

have any confidence in Mr. Clay's assertions or viracity. All who know Mr. Clay, does know that he lacks good morals, that he is a reckless political demagogue, ambitious and regardless of truth, when it stands in the way of his ambition. Now, my dear sir, is it not the duty of all good men to unite in placing good moral men into office who will use all their power and influence to put down vice and immorality, and maintain true religion and virtue. Our republican system rests upon the basis of virtue, therefore, to perpetuate the blessings of the republican system we enjoy, we must choose men of good morals or our glorious system cannot endure.

"May I ask you, in conclusion, what has either J. Q. Adams done for the public good? Nothing, but much evil. They have both apostasized from their past principles, both regardless of truth to suit their wicked purposes. I have passed over many of their attempts to defame me. My debility is such that I can scarcely direct the pen, and must close. I have stated facts relative to these two men recorded in the history of the times, and of my own knowledge and leave you to draw your own conclusions, and I am sure you can not desire any but moral, good men to rule our country, and Mr. Clay is not such.

"Respectfully, your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"P. S. As I write with great difficulty, you will please to pardon all imperfections in diction that it may contain.

"A. J."

ANDREW JACKSON TO COLONEL GEORGE WILSON.

Charging Henry Clay with bribery.

"City of Washington, Feb'y 20th, 1825.

"Dear Sir:—The public journals will have given you the result of the Presidential election, and how it was brought about by the union of Clay and his friends with Mr. Adams. The predictions in part have been fulfilled. Mr. Clay, it is said, has been offered the office of Sec. of State, and it is also said he has agreed to accept it. This to my mind is the most open, daring corruption that has ever shown itself under our government, and if not checked by the people, will lead to open direct bribery in less than twenty years. For what is this barter of office for votes but bribery. Mr. Clay is prostrate here in the minds of all honest and honourable men. What will be his fate in Kentucky I cannot say, but Mr. Bibb, who is here, says this act will prostrate him in Kentucky.

"I received your letter and disposed of it as you had directed. I regret I had not it in my power to serve you, it will give me pleasure when occasion occurs. I can do nothing with your claim; had Mr. Dinker sent on his deposition I have no doubt but I could have got the account settled; I could have obtained a reference to the atty. gen'l. Had your statement or memorial been de-

posed to, I could have obtained a reference and the atty. gen'l's opinion; as it is, I will bring on your letter and memorial, and you can have them arranged and transmitted in the recess, and have the opinion of the atty. gen'l on it.

"Mrs. J. has been unwell for about three weeks. She is recovering, and I hope will be able to travel so soon as the Senate can rise. I cannot leave it until it rises, for the virtue of the Senate I have great hopes will prevent the consummation of those corrupt bargains for office.

"Mrs. J. joins me in respects to you, your amiable daughter and family, and believe me,

"Sincerely your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"Colo. George Wilson."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Describing condition of office seekers.

"Washington, May 16th, 1829.

"My Dear Sir:—Your kind letter of the 20th ult., has been some days before me. The great press of business has prevented me from attending to it sooner, and even now I can only say to you as it regards our mutual friend Mr. Gwinn, that he had better remain where he is until you hear from me again. There is more distressed people here, than any person could imagine who was not an eye witness to the various applications for relief. My feelings have been severely crowded by the various applications for relief, and as far as real charitable objects presented themselves, I have yielded my mite to their relief. Would you believe it, that a lady who had once rolled in wealth, but whose husband was overtaken by misfortune and reduced to want, and is, and has been an applicant for office, and well recommended, applied to me with tears in her eyes, soliciting relief, assuring me that her children were starving, and to buy them a morsel of bread she had to sell her thimble the day before. An office I had not to give, and my cash was nearly out, but I could not withhold from her half of the pittance I had with me. I name these things to bring to your view, that from the extravagance of this place, how small a prospect is \$1,000 per annum for the support of a family here, and the moment they are out of office, starvation presents itself to view.

"We have not had the leisure yet to make the necessary arrangements of reform, we are progressing, and such is the press for office, and the distress here, that there are for the place of messengers (for the Department) at least twenty applicants for each station, and many applicants who have been men of wealth and respectability. Still if our friend Gwinn wishes to come on here, when we finally organize the Departments, and turn out

the spies from our camp, I will preserve an office for him, but we are now having a thorough investigation into the situation of all the Departments, and the inquiry will be made how many, if any clerks, can be dispensed with.

"I wrote my overseer the other day on the subject of sending my mares to Mr. Stockholder. I would like to hear how many colts I have from Sir William. I learn that the Cotton mare, and Major Donelson's, has not proved with foal.

"In the day I am laboriously employed, and it is only when late in the night I retire to my chamber that I have time to think of, or write to, my friends. It is then I feel the great weight of the late affliction of Providence in the bereavement I have been visited with in the loss of my dear wife; I find myself a solitary mourner, deprived of all hopes of happiness this side the grave, and often wish myself at the Hermitage there to spend the remnant of my days, and daily drop a tear on the tomb of my beloved wife, and be prepared, when Providence wills it, to unite with her in the realms above. But Providence has otherwise ordered, and to His will I must submit.

