

Roger Brooke Taney to Andrew Jackson, July 18, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

ROGER B. TANEY TO JACKSON.

Washington, July 18, 1834.

My Dear sir, I received a letter from Mr. Gilpin¹ today saying that he would be glad to receive the appointment of Governor of Michigan now vacant, if you should think it proper to bestow it on him. You know him so well that I need say nothing to recommend him. He appears to me to be eminently qualified for the station, and unless there is some other person who in your judgment ought to be preferred to him I confess I should feel gratified at seeing him receive such a mark of your favour. He was singled out for peculiar persecution by the Bank and its adherents, and his services and the firmness with which he has sustained himself in the most trying times have impressed me most favourably towards him. During the severest time of the struggle I was in constant correspondence with him and he never wavered for a moment. I submit his name to your better judgment.

¹ Henry D. Gilpin of Delaware was one of the four government directors who in 1833 reported adversely to Biddle's policy in conducting the Bank. They were rejected by the Senate in 1834, when their terms expired. Jackson renominated them and they were again rejected. The appointment to the governorship of Michigan went to Stevens T. Mason.

I accompanied Mr. Van Buren to Harpers Ferry on Tuesday last, and took my family with me. We spent Wednesday there and on Thursday (yesterday) we seperated at the Point of Rocks, he taking the Rail road to Baltimore, which he expected to leave this morning. He was well received by our friends at Harpers Ferry. He was saluted according to his

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rank, and in the evening a volunteer band of music of young mechanics waited on him and played many patriotic airs. I am satisfied he will gain more and more favour as he mixes more and more with the people.

I go to Baltimore on Monday. My friends there are making preparations to meet me at the City line, and are to have a Barouche and four horses to convey me into the City, escorted by a number of my friends, and then I am to meet our friends generally. You know this is my first trial in this way, and I am not sure that I am very well fitted for such scenes, and under any other circumstances would excuse myself. But at present it seems to be a matter of duty, and is moreover I acknowledge not a little gratifying. Some day in the next week they are to give me a dinner and I suppose I must make a speech. Although I have no desire to become a *table orator*, yet I am quite willing to make a speech at this time.²

² Taney, whom Jackson appointed Secretary of the Treasury after the dismissal of Duane, Sept. 23, 1833, was rejected by the Senate on June 24, 1834. He sent in his resignation next day and retired at once from the office. He became a hero to the Jackson party and was given a grand reception in Baltimore, where he returned on June 21.

I write you about these small matters because I suppose it would not be disagreeable to you to know what your friends are about. And as the heads of Departments will of course inform you of public matters it is unnecessary for me to trouble you about them. You see what the Bank and its friends are about in the public papers. Their correspondence with the New York Committee, and with the senate's committee of finance appear to me to be extraordinary acts of folly. Their admission that they continued the curtailment until they found that Congress would do nothing for them, is perfectly true. But as they do not mind the truth when it stands in their way I wonder they should have taken pains to publish what ought to ruin and disgrace them if there was no other proof on the subject. Their agreement to open every thing to the Senates Committee composed as it is is if possible still worse after the ground taken with the committee of the House.

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I trust that this letter will find you safe at the Hermitage³ and improved in health. You will I know have so much to do, that I cannot wish you to take the trouble of replying to my letters. And with earnest prayers for your health and happiness,

³ Jackson reached the Hermitage on Aug. 5, 1834.

I am D'r sir most respectfully and truly your friend and obt. s't