the aristocracy & opposers of the Government directing

as they do, all our Banks, would not this aristocracy unite with the Enemy as they have heretofore, rob the Treasury as they have lately done, for the benefit of England. and coerce the Government to make a [dishonorable] treaty of peace- no one can doubt this, and no real Republican will ever again advocate the Banks as a safe repository for our revenue, after the late treachery practised and the danger that would & might arise to the safety of our country in a state of war- After the Banks, in a state of profound peace, suspending specie payments, in open violation of their charters, & every principle of moral honesty- their faith pledged to the Government for the safe keeping & paying when demanded the revenue deposited, dishonouring the drafts of the government,- robbing it of its treasure, and then the first to proclaim the Government bankrupt,- I ask again can any honest republican have any longer confidence in Banks- particularly as they are selling their specie to send to England at a premium,- & buying up, by their agents, their depreciated paper at a discount from 25 to 50 percent- if this is not swindling, I know not the meaning of the term-

I have allways been opposed to the union of church & state, from my late experience I think a union between Banks & State are equally, if not more so, to republican institutions, then church & State, and I am for seperate the government from both.

I see the cry is raised thro the Richmond Enquirer against Agents for the keeping of the revenue,- that it is giving the purse to the Executive as well as the [swords]- How absurd such a doctrine

Doctrine- surely the duties of agents to keep the revenue when collected can as easily be guarded by regulations & restrictions by law, as the duties of the collectors- The Treasurer, or Secretary of the treasury, and it only adds to the Executive duties to see that these laws be as faithfully executed- unless indeed, it should be supposed that these additional agents adds to his power, by the increase of public officers- The patronage of the Executive by the appointing power by & with the consent of the Senate, weakens, instead of increasing his influence & power for where there are so many applicants for the same office, whilst he may add one to his influence, he makes more enemies by those & their friends who are disappointed in obtaining them- & instead of strengthening, it weakens his influence- this is merely political slang to gull the people with. The revenue must be collected by the Agents of the Government, & to make it secure & independent, it must be kept by its own agents, and under its own positive controle- I regret to see Mr. Richies paper take this course, but upon all important question, he is allways, doubting & throwing anchors to leeward, and doing at first injury to the cause- This was his course on the removal of the deposits- it appears to be his course now- but I trust he will at last take a proper stand, on this point, with the administration,- To seperate the

government from all banks- secure its revenue in nothing but gold or silver coin- make its disbursement in the same, is the only way by which it can regulate the currency- prevent overtrading, & over issues of bank paper- and give to the people the benefit of the issues from the mints for which they have been long taxed to establish & support- the disbursements of the Government being in specie, paid to the army & Navy,- To all labourers in our dock, & Navy yards, and on all public works, & supplies for the same, as well as to the Indians for annuities & supplies, will soon fill our country with gold & silver, and the labouring people will cease to receive the Shinplasters and depreciated bank paper, and the Banks will have to call them in & cease to issue those under twenty dollars- This is the only mode by which the banks will ever be controled from issuing small notes- the state Legislatures are composed of too ~~many~~ many men interested in bank stock, & engaged in schemes of speculation & they will talk & amuse the people but will always keep the disuse of paper bills below \$20, two or three years off- Why not at once throw the fives out of circulation- There is plenty of half, & quarter, Eagles & silver to fill the vacuum.

I have viewed with pleasure ~~the~~ your independent  
-and-

energetic course- continue and the republican cause must, & will, triumph- The Shin-plaster party boast of gain in strength- like all other panics, suddenly created by them and pressure upon the people, with the cry that the administration has done this, has by this delusion for a short time imposed upon [many], but the eyes of the people are beginning to be opened to the true cause of this distress, and they are beginning to curse the im-position of depreciated paper, & worthless shinplasters upon them when when they are by the constitution entitled to an undeviating metallic currency- The people are [section torn] beginning to inquire why it is that the are taxed for mints, if paper is to be the currency ?why the ask, is not the law establishing the mints repealed, if the labour of the country are to be cursed with shinplasters, and depreciated paper- be assured the people only want light, and I trust your [volu] [section torn] will continue to give it to them.

Should Mr. Richie & Mr. [Rives] come out against the seperation of the government from all Banks, I trust you will rebuke them.

My health is still feeble & checkered- I had to use the lancet {lancet} to day, and being without much company, & reading your last paper, I was so well

{28} {28}

pleased with it, I took up my pen to acknowledge your much esteemed letter of the 14th of June, which I had too long neglected- this hasty scroll is for your own eye, not for the publics- if there are any ideas worthy your attention contained in it, use them-

Wishing you & yours all the prosperity this world can afford, & after long & well spent lives, a happy immortality, I remain very respectfully your friend-

Andrew Jackson

Moses Dawson Esqur

{ General Jackson }

{ 31st Aug. 1837 }