"Present me affectionately to your amiable wife and family, and believe me your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"The Rev'd Hardy M. Cryer."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

On the political situation.

"Washington, May 20th, 1831.

"My Rev'd Friend:—I have received and read your private letter of the 11th ultimo with pleasure and regret, pleasure to hear that you and your family were enjoying usual good health and Providence was smiling upon and blessing you with plenty, regret to see in what a ridiculous situation my young friend placed himself by giving a voluntary certificate, unfolding a private conversation with his cousin, to aid a stranger in an angry quarrel with his relation, which if he thereby injures his cousin, it must lessen him in the eyes of the world. But it is sure to lessen Daniel in the eyes of all high-minded, honourable men, regardless of the effect it can produce on Mr. Burton.

"The course taken by A. J. Donelson and Daniel have filled me with much and sincere regret, but as they have interfered so improperly to injure Burton, I hope Burton may succeed, altho' I have every good feeling for Gen'l Hall.

"You will find from all the papers that the patriotic step taken by Mr. VanBuren and Eaton, are approved by all Republicans, whilst the old coalition, as well as the new, are astounded, confounded, and dismayed, and perfectly prostrated, all their plans destroyed. If my family and professed friends had remained faithful to me, and the great interests of their country, instead of

falling into the trap of the great intriguer, Mr. Calhoun, how much better for them, and gratifying to me. They have decided and withdrawn from me. I rest upon Providence and the good sense of the people for my support, and I am sure it is the best. The only thing to be regretted is, I am thrown upon strangers, on whom I have to rely, instead of those I took great pains in educating that they might be a comfort and aid to me in my declining years. I have hitherto had sufficient energy to pass thro' any and every difficulty that presented, and I still trust that a kind Providence will not forsake me in the severest trouble.

"My son will leave me on the 15th instant; he will call and see you; I will give him a memorandum as it regards the disposition of my stock, which I will thank you to give him your advice.

"I will thank you to write and inform me what effect the certificate of Dan'l Donelson has produced on the public mind, and how stands the canvass, &c., &c., &c.

"Present me kindly to your amiable lady and family, and believe me your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"The Rev'd. H. M. Cryer.

"P. S. I have no time to write to a friend, excuse my haste."

ANDREW JACKSON TO GENERAL JOHN COFFEE.

In the regard to the right of secession.

"Washington, Dec'b'r 14th, 1832.

"My Dear Gen'l:—

"Your letter of the 30th ultimo has been received, and its contents duly noted, and by tomorrow's mail a remittance will be made to you of \$15,000, being the unexpected balance of the appropriation for surveying the Creek Cession in Alabama, by the Secretary of the Treasury. This, divided amongst the surveyors, will meet the payment to their markers and chain men and the surveyors must await an appropriation for the balance.

"I am today informed by a letter purporting to be written by George Colbert, Tussomengo, &c., with their marks appended without a witness, that these chiefs have met and made another treaty, which they are coming on to have adopted in lieu of the one made by you. I cannot believe this to be true. I have sent the treaty to the Senate, and if there should be any difficulty, will apprise you of it, have it postponed, and request you to come on.

"Your dear daughter is well and doing well, and you may rest assured I will watch over her with a father's care. She shall want for nothing, and her prudence and amiableness of deportment will insure her the affection and attention of all. The family are all well; Mary will write you, which will be inclosed to you under cover of the envelope that incloses this, and to her I must refer you for the news of the place, as you will see from the proceedings of the nullifiers of the South, that I have enough to do.

"Can anyone of common sense believe the absurdity that a faction of any State, or a State, has a right to secede and destroy this union, and the liberty of our country with it, or nullify the laws of the union; then indeed is our constitution a rope of sand; under such I would not live. I have always thought ours was first a confederated government and perpetual union of thirteen sovereign and independent States, granting to Congress the power to declare war and make peace, make estimates of the amount of revenue wanted to carry on the revolutionary war, and apportion to each State its ratio; and not having the power to lay and collect taxes, it could only recommend to the States to do it, and make a requisition on the legislature of each State for its quota. Congress having no power to lay and collect taxes, or to regulate trade with foreign nations, it was found that our union was imperfect, and a constitution was proposed to the people, and in the language of the instrument, 'we the people to make a more perfect union, do ordain and establish the following,' &c., &c. This more perfect union made by the whole people of the United States granted the General government certain powers, and retained others; but no where can it be found where the right to nullify a law, or to secede from this union has been retained by the State. No amendment can be made to the instrument, constitutionally, but in the mode pointed out in the Constitution itself; every mode else is revolution or rebellion. The people are the sovereigns, they can alter and amend, and the people alone in the mode pointed out by themselves, can dissolve this union peaceably. The right of resisting oppression is a natural right, and when oppression comes, the right of resistance and revolution are justifiable, but the moral obligation is binding upon all to fulfill the obligations as long as the compact is executed agreeable to the terms of the agreement. Therefore, when a faction in a State attempts to nullify a constitutional law of Congress, or to destroy the Union, the balance of the people composing this Union have a perfect right to coerce them to obedience. This is my creed, which you will read in the proclamation which I sent you the other day. No man will go further than I will to preserve every right reserved to the people, or the States; nor no man will go further to sustain the Acts of Congress passed according to the express grants to Congress. The Union must be preserved, and it will now be tested by the support I get by the people. I will die with the Union.

