

Andrew Jackson to Susan Wheeler Decatur, January 2, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO MRS. SUSAN DECATUR.1

1 Copy. Handwriting of Maj. W. B. Lewis. See p. 21n., *ante*, p. 128n., *post*.

Washington, January 2, 1830.

My D'r Madam, I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your note of Thursday last, together with its inclosure. You may rest assured, Madam, that my services shall be most cheerfully accorded in aid of getting your claim allowed by Congress. I believe it a just and righteous claim, and should long since have been recognised and paid by the Government. I have too much confidence in the disposition of Congress to do justice to those gallant men and their representatives to believe for a moment they will refuse to mete to them the same measure of justice which has so often been extended to others in similar situations. It will, however, be necessary for you and your friends to act with great caution and circumspection, studiously avoiding every thing that may by possibility be calculated to produce the least feeling on the part of the members of Congress.

I perfectly agree with you that the anonymous letter you enclose me, is evidence not only of a *malicious* and vindictive community in this District, but also of a *corrupt* and *profligate* community. I believe no lady has been more basely slandered, or cruelly persecuted than Mrs. Eaton. I have heard much said to her prejudice, but no one has ever yet had the hardihood to say, to me, that he, of his own knowledge, knew any thing against her, as a moral, virtuous, and correct woman. I have, on all occasions, treated Mrs. Eaton with as much respect as any other lady in the District, because I have ever believed her entitled

Library of Congress

to it; and I shall continue to do so, unless I shall become convinced she is undeserving it, in spite of the sneers and *tittle-tattle* of a set of gossips who, in many respects are greatly her inferiors and in none, as I believe, her superiors. I hope, my dear Madam, you know too well what is due to the sex, and your own character, to be intimidated by the threats of such base, corrupt, and unprincipled villains as your anonymous correspondents. I shall keep the letter you have inclosed me with the hope of being able, some day, of finding out the name of its vile author.

I am with much respect your friend