

**Letter from Andrew Jackson in the Hermitage**  
**to Sam Houston, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1845**

Hermitage

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1845

Genl Sam Houston,

Ex President of the

Republic of Texas

My Dear Genl,

This will be handed to you by our mutual friend Major A.J. Donelson who returns to Texas, to take you by the hand and to welcome you into our glorious union. I congratulate you, I congratulate Texas, and the United States on this glorious result, on which depended the safety and prosperity of both Texas and the United States, with the president has recommended Texas to our glorious union as far as she could without the consent of Texas, which all the democracy of this union believe will be speedily yielded to by the people of Texas, with her constituted authorities. I now behold the great American Eagle with her stars and stripes hovering over the lone Star of Texas, with cheering wave welcoming it into our glorious union and proclaiming to Mexico and all foreign governments in stentorian voice, you must not attempt to tread upon Texas- that the United Stars and stripes now defend her- Glorious result, in which Genl you have acted a noble part, and your name is now recorded among the heroes, the patriots, and the philanthropists.

You have yet more to do- you have now to lay the basis by proper legislation and remodeling your constitution for the future greatness, wealth, and prosperity of your state. And first, by proper legislation to guard and protect the morals of your people, keep us from temptation, this the text. To this end you must shut the door against all foreign grants for Land, guarding all grants issued by the constitutional authorities of Texas, all other to be barred by positive law. You must with care husband your vacant land to meet your national debt, and after that is paid, provide for the prosperity of your state by funds for education and the

improvement of your country. You must at once close the door against all colonization grants... By guarding your unincorporated lands against all frauds- by issuing scrip, bearing interest at three percent to the amount of your debt it will soon be paid. By placing a minimum price on your land and granting, with proper guards and limitations, pre-emptive rights to actual settlers, you will soon pay off your public debt, and have more wealth left than any state in our union. But to protect your morals, and to cap the climax of your prosperity, and protect the labour of your country, you must provide in your constitution by a positive provision, that your Legislature never shall establish a Bank, or any corporation whatever with a power to issue paper- that no Banks shall be established by the Legislature except on a specie basis, and then only with the power of receiving deposits and exchange. There never was, or could be use for any other kind, except for the speculators, and gamblers in the stocks, and this to the utter ruin of the labour and morals of a country. A specie currency gives life and action to the producing classes on which the prosperity of all is founded.

...I am greatly afflicted and debilitated and write with much pain, and make these suggestions to you as your sincere friend...

If providence spares me, to next summer of which I have great doubts, I hope to see you, your noble lady and charming boy at the Hermitage, where you will receive a hearty welcome, not on your way only to see your relatives, but on your way to the senate of the states to take your seat with the sages of our Union representing, in part, the sovereignty of the noble state of Texas. Accept the tender of the friend, salutation of myself and household to you and yours. Believe me your friend,

Andrew Jackson

(Transcribed by Danielle Brissette, Curator of Education,  
Sam Houston Memorial Museum, January 2014)