"Present me to Polly and all your family, and believe me your friend. Write me where and what Hutchings is about.

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"Gen'l John Coffee.

"P. S. If you can come, it will give me pleasure to see you here."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Referring to the Opposition in Congress to His Views.

"Washington, February 20th, 1833.

"My Dear Sir:

"I have rec'd no letter from you since my return hither last fall, and I have been so much pressed with business that I had no time to write you. I have sent you some public documents, whether they have reached you I cannot say.

Altho' I have been re-elected by such an overwhelming majority, still, Congress has elected Gales and Seaton printers for the House of Representatives, and Green for the Senate, so you see Congress pays Gales and Seaton for abusing me for the last twelve years, and Duff Green for the last three. The marriage lately consummated between Clay and Calhoun, with the corrupting influence of the Bank, has corrupted Congress, and the people at the polls can alone correct it, by changing their representation in Congress. The newspapers will show you that Mr. Bibb, of Ky. and Poindexter, Moor and King, of Alabama, go with the nullifiers. There are more nullifiers here than dare openly avow it. These men will be good Jackson men at home with the people—but not enough, the people will call them, I trust, to an account, for there can be no nullifier that is not at heart a traitor to our happy constitution, and our union, upon which our own liberty, and that of the whole world rests. If we should fail, and our blessed union be dissolved, the civil wars, blood and destruction must be our unfortunate lot, and despotism will again triumph over the world. But my friend, the union shall be preserved, or I perish with it.

"I have just heard a rumor that the hero, Gen'l Dasha, has become an assassin, and has shot his nephew in the dark—do give me the facts of this case. I sincerely pity his depravity, but I knew he was a base man. I knew he would bear false witness against his neighbor, and when a man is thus depraved he is capable of any and every act that depraved human nature is capable. I knew from his conduct relative to Major Eaton, that he was a fit companion for Branch, Bibb, Ingham, Berrien, Daniel and Wy-cliff. A just providence will punish them all.

"Present me kindly to your amiable lady and family. Kiss my little Rachel for me, and believe me your friend. Write me.

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"The Rev'd Hardy M. Cryer."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Regarding the influence of the U. S. Bank.

"Washington, April 7th, 1833.

(Private)

"My Rev'd Friend:—

"Your kind letter breathing the true spirit of real friendship, with the much esteemed enclosures, has ben rec'd, and has been

lying by, from a continued press of business and feeble health, for a leisure moment to reply to them.

"The memento of the respect of our pious and aged friend, Bishop McKendra, has been gratefully received and perused with much delight, and Dr. A. Clark's letter, which, he has been good enough to present to me, thro' you, shall be preserved with great care, and passed down to posterity. Present him with my thanks for it.

"Please accept the tender of my sincere condolence on the loss of your charming daughter Martha. Severe as this bereavement is, and tho hard for human nature to meet with a proper resignation, still that Christian philosophy so clearly taught by our blessed Redeemer, will sustain you in this trying and afflicting scene. You as Christian parents, ought not to repine, but rejoice at parting with such a daughter, for you have a well grounded hope that she is only changed from this wicked world to that of peace, happiness and glory. This must be a balm to your sorrows, and you ought to be ready to say 'let us mourn for the living, not mourn for the dead.'

"I will present your letter to Major Eaton and his lady when the opportunity may occur, and when my son returns to the Hermitage will endeavor to send little Rachel something.

"The wicked projects of the leaders on nullification and secession are for the present, I think effectually, and, I hope, forever, put down. But the coalition between Clay and Calhoun, and combined as it is with a few nullifiers in Virginia, and Poindexter and his coadjutors in the South and Southwest, portends no good, but much evil, if the people could be misled, and become dupes to their heresies and wicked designs. This combination wields the U. S. Bank, and with its corrupting influence, they calculate to carry everything, even its recharter, by two thirds of Congress, against the veto of the Executive. If they can do this, they calculate with certainty to put Clay or Calhoun in the Presidency, and I have no hesitation to say, if they can recharter the bank, with its hydra of corruption, they will rule the nation, and its charter will be perpetual, and its corrupting influence destroy the liberty of our country. When I came into the administration, it was said, and believed, that I had a majority of seventy-five. Since then, it is now believed, it has bought over by loans, discounts, &c., until at the close of last session, it was said, there was two-thirds for rechartering it. It is believed that in the last two years, that it has loaned to members of Congress, and subsidized presses, at least half a million of dollars, the greater part of which will be lost to the Bank, and the stockholders. If such corruption exists in the green tree, what will be in the dry?

