

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, May 19, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Baltimore, May 19, 1835.

My Dear General, I am amazed at the prodigious turnout of Democratic Volunteers assembled here. If you had sounded your trumpet to put down Nullification, more enthusiasm would not have been inspired than I now see manifested to put down the machinations of the *blue* and *white* whigs. the Coalition of the Hartford and South Carolina conspirators against the union. Every Tavern is full already and the delegates are hunting private houses to put up at. We have a number, I think already here, sufficient to make up two Congresses and much sounder than any you have seen at Washington.

The two sets of delegates from Pennsylvania are bent upon bringing their quarrel before the Convention in some shape, but I trust the attempt will not succeed. Some want a direct issue upon the point of *legitimacy*, where there is no law to decide. Others wish to have a resolution passed in effect to annul the nomination of Electors made by the Wolf convention. I find zealous and devoted friends on each side. For instance Patton (the District Attorney),¹ Honest George Kremer,² Genl. Stewart etc. on Wolf's side, Leiper, Horn, Joel K Mann³ etc. etc. on the Muhlenburgh party. They are as furious against each other, as the Montagues and Capulets. I have been trudging all day between them to get them to work together as one delegation and vote the vote of the State by their joint ballots and leave every thing else in their dispute, to the decision of the

1 Benjamin Patton, U. S. district attorney.

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2 M. C. from Pennsylvania 1823–1829.

3 George G. Leiper, Henry Horn, and Mann had been members of Congress from Pennsylvania.

people at the next fall Election. Both sides seem to talk fair, while I am coaxing them, but I soon hear again, that they are for a war of Speeches in the Convention. This I trust will be prevented by its Wisdom.

I think from all that I can gather Colo Johnson is the strongest for the Vice President with the Delegates, but there is much and anxious effort making for Rives.⁴ I suppose they want to have the Colo's *balderdash* kept up in the House, and to put Mr. Rives, like a sweet toned instrument unstrung, where he may be looked at, but not a note drawn from him. I never witnessed such folly among sensible friends. I try to inspire them with the importance of rallying to Mr. Van Buren and his administration (if he should be elected) the steady Democracy of the West, which must have some bond of union with him in the person of some popular citizen, to become thoroughly identified with him. I talk, but I talk in vain, and fear they think me impertinent.

4 William C. Rives of Virginia, senator 1833–1834, 1836–1845.

Wright is here, Wardwell⁵ rooms with me, Stevenson is to be the President of Convention. The several delegations meet about in squads to night to confer with each other. Although it [is] near night I have not heard who is winner at the Central Course. Nobody thinks of the race, not even yo. af.

5 Daniel Wardwell, M. C. from New York 1831–1837. Andrew Stevenson of Virginia, M. C. 1823–1834, speaker 1827–1834.