

**Misc. MSS Lyon, Chittenden. Collections of the New-York Historical Society. This display is for personal research purposes only.**

Madisonville Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1829

Dear Sir.

Having a moment of leisure I devote it to a passing notice of events and prospects with my speculations upon them - I commit it now.

News of a character not to be doubted of the death of Mrs. Jackson has reached here. To the dispensation of Divine Providence it behooves to bow submissively, but I had fondly anticipated the triumph of that much injured Lady over her foul slanderers in her recognition at Washington as the Consort of the Man whom the people elevated for his patriotism and virtues. She had passed an ordeal of more than ordinary severity unscathed & had it been the will of Heaven to have spared her a few more days I should have enjoyed more cheerily the deep mortification of General Jackson's revilers.

You will have learned ere you receive this that Judge Bibb is elected to the Senate in lieu of Col. Johnson. What caused this change I am unable to divine whether Col. Johnson declined (and of a letter of his to me last Fall he intimated his willingness to continue) or whether the wand of the Master Magician had been introduced into the Frankfort circles producing characteristic confusion is matter wholly of speculation with me.

Judge Bibb was in a lucrative and important office. Col. Johnson had been long tried and proved himself upon all occasions worthy of the Public confidence. It may however all have been properly understood but I regret to see an able faithful man leave Congress at just such a juncture as this.

From the occasional flickering of feelings on the part of Mr. Clay's friends not to be misunderstood, it is quite

obvious that he yet considered himself powerful enough to be the Aegis of a party upon whose shoulders he designs ultimately to be carried into the Presidency. I think I can penetrate through the materials of which this party is to be composed far enough to discern that from its nature & composition it will, to make it at all efficient, have to be learned its tactics in an intended war against Jackson's Administration. It is not in the nature of things at this day that Gen Jackson's administration can be expected to escape animadversion. No matter what may be its integrity both in organization and operation, no matter what its energy and prudence its virtue & efficiency all directed to the public weal still it will be assailed. Still and abused because every thing which resounds to its credit removes the Purple so much further from Mr. Clay. He will see in every thing of honor with which it is surrounded so many barriers to his ambition that he will be unable to repress the "Non Sum quod Fui" with which he is surcharged and consequently the necessary operations of his party will be confined to the Sole purpose of discrediting Jackson and his friends. He may pass the Pruth but I venture to predict that he finds in the Balkin an impregnable Choumla.

This early opposition of his to Gen J's administration will I have no doubt be productive of effects in the ultimate injuries only to himself. It was to have been hoped that the chastisement lately given him by the people would have chastened in some degree his inordinate ambition - but it seems that with him it is Aut Caesar Aut nullus and nothing but his utter prostration will still the workings of his ambition. He must know that his unnatural union with Mr. Adams will always be a millstone around his neck. Still he is restless and determined to be the Genius of a Storm which it seems to be his destiny to fall a victim to.

These are vagaries of my own but I am grossly deceived if you do not live to see them realized.

I have been looking for a letter from you relative to the recommendations I troubled you with for some time but content myself with the knowledge that you will write whenever necessary.

Present me most respectfully to Col. Johnson and my acknowledgement for his favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Remember me also to Wickliff.

I have written out this letter just as the ideas it contains (and they are crude enough I know) present themselves, which I tender as an apology for its slovenly garb. I hear of no expected opposition to you in this quarter, if I should I will not fail to advise you. In the interim, believe me to be

Sincerely

Your Friend

Wm. G. Wigginton