"Such has been the scenes of corruption in our last Congress, that I loathe the corruption of human nature and long for retirement and repose on the Hermitage. But until I can strangle this hydra of corruption, the Bank, I will not shrink from my duty,

or my part. I think a system may be arranged with the State Banks, for all the purpose of deposits, and facilities of the government in its fiscal concerns, which, if it can, will withdraw the corrupting influence now exercised over Congress by this monied institution, which will have a healthful effect upon the legislation of congress and its morals, and prevent the continual drain of our specie from the western states to the east, and to Europe to pay the dividends. I am now engaged in this investigation, and I trust that a kind superintending providence will aid my deliberations and efforts.

"You will please attend to my postscript and answer it. Present me kindly to Mrs. Cryer, and all your children, and kiss little Rachel for me, and believe me your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON."

"The Rev'd H. M. Cryer."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Advising Him as to the Selection of a Second Wife.

(Private)

"Washington, October 29th, '33.

'My Dear Sir:

"Your letter of the 15th instant has been received. I have read it with attention and hasten to reply.

"The bereavement you have met with by the loss of your dear wife I can duly appreciate, and sincerely sympathize with you on the occasion. You are young and surrounded as you are with a helpless mother and two young children, one a daughter, who wants the superintendent care of a mother, I do suppose that none of your friends would advise you not to marry again, provided you shall make a discreet choice of one who would become in all respects a mother to your small children and do a mother's part by them. Your deceased wife had a sweet temper, in all respects with your own and you were a happy pair. Should you meet with such a temper and such a soul, then I would say to you, marry, because you would secure domestic happiness and find in the second wife a tender mother for your present children. There is danger in being disappointed in this. You are both young and may expect children by the second marriage. Suppose you are disappointed in her benevolent disposition, that she really becomes the step-mother to your children, becomes jealous of them, and instead of being a tender mother to them, becomes the real stepmother and maltreats them. What heartburnings must arise and end in domestic strife. Mark me, you want a mother for your children, and survey the temper, disposition, and all the traits of benevolence about the intended mother well, and then judge for yourself. Your happiness and that of your dear little ones depend upon the choice you make; if a prudent one, your and their happiness is secured; if disappointed in the disposition and benevolence, then your condition will be everything but contentment and happiness.



"But you say your dear wife, anticipating her exit, pointed to this lady as a mother to her children. This certainly ought to be consoling to you, provided your own judgment concur in the qualifications of the lady, as being by disposition, becoming in feeling and in practice, a real mother to you, as well as to her own children; but the judgment of a person on a dying bed, who has formed friendly attachment, may not be capable of viewing how changed one may become when placed in the situation of a real mother, when all their affections might be withdrawn from others and placed upon their own; therefore it is, that I draw your attention to the propriety of your judging for yourself, and if your conclusions correspond with your dear departed wife, you have a right to conclude, in following her advice, you are securing your own happiness, and obtaining a real mother for your motherless children.

You have a right to believe you have my friendship and my prayers that you may be as happy in your second as you were in your first choice; and you will be happy here and hereafter; for nothing can tend more to our prospects of future happiness than our domestic. I tender to my dear little Rachel J. a kiss. With my best wishes for your prudent and discreet choice, I remain your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"The Rev'd Hardy M. Cryer.

"P. S. I have been quite unwell, am mending, but a good deal debilitated. "A. J."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Congratulating Him on his Happy Marriage.

"Washington, February 10th, 1834.

"My Dear Sir:-

"Your very kind letter has been by me for some days without answer in consequence of bad health, and great press of business. I, with great sincerity, assure you the pleasure I feel in finding you so happy. I have no doubt but the piety of your companion will insure to your dear little ones from her, a mother's care, a tenderness, and that of, not as a stepmother, but a real Christian mother, who will watch over them with a real mother's care and tenderness. This must add much to your and your families' real happiness. I can only add my prayers that you may be as happy as I wish you all.

"On the subject of the colts, I can only say, that I had a great desire to have had the fillies trained last fall, that their merits might have been tested before they were put to breeding; being disappointed in this, I have directed my son to put them to my Citizen stud next spring. He has the management of them and if they could be trained early so that if they were not run on the public turf, they might be put to the horse in April. I suppose Andrew would like to have them trained. Will you call and see him on the subject, or request Mr. Mason, the trainer, to do so.

