

**Andrew Jackson to Henry Baldwin, October 31, 1831,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO HENRY BALDWIN.

Washington, October 31, 1831.

My dear Sir, As I am preparing facts for the faithful historian, and have the most anxious desire that everything, which I may state for the benefit of the present generation or posterity, may be *truly* stated, and as, in Speaking of the Seminole War, it may be necessary to have reference to my confidential letter, written to Mr. Monroe on the 6th of January 1818, and allude to the use which was made of it, I have determined to address you this note in consequence of a Conversation heretofore had with you on this Subject. It may, as I have just intimated, become proper to State, what I understand to be the fact, that this letter was in the hands of Mr. Lacock whilst he was acting as Chairman of the Senate's Committee in 1819, and before he made his memorable report on the Seminole War containing, as it did, from beginning to end a Complete tissue of falsehoods, misrepresentation and false colourings. In the conversation to which I have alluded, and which took place in the presence of Mr. Lumpkins of Georgia and others in my parlour one evening when you called to See me just before the adjournment of the Supreme Court, you remarked "that the letter alluded to was in the possession of Mr. Lacock at that time as you understood." If this expression was intended not to be used or spoken of again it shall be so considered; but, otherwise, I will, with your permission, note it, and at the proper time, use it to shew the fact that the letter, without my Knowledge or approbation, was placed in the hands of Mr. Lacock to be used to my injury. This will also give an indication of the reason which induced Mr. Calhoun to bring this letter to the recollection of Mr. Monroe in Decbr 1818. There is, I am authentically informed, a member of this

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Committee of the Senate who says Mr. Lacock had this letter in his possession; but I wish this Statement corroborated by your knowledge of the fact. I will thank you for answer to this at as early a period after its receipt as your Convenience will permit. I am, very respectfully, Your friend,