

Andrew Jackson to William Donelson (1795-1864)

(Private)

Washington Decbr. 7th. 1831—

Dear William

I have received your letter of the 20th. ultimo, and size the first leisure moment, that has been afforded since its receipt to reply to it. Congress met on Monday last, & preparing for it has employed us very much for some time, and by the mail that takes this will convey my Message to you—it has met with the approbation of my friends, and silenced my enemies. Clay & Calhoun will find but little room for attack.

On the subject of the Lots of land of Samuels & Alexander Donelson I have barely time to remark, that to gratify my son I will purchase them—for Samuels, I will pay on making a tittle, or you executing a bond for the conveyance of Samuels lot as laid out and marked by the commissioners the sum of fourteen hundred dollars payable on or before the first day of April next (If it should be from any pressing cause, necessary that the money should be paid sooner, I will raise it.) if I receive the cash for Bolivar, I, will pay at any time thereafter, if I fail in this, I will have my cotton in market soon, & by that time, will agree to pay to your order presented here the above amount of \$1400.¹ For Alexanders, I will give the same amount to be paid on the 25th. day of Decbr. 1832—on you and John Donelson giving your bonds, for the conveyance of Alexanders lot, as marked & laid off. I have money owing to me, that I can collect to meet the payment of the purchase of the latter Tract, but I cannot agree to pay interest, because as you justly remark it is a high price for the land, and perhaps more than it will ever hereafter bring. On the receipt of this write me, that if the contract about Saml's Lot be closed, I must make arrangements to meet it with punctuality, and from my accumulated expences here I must look else where than my salary to meet it.

My son has presented me with a daughter amiable and accomplished, which has added to my expences a little, but as he has made, as I believe, a good & prudent choice, I am cheerful in meeting it. I am well pleased with his little sarah; I have no doubt from her amiable disposition she will endeavour, in all things, to add to my happiness. Andrew will present her to his friends at the Hermitage next Spring.

The last purchase I made of Capt Mosely, to gratify Andrew and to benefit Thomas, between whom there is a sympathy of feeling & attachment, that can only be accounted for, from their being twins, I told him that he might exchange the two hundred & fifty acres with his brother for his lot of land adjoining Samuel & Alexander. This exchange is made, and Thomas writes Andrew that Albert Ward wants to buy the lot out of him and has offered fifteen dollars per acre. Mr. Ward cannot buy this lot because Major Donelson, informs me, that he has treated him badly about part of Mr Watsons tract adjoining him that he was in treaty for. But I wish you to see Mr Ward, and say to him, that I will exchange Thomass Lot acre for acre, Beginning at My south west corner, run south so far as will, by running due east to Stoners Lick Creek, include the same number of acres as are in the Lot got from Thomas. This will add to Major Andrews tracts as much of Watsons as will give him the spring, and an outlet for pasture and will add to mine which I intend for my son, what will be as valuable as Thomases Lot, altho Thomases, is much ~~the most~~ more valuable than Wards and its situation very desirable to Mr Ward. This is the only way Mr Ward can get that Lot & this you can say to him, and was it not to gratify & benefit Major Donelson, I would not make this exchange. I wish you to see Mr Ward upon the receipt of this, & write me the result. See Mr Thomas J. Donelson, and tell him also, to say to Mr Ward that by exchange is the only way he can get it.

I have a great desire to be informed of the size and appearance of my stud colt, ~~the~~ (Citizen) out of my pacolet filly that died, by Stockholder, and my Sir William stud colt, out

of the Oscar filly, as well as the two year old, gueldded, colt by Sir William, out of the sway back mare. Will you have the goodness to see them & give me a description of them, as well as my other colts, but particularly the Citizen by Stockholder, and the two, two years old, by Sir William out of the oscar filly & sway back. I had great hopes of the Citizen, and the stud colt out of the oscar filly would make first rate runners, and I think so still. I want your description of them, & the two year old guelding out of sway back.

I thank you for the flattering account you give me of my cotton crop—hope it may turn out as well as you anticipate. It is now 12 at night & I must close. Present my kind salutations to Elizabeth, & to all the connection—say to them we are all well, and the Major, Emily, Mary Eastin, Andrew and Sarah, with Mr Earle, being my whole family, join in kind salutations to all, & believe me yr friend

Andrew Jackson