"I have three stud colts, two Bolivars and one Citizen, the last out of my Oscar filly, which will be two years old this spring, which I wish trained next fall, if I can get it done under a good manager. The Bolivars are, one out of the Virginian I got of you, the other out of a Pacotet and Partner mare I bought at Col. William Donelson's sale, which if the gentleman you name continues to train, I would like to make an engagement with him, if you continue to recommend him, and should you be passing the He mitage you would confer an obligation on me to call and examine these colts and give me your opinion of them, their appearance and promise for the turf. The colt of the Oscar filly by my Citizen was a fine colt, has got hurt in one hip, which may disfigure and injure him, but my son thinks not. I have great confidence in my Citizen as a stock horse, and wish to bring his colts early on the turf to make him valuable as a brood horse. Look at him and give me your opinion.

"Present me kindly to your lady and family and kiss little Rachel for me, and believe me your friend,

"ANDREW JACKSON.

"Rev'd H. M. Cryer.

"P. S. I send for your perusal Mr. Rives speech on the removal of the deposits. The mammoth of corruption is chained and will be destroyed."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Arraigning Hugh Lawson White, John Bell and Others on the Position Which They Had Taken.

"Washington, November 13th, 1836.

"My Dear Friend:

"I have the pleasure of acknowledging receipt of your very kind letter of the 30th ultimo. Situated as I now am it is truly grateful to receive a letter from an old friend. After noting its contents and perusing the various enclosures and noting them, I most heartily concur with you, that we live in days of personal and political changes, and I must add of depraved morals. Nothing but falsehood appears to be the weapons of our modern, new-born White Whigs of Tennessee in their late political crusade—White, Bell, Payton, Murry and Co. appear to have abandoned truth, and now when the election is over, do not wish to be held accountable for their falsehoods.

"It is wonderful that Mr. Murry should now wish to regain my confidence by endeavoring to retract what he said of me in his abusive speeches. But either Mr. Murry in his note to you, or his informant, has told a positive falsehood. There is no one, in truth, can say that I ever said you were present and heard Mr. Murry's speech. But I have said, and said so to Mr. Harris, Mr. Murry's brother-in-law, as I think a pure and good man, that Col. Jones

of Franklin, told me in your presence, and in the presence of several others, that he, Col. Jones, was present and heard Mr. Murry's and Mr. Payton's speeches; that they were both abusive and boisterous, and that Mr. Murry had called me, in his speech, an old dotard, and led by others, &c., &c., that he, Col. Jones, and some others had noted these speeches, and Col. Jones had promised to furnish me these notes in due time. I have no idea that Mr. Harris would misrepresent, but Mr. Claibourn has a confused mind, and is said will shoot at times out of a long bow. I will see Mr. Harris soon.

"I thank you for the enclosure. They add to the collection I have laid on file. Should I live to get home, a duty I owe to truth and the morals of society, will induce me to expose Judge White, Mr. Bell, Mr. Payton, Mr. Murry, and their falsehoods, so that the moral part and truth loving portion of the citizens of Tennessee may judge what credit can be reposed in those men, when they make assertions as to the acts and doings of others. I now believe that Judge White has been acting the hypocrite in politics all his life, and individually to me; that he is unprincipled and vindictive I have full proof; that he will wilfully lie, his Knoxville speech amply shows. I can forgive, and will, but I never can forget hypocrisy, or the individual capable of it. There is no character I abhor more than the liar and hypocrite.

"Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut are all heard from and are all safe for Van Buren. New York and Virginia, although not all parts heard from, will give Van Buren large majorities. Ohio, as far as heard from, the Van Buren and Johnson ticket 1700 and odd ahead, but the result very doubtful. New Jersey votes on the 15th and Rhode Island, both thought to be sure, but the operation and power of the Banks are strong, have been powerfully used in Pennsylvania, and may operate in New Jersey, though our friends have no doubt of success. We have strong hopes from all information received that Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama are certain for the V. Buren and Johnson ticket; have strong hopes of both Georgia and North Carolina. But the die is cast, the votes in the ballot boxes, tho' not known here. We have a right to believe that Pennsylvania has carried a small majority in the convention. Tomorrow will give us the result, the electoral ticket sure.

"Major Donelson is with me, but will have to leave me in a few days to join Emily at home. I am very busy preparing my message before he leaves and must close. With my kind salutations to every branch of your family and a kiss to my dear little Rachel Jackson, and my constant prayers for your prosperity here and hereafter, your friend.

"ANDREW JACKSON

"The Rev'd H. M. Cryer."

ANDREW JACKSON TO REVEREND H. M. CRYER.

Describing His Arrival at the Hermitage.

"Hermitage, February 5th, 1840.

"My Dear Sir:-

"I reached home on the 2nd instant. On our return we had to struggle for ten days and nights against the ice in the Mississippi. But by the energy of our Captain, Irwin, and his noble crew, and the smiles of a kind and gracious Providence, we reached Nashville on the first, where we were kindly greeted by numerous friends, and the whole Legislature in a body, and I am now reclining under the peaceful roof of the Hermitage with my dear little family, with improved strength, tho' labouring under a bad cold taken on board the boat amidst the ice, and somewhat increased since I got home by a little imprudence.

