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THE PAPERS OF WILLIE PERSON MANGUM

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because my friends in Alabama being engaged in canvassing throughout the State, I could not apply to them with so much certainty of finding them at home, and in N. C. there is no other public individual, of my acquaintance whose friendly recommendation I would feel honoured in bearing.

As I intend visiting Columbia So. Ca. during the next session of their Legislature, a letter to Gov. Hayne⁵⁸ would confer on me additional obligation

Be pleased to direct your favour to Milledgeville as early as convenient to you—

With high respect

Your Obt Svt

W. NICHOLS JR—

[Addressed:]

To/

Hon. Willie P. Mangum
Red Mountain P: Office
Orange
N. Carolina.

WPM-LC

John Chavis to Willie P. Mangum

July 30th. 1833—

My dear Sir/

I think of you & your family daily & w^d. be glad to know of your welfare at all times, consequently not to see you nor to hear from you directly is a pain I am unwilling to bear any longer, therefore I have taken up my pen again—

I am glad to hear that you are exerting yourself in behalf of G. Barringer election, which causes me to hope that you are now willing to extend the charter of the United State Bank, nor do you blame him for voting for the enforcing bill For my part I have never blamed him for one vote he has given since he has been in Congress therefore I should be exceedingly sorry if he should not be elected, not only because I think him to be a faithful servant, but because of his pecuniary situation—

⁵⁸Robert Y. Hayne.

I read with much satisfaction, the debate between Calhoun & Webster;⁵⁹ because from these I discovered that you had given me the true character. And although the former was radical on the wrong side of the question—yet the description Webster gave of his struggles was truly picturestic of the strength of his mind—

The contrast between Webster & Clay was one amongst the best things I ever read, & which corresponded also with the character you had given me of the two men—

I have long believed Clay to be a tryed & faithful patriot & I think his Tariff question proves it beyond a doubt & I do think that you must have a more favourable opinion of him than you had when I saw you last. & less opinion of G. Jackson (tho I approved of every letter of his proclamation) It was my firm belief that the Nullifiers had some hope of support from some other quarter than their own & I stated to some of my neighbours that I feared that these hopes were fixed upon G. J. that they thought that they had seen or discovered something in him that favoured their scheme, & you see that Calhoun came out boldly upon the subject, & it is plain to me that he would not have said what he did in the teeth of G. J. if it had not been so. And this was the foundation upon which those bitter daring & degrading Toast of the Nullifiers on the late 4th of July & which I was sorry to see—

The character given of Mr. John Randolph by some writers corresponds completely with the character you gave of him. He certainly was a man of an uncommon brilliancy of Talent, & had he been a uniform steady character, would have been one of the greatest statesmen that America could have boasted of — But pray what has taken place between you & Mr Harris⁶⁰ of Oxford, that you should have refused his hand & that he offered you a Pistol in presence of a number of gentlemen, & that you told him that you did not regard the bite of a seed tick nor a flee nor a chinch? I am sorry that you should be under the necessity of offending any of your neighbours or their children; because I would wish you could live in peace with all men. Not only for

⁵⁹When Calhoun took his seat in the Senate in January 1833, he introduced some resolutions which embodied his nullification views. He then waited for three weeks for Webster to open the debate. Finally on February 15-16 he spoke and was followed by Webster, who attacked Calhoun's resolutions. This permitted Calhoun to call up his resolutions for debate. In his first speech he cautiously avoided explaining in much detail his constitutional views until after Webster had replied. Webster followed and according to his friends demolished Calhoun. Calhoun took careful notes on Webster's speech and a week later presented an argument that his friends felt was unanswerable. Webster made no serious reply. Charles M. Wiltse, *John C. Calhoun, Nullifier, 1829-1839*, Indianapolis, 1949, 188-195; William M. Meigs, *The Life of John Caldwell Calhoun*, New York, 1917, II, 10-18.

⁶⁰See above, I, 585n.

you own sake but of that Mrs. Mangum & her children I have no doubt but you a just cause as you supposed for acting as you did, if it was so. I expect he had been dashing away at your political course—I myself was insulted a few days ago. a certain gen^{tn} came into my school house & told me to my face, that he believed that you were a Nullifier and I gave him a shot upon the spot, & sent him off hoping. You may blame me for that if you will, but when you are assailed I will speak right or wrong—no matter who it is too, & if I never see you again I am unshaken—

I am told that my son Priestly is likely to lose his election, & that it will be soly & alone, owing to his stubborn & unyielding disposition. Strange that he cannot or will not call to recollection that from the beginning of time to this moment, to be useful—, a man must be condesending, That the ignorance & prejudice of mankind must be met & overcome by genuine Phylosophy? That proud dignity & independency of character, as he calls it, appears to have swept all Idea of Philosophic experiments from his mind; & if he does not mind will instantly bring him to be a blank in election & his wife & children to suffer both in wealth & character This will be the evident consequence and I am sorry for it & I wish him to know what I say that after I am dead he may think of it and I wish he may do it before it is too late—

My wifes affliction has caused her to be a dead letter to the family ever since last Nov^r & I fear it will ever be the case—

I am now teaching a small school at home & it is all that I am able to do. & shall not be able to teach long for I am losing my hearing fast. Then what shall I do?

Give my love to Mrs Mangum & tell her I see her & her children daily & w^d. be glad to know what she has done with Sally. That if I could leave my family I would spend the next winter with her. If my wife dies before me I shall expect to come home there—

After the bustle of the election & the Courts are over I shall expect a letter from you to Rogers store

I am the same old two & sixpence

JOHN CHAVES

[Addressed:]

Hon. Willie P. Mangum Esqr
Red Mountain
Orange