

Washington 9 Novr. 1831.

My D. Sir,

Yours of the 30 Ultimo has been recd.
and, being much pressed for time, you must
be content with a very brief reply.

First with regard to the Presidents
health. You need place no reliance
on the rumors of his ill health. He never
was freer from disease of all kinds than
at present. He has entirely recovered, and
looks as well as I ever saw him. So there
is no necessity for Mr. Gardiner or any other
friend to hasten to Washington to see him
before his decease. Judging from his pre-
sent appearances, he bids fair to live
many years yet.

Upon the subject of the National
debt, I can only, for the present, say that
there is no question but you are correct
in "asserting that President Jackson has paid
more of the public debt than any of his pre-
decessors"— meaning, as I suppose you do,
within the same period of time. The Secre-
tary of the Treasury, however, would not
if I were to apply for a correct statement of
the amount paid, and to be paid by the first
of next January, permit it to be furnished,
as it would seem to be anticipating the Pre-
sidents message upon that subject. I am

satisfied, however, that the amount will not fall short or very little, of forty millions in the first thirty three months of this administration; and it is confidently believed, with the assistance of Congress, every cent of the National debt may & will be paid within the first four years of President Jacksons Administration.

Our enemies, you say, entertain hopes that there will be a majority in the Senate against the President, and wish to know my opinion on that point. If all those in the Senate friendly to Mr. Calhoun were to unite with the enemy, I think we should be in the minority; but some of them dare not array themselves in opposition to the President. I do not think the Virginia Senators will.- Mr. Van Buren's having left the Cabinet will be given by them as a pretext for returning to our ranks again. Genl. Hayne of South Carolina will not seperate himself from the President, for I have no doubt he is more attached to him than he is to Calhoun — Mr. Poindexter of Mississippi will be afraid to do so, because if he does his Legislature will invite him to resign. For these reasons I think few of the Calhoun Senators, as they are called, will venture to unite with the opposition — The recent elections show too plainly the feelings of the people.

There is but one other subject in your letter which requires notice, and that is a very delicate one. I refer to the rumors [əf] about our friend Hayward. The same reports have got into circulation here, but I believe they are confined to a very few. To do the Judge justice I must say I have never, myself, seen any thing that would authorise the belief of their being well founded, but I see much less of him than many other of our friends, some of whom I know feel much anxiety and uneasiness with regard to the matter. I think with you that his friends should not permit him to throw himself away without an effort to save him, if such be his unfortunate propensities. I thought it right to show your letter, in confidence, yesterday to a particular friend of his, and advise with him as to the course necessary to be taken with him. He told me that he had recd. similar letters to yours from Ohio; one of them was from a man of high character and a devoted friend of Haywards, which it was agreed should be shown to the Judge. That opportunity will then be embraced to speak to him freely & frankly, and to warn him of his danger. I hope, however, his habits are not such as they are reported to be. I think if Gardiner were to write to him upon this subject it might have a happy effect. The rumors of your City might form the basis for

such a letter. I know of no one who could with more propriety take such a liberty. If it should be true, as reported of the Judge, and he do not reform, it will be his inevitable ruin, for the President will keep no man in office addicted to such habits be him friend or foe.

With my best wishes for your health and happiness I am, my dear sir, your sincere friend.

W B Lewis

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Cincinnati.