"I had the pleasure of meeting with an old friend, father Gwin, in good health, but dissatisfied with the lower country; has a wish to return and spend his last days in Tennessee if it meets the views of his wife, to whom he wrote by me. I made him an offer of Ward's place, now owned by my son and myself, which Dr. William Gwin said if his father selected, he would buy for him. I enclosed the letter to Mrs. Gwin, requesting to know her determination, as yet I have not heard from her. To have this good old man my neighbor in my declining life would be a great pleasure to me. If Mrs. Gwin desires to return below, then my dear friend, I wish your aid in procuring a purchaser of that fine tract of land for us. My son's situation is such that we must sell and any individual who can advance five thousand dollars or four thousand can now have a great bargain in that tract of land. It can be had now, with an advance of \$5,000, for fifteen thousand dollars, and the balance at one, two and three years without interest; if not punctually paid, interest from the date, this to induce punctuality; and on an advance of six thousand dollars, it can now be had for fourteen thousand dollars, with the above credit and conditions. Would not any one who has money by such an investment make fifty per cent in a few years? Yes, the moment the present pressure passes away this tract will command thirty dollars per acre. This I well know, but a little imprudence has caused this necessity, and I would always sacrifice property, than the credit of my adopted son or myself, therefore, the sacrifice of this fine tract is to be made. Would not Col. Elliott invest his money in such a certain and sure profit as this purchase would insure? My dear sir, furnish me a purchaser on the above terms and the premium offered will be yours. This sale will free us from debt and the fine plantation below will pay for itself and net a surplus, and my Hermitage must sustain my expense. I will live within my means, and my son from his paid for experience, I am sure, will never be indebted again when clear of his present difficulties. Therefore, my dear sir, it is that I am so solicitous to make the sacrifice and sale of the land to

get him clear of debt and myself from his liabilities. Have the goodness to write me soon, and inform me of the prospects of a sale, or, of any offers made and where an advance of five or six thousand dollars will be made. Should your business lead you to Nashville, call and give me a night. With my kind regards and that of my little family to you and yours, expecting in due time the promised visit of you and family, I remain your friend,  
 "The Rev'd H. M. Cryer." "ANDREW JACKSON."

ANDREW JACKSON TO R. I. CHESTER, ESQ.

In Regard to His Failing Health and Bodily Afflictions.

"Hermitage, April 9th, 1840.

"My Dear Sir:

"Your two letters of February the 15th and 29th have been received and been some time before me, and I have no excuse to offer for my delay in answering them only the difficulty with which I write, and a few letters received that require my first and special attention, and my checked health. I have been much afflicted since my return from below with pains in my head and ears, that has injured both my vision and hearing, and incapacitates me at times from being able to write; this is my excuse for not acknowledging your kind letters sooner.

I congratulate you and your dear Elizabeth on the birth of a fine daughter. Accept of my prayers for its long life and good health; that it may be an ornament to its sex, and a blessing to you both in your declining years. Kiss the dear babe for me, and present it with my blessing.

It will give me great pleasure to visit you and my other friends this spring, health permitting. Governor Polk has promised to go with me, of which I will write and give you due notice. Since I lost my friend Earle, I have no person to travel with me, Andrew having so much to attend to, and we cannot both be from home at once.

"Gen'l Hays knows how difficult it is for me now to write; say to him, with all our kind regards to him, his lady and family, how much pleasure it would give me occasionally to receive a letter from him.

"Present our kind salutations to Dr. Butler and his family, to Mrs. Hays, Mrs. Butler, and their families, and to Mr. Patton and his, and to Mr. Bowling and his, and to all other friends there, and say to them how much pleasure it will afford me to visit and see them all once more.

"Andrew and Sarah join me in kind regards to you, your dear Elizabeth and children, and believe me your friend, sincerely,

"R. I. Chester, Esq."

"ANDREW JACKSON."

"P. S. It gives me great pleasure to hear that Huntsman has taken the field and that you will give the Whigs a sure defeat this fall, be it so."

The R. I. Chester to whom this letter was addressed was Colonel Robert I. Chester, who, for half a century, held a high and honorable place in the public life of Tennessee. Chester County, Tennessee, was named for him. He was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, July 21, 1793, and, when a youth, moved with his parents to Jonesboro, Tennessee, and there attended school. He served in the War of 1812 as Quartermaster of the Third Tennessee Regiment. From 1825 to 1833 he was Postmaster at Jackson, Tennessee, where his home was. In 1835 he went to Texas, and General Sam Houston gave him an appointment as Colonel in the War of Texas' Independence, and at the close of the war he returned to Jackson, where he held the respective positions of Postmaster, Land Register for West Tennessee and United States Marshal for West Tennessee. He was a member of the Tennessee Legislature in 1870 and again in 1872. His first wife was a niece of Mrs. Andrew Jackson. He died in 1891.

