

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 Northwell, & its vicinity, which proved fatal to the republican cause for the present, and gave to the Federal skin 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 W. Bell permitted to be without an opposing candidate - this gave him the whole field, and permitted him to roam over the whole country making speeches, columnating the party, and poisoning the ears of the community with such falsehoods 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 this temporising course that it would defeat them, urged them to bring out Mr. Burton, ^(though late) the only one who was able to meet Mr. Bell upon the stump, who was prepared with the means to expose, and prostrate him, & his party. That if this was not done, the apudacity of Bell, who was constantly riding through & over every neighbourhood, that they would loose, not only the Representation in this District, but the two adjoining ones, & the whole representation to our state Legislature. My admonitions were unheeded, and their temporising policy ended, as all such must indeed ^{when too late,} defeat. When the elections were over, then indeed, it was admitted that my views were right. I do not get despoir, 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 temporising 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 to you) 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 must be the wish of all his friends} on the subject of an entire separation of the Government from all Banks, as it repository for the public revenue - you will see.

I dislike the temporising policy of Mr. Rives' paper. It seems to be wedded to the state Banks. If so 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 lost written on the subject of his resolution regarding the Treasury, ^{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 Buell & the Beornings 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 dis-

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 cozen the Government to make a des-
 -honorable treaty ^{of peace} - no one can doubt this, and
 no real Republic will ever again advocate
 the Banks as a safe repository for our Treas-
 -ure, after the late treachery practised ^{and}
 the danger that would ^{to the safety of our Country} might arise in a state
 of war. After the Banks, in 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 Repu-
 -blican 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 60 percent - if
 this is not swindling, I know not the meaning
 of the term.

I have always 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 Republicon institutions,
 than church & state, and I am for separate
 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 sword. How absurd such a
 doctrine

doctrine surely the duties of agents to keep the
 revenue when collected ^{be} as easily provided
 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 ex-
 ecuted. 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 ~~a~~
^{with} the consent of the Senate, weakens, instead of
 increasing his influence, ^{& power} for where there are
 so many applicants for the same office,
 whatst 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 control. I regret to see Mr
 Richies paper take this course, but upon
 all important question, he is always, doubtless
 & throwing ~~an~~ anchor to leeward, and doing in-
 jury to the cause. This was his course on the re-
 moval 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 separate the

government from all banks - receive its revenue
 in nothing but gold or silver coin - make its dis-
 bursement in the same, is the only way by
 which it can regulate the currency - prevent
 over trading, & over issues of bank paper - and give
 to the people the benefit of the ^{issues from the} mints for which
 they have been long to do 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 skin plasters 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 controlled from issuing
small notes - the state Legislatures are com-
 posed 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 value 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 ^{your} the independent
 - and -

energetic course - contenance and the republican
 cause must, & will, triumph - The skin-
 plaster party head of gaun in strength like
 all other ponies, suddenly created by them
 and prepared 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, & with lips
 skin plasters upon ^{them} when when they are
 by the constitution entitled to an undev-
 ating metallic currency - the people are
 beginning to enquire why it is that the
 one taken for mints, if paper is to be the cur-
 rency, why the ask, is not the low est to be
 the mints reported, if the labour of the country
 are to be cursed with skin plasters, and
 depreciated paper - be assured the people only
 want light, and I trust your volume
 will continue to give it to them.

Should Mr. Rich & Mr. Davis come out against
 the separation of the government from all banks,
 I trust you will rebuke them.

My health is still feeble & checked - I do not
 use the ^{lancet} to day, and being without much com-
 pany, & reading your last paper, I was so well

pleased with it, I took up my pen to acknow-
 ledge your much esteemed letter of the 14th
 of June, which I had too long neglected. This
 hasty scrawl is for your own eye, not for the
 public; if there are any ideas worthy your
 attention contained in it, use them
 wishing you & yours all the prosperity
 this world can afford, & after a long & well
 spent lives, a happy immortality. I remain
 very respectfully your friend.

Andrew Jackson

Moses Dawson Esqr



General Jackson
 31st Aug. 1837

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