In 1884 the Electoral College of Tennessee met in the Governor's office in the Capitol at Nashville, to vote for Grover Cleveland for President and Thomas A. Hendricks for Vice-President. The author was a member of the College as a representative of the Second Congressional District of Tennessee, and was elected Secretary. When the time came to elect a Messenger to carry the vote of the College to Washington to deliver to the President of the United States Senate, Colonel A. S. Colyar, of Nashville, escorted Colonel Chester into the meeting, arm in arm, and addressed the College in his behalf, and wound up by demanding with a great flourish that Colonel Chester, whom he pronounced the youngest candidate for Messenger (Colonel Chester was only eighty-one years old at the time), should be elected and all other candidates should withdraw in his favor. Whether because of Colonel Colyar's eloquence, or Colonel Chester's age, or for some other reason, Colonel Chester was elected Messenger, and, before going to Washington, he visited Grover Cleveland, Governor of New York and President-elect of the United States, who received and entertained him with distinguished consideration.

It was the duty of the Secretary to assemble and seal in an envelope, addressed to the President of the United States Senate, the proper certificates of the vote of the College, for whom the vote was cast and all official proceedings, which was done, but through oversight and inadvertence, the Secretary included in this seal envelope a certificate that Colonel Chester was the regularly

October 17, 1932

Mrs. Jane McChung  
Mrs. B. B. Bates  
Mrs. Clark Burr

My dear aunts:

On the back of the portrait I have of the Reverend Hardy Cryer, I find that papa has typed the following:

"Hardy Murfree Cryer was born November eleventh, Seventeen Hundred Ninety-Two, Died February seventh, Eighteen Hundred Forty-Six. He was a Thirty Second Degree Mason and a Minister of Methodist Church. Hardy Murfree Cryer and Elizabeth Rice were married November eighth, Eighteen Hundred Twelve."

I am having a brass plate made for the portrait of the Reverend Hardy Cryer, which will read something like the following:

Hardy Murfree Cryer  
Born November 11, 1792 - Died February 7, 1846

It is my understanding that Elizabeth Rice was the first wife of Hardy Murfree Cryer and that the portrait I have is his second wife and a sister of Elizabeth Rice.

If you can give me the name of this sister, I will have a similar plate made for her, and of course, would like to have the date of her birth and death, if possible.

With much love to all of you, in which Allene and the children join me, I am

As ever,

MA:ck

P.S.: Please also advise me, as near as you can, the date the portraits were painted or approximately how old Rev. Cryer and his wife were at the time they were made. If you do not have this information, make a guess at it.

*Written by Maud A. Allene*



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### Re: James R. Cryer, Sumner Co., TN

Posted by: [Michael Cotten](#) (ID \*\*\*\*\*1235)

Date: October 18, 2005 at 01:05:44

In Reply to: [James R. Cryer, Sumner Co., TN](#) by Melissa Cryer

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Samuel Cryer of Hertford Co., NC married Sarah Murfree, sister of Revolutionary War Gen. Hardy Murfree. They had at least three sons, John, George and James. There may have been other children but I don't have a lot of information here.

James Cryer married Mary Cotten on Feb. 1, 1790. She was the eldest child of Capt. Thomas Cotten Jr. and Priscilla Jane Knight. James and Mary accompanied her parents and siblings to Sumner Co., TN in 1791. His brother John also moved to Sumner county. James was a merchant at Gallatin, TN and was a breeder of race horses. He served in the state legislature in 1815 and died on Mar. 12, 1816. He and Mary had one child, a son named Hardy Murfree Cryer who was born Sept. 11, 1792. After James' death, Mary married an Englishman named Thomas Foxall.

Hardy was a Methodist minister. He also bred and raced thoroughbred horses which got him in some hot water with the church who disapproved as gambling is inevitably linked with horse racing. He was a good friend of Andrew Jackson and there are copies of a number of letters between them in Jackson's papers. Many deal with the horses as Cryer and Jackson were at one time partners in the horse business. Jackson also corresponded with Rev. Cryer on the subject of morality, in particular the question of Jackson's marriage with Rachel and the fact that she was technically still married to her first husband Robards when Andy and she were first wed. Hardy was married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth L. Rice, daughter of Elisha Rice and Nancy Ann Collier. They were married in Sumner County on Nov. 6, 1812. They had five children -

1. James William Cryer, born 1815, married Georgianna T. Cooper
2. Martha Ann Douglas Cryer, born Jan. 13, 1818, died Oct. 11, 1832
3. Thomas Cotten Cryer, born May 18, 1822, died March 1849, married Emily Bridgewater and left two sons, Chesley Bridgewater Cryer (b. 1847) and Hardy Murfree Cryer (b. 1849)
4. Elmora Elizabeth Cryer, born 1825, married Joseph A. Anthony
5. Priscilla Rachel Jackson Cryer, born Feb. 24, 1829, never married

Hardy's second wife was Susan Ann Duval. They were married in Kentucky on Oct. 15, 1833 and also had five children -

6. Edward Reed Cryer, born 1835, killed at the Battle of Shiloh Apr. 6, 1862 while serving as a lieutenant in Company H of the 2nd Tennessee Infantry
7. Martha Ann Cryer, born Aug. 13, 1836, married William Rufus Anglen
8. Elizabeth Claiborne Cryer, born 1838, married Daniel J. Anthony
9. Mary Cage Cryer, born 1839
10. John L. F. Cage Cryer, born 1841, died 1845

Callatin, Tenn. mar. 4, 1830

To. An. Jackson

Dear Friend:

Your two last letters which have come to hand are of Decr. and Jany. Pursuant to your request, I have just returned from the Hermitage, a name and place that combines an association of ideas and sensations at once brilliant and gloomy, pleasingly mournful. I say it is so to me, but I can only speculate. It is for you, dear Sir, to realize all that others talk about. But we must not indulge a murmuring spirit. No—God our Heavenly, is too wise to err and too good to chasten us but for our profit. I will just say further, that the garden is in a state of forward preparation, all is neat and dry around the Tomb. Your farm is in good repair, your hogs and cattle look well for the season. I examined all your horses, mares and colts. Bolivar will stand at the Hermitage. I have no doubt it is the best place for him, as Mr. Clay has sold Sir William to some men abt Franklin, in Williamson Con. y Price \$4,000 in One and two years.

I have written an advertisement for Bolivar which you will see in the Republican. He will not do to train any more. Elliott says his Colt Jerry is afflicted in the same way but not so bad and he has lost his reputation as a courser. And as to his training any of your younger ones, he just observed that he has not room for his own. The secret is this: He and Mr. Williams are so united with James Jackson, that there is no doing anything ~~about~~ agt. his interest, and if Elliott and Williams were to train a Stockholder and run him with success, why it would be blocking up the way of James Jackson's next importation. If he should die on the way! For you must know that he is determined to try a third time. And on the other hand if Elliott should train and run a Stockholder unsuccessfully, Shelby who is a censorious little man would attribute it to design.

Your Constitution colt out of the Miller mare is a short heavy colt. I suppose he is not intended by nature for a racehorse—the brown colt out of the same mare by Stockholder is of better form for sprightly active horse—his eyes look rather weak, time and moderate feeding may make all right. The Swayback mare's filly of the same age by Stockholder will make a large, active animal, and so will the Cotton mare's sorrel filly—the little sorrel motherless. One from the brown mare is improved very much, but the large bay colt from the Grey Pacelot, by Stockholder is worth all the rest of the two year olds put together—he is very large and begins to show some fine points. I know no man that would do a good part by him but Mr. Colter, my uncle. If he trains, perhaps he might consent to gentle him for you. Your Oscar mare I think is in foal to the Cover Arab gave her, after I got out with him, of which I gave you an account—her colt by William is a good one, not so splendid as it is good. You have seen my advertisemt. I expect to hear from you according to promise abt the mares, etc.

Mrs. Cryer and children are all well and I hope to be in a situation, say this year, to "owe no man anything but good will. Little Rachel is very promising and her mother thinks a great deal of her. Present me to Gen. Dasha and say to him that Madame Towson has the best foal at her foot she ever dropt—a filly.

Respectfully yours,

H. M. C.

Letter from Gen. Andrew Jackson to the Rev. Hardy Murphy Cryer

Hermitage, August 18, 1827

Dear Sir:

Business having brought me to Gallatin I rode over to see you and pay you for the season of my mares. I have to remark that no laches on my part shall place you in a delicate situation-- I have therefore to request you to see Mr. Shelby, settle the business, draw upon me for the amount and I will sign a check for it.

I wish to say whether I should pay you now for my gray mare, or when she brings the colt, if she be fortunate as to do so-- I believe it was understood as she had lost both her colts, if she lost this, I was not to pay for the season. If that is your understanding I am willing to pay you now, and if again unfortunate, the money to be returned when the event is known.

Nothing has prevented me from sending the check but the want of knowledge of the amount--you should have a check enclosed from the Springs, but I did not know the amount. I request you to see Mr. Shelby, settle the amount due him and notify me and I will send you a check, or if you prefer it, the cash. Why I say a check, I seldom have the amount at home.

I had a great wish to see you and hope you and your lady can pay us the promised visit next week.

Respectfully your friend,

Andrew Jackson

Tennessee Historical Society: The Rev. Hardy Murphy Cryer was a Methodist Minister. He was passionately devoted to blooded horses and continued to breed them. This love of horses and his high integrity of character bound him to Jackson, and they remained warm friends through life.

( All the above taken from "Correspondance of Andrew Jackson" Vol. 3, page 378, this being an edition of 6 volumes edited by John Spencer Bassett, Ph. D. and published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington D.C. in 1928.)