

1955

Andrew Jackson vs. the Spanish Governor

Herbert J. Doherty, Jr.



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Doherty, Jr., Herbert J. (1955) "Andrew Jackson vs. the Spanish Governor," *Florida Historical Quarterly*.
Vol. 34 : No. 2 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol34/iss2/5>

ANDREW JACKSON vs. THE SPANISH GOVERNOR

PENSACOLA 1821

by HERBERT J. DOHERTY JR.

For more than one hundred years Andrew Jackson has been to writers of American history an exciting, inspiring, controversial, or shameful figure - according to the varying beliefs of those many writers. This writer, in recent issues of this *Quarterly*, has reexamined Jackson's Florida career in two articles which were suggested by several previously unpublished Jackson letters.¹ Several new letters coming to light have suggested a more detailed look at some of the ground covered in those earlier articles, specifically, the sources of hostility between Jackson and the last Spanish governor of West Florida, Jose Callava. Some historians have looked upon that hostility as stemming from Jackson's inherent rascality; to others this was an inevitable product of his explosive temperament and frontier crudity. There is no denying the heat of his temper and its frequent manifestations, but this writer is inclined to deny that he was a rascal at heart or that he was the crude hillbilly some writers portray. Rather, let us dwell on the factors which conspired to inflame the feelings of both Jackson and Callava and brought on their collision, resulting in the throwing of the governor into the common jail at Pensacola at midnight under Jackson's direct orders. These factors were: misunderstandings, several tedious delays, personal hardships, and cultural differences, as well as numerous petty annoyances.

In broad outline the story is a familiar one. On May 9, 1821, Jackson arrived at Montpelier, Alabama, where he was instructed to wait until Colonel James G. Forbes arrived in Pensacola with orders from the Captain General of Cuba for the transfer

1. These articles appeared in *Florida Historical Quarterly*, XXXIII (July, 1954), 3-31; and *ibid.*, XXXIV (July, 1955), 3-29.

of West Florida. He remained in that Alabama border town until June 15, growing ever more impatient at the many delays imposed by the plodding Spanish bureaucracy, first in Havana and then in Pensacola. On June 15, after the arrival of Forbes, he came down to the farm of Manuel Gonzalez fifteen miles outside Pensacola, where he remained another month while tedious negotiations were carried on with Jose Callava who still sat ensconced in the Government House in Pensacola. Finally, on July 17, Callava delivered West Florida over to Jackson but further annoyed the American governor by repudiating a promise Jackson believed he had given to acknowledge in writing all assistance and supplies given by the United States which were beyond the strict letter of the treaty of cession.

Shortly after the latter disagreement, Mercedes Vidal, a mulatto native of Florida, pressed upon the new government her claims to justice apparently long denied to her under the Spanish regime. Her case led to the most serious conflict between Jackson and Callava, as a result of which Callava was jailed overnight and a mild international incident was provoked. The events that led to that stormy scene between the two men on a hot August night in 1821 are the ones that concern us now.

Jackson arrived in Florida with a disposition not to trust any Spaniard. His general inclination seems to have been not to trust men until through personal contact he developed an implicit faith in their integrity and loyalty. His earlier experiences with the Spanish in Florida did not augur well for the establishment of such trust for Callava, and his misgivings after the Spanish government delayed for two years ratifying the treaty of cession further strengthened his belief in the "bad faith" of the Spanish. The long delay experienced by Colonel Forbes in Havana, while Jackson cooled his heels at Montpelier, served to deepen his suspicions, and he listened credulously to every rumor. Forbes, he feared, was being dazzled by

To His Excellency

I have received with great satisfaction on
Monday morning by Cap^t. Richard H. Call, Sr. Officer
of your Excellency's correspondence, dated the 11th
of the present month referring to my answer of the
4th instant.

I am convinced to have manifested Lawyer
Brackenridge Esq^r in our deliberations in order to
determine the first correspondence of your Excellency
that no objection appears to be in which your Excellency
should not stand in this place the report of provisions
refer and I have done it in this case to Cap^t. Call.

The wisdom of your Excellency has so
now as well as necessary and consequently the action
delayed by you to be your opinion about transports
from St. Marcos to this place the transport. I am not

Excellency towards him, and with all, I so answer to
the correspondence of your Excellency which I refer and
also understood.

God bless your Excellency many years. José
Callava May 16th 1822 José Callava

To His Excellency Andrew Jackson, Major General of
the U. S. Division of the United States Army

Letter of Gov. José Callava to Gen. Andrew Jackson (see Appendix I)
Original in P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida

the Spaniards to hold up the transfer till large numbers of Negro slaves could be imported into Florida, a "dreaded evil."² The merchants of Cuba, he heard, had conspired with the Captain General to delay the transfer until large quantities of goods could be imported into Pensacola, evading the United States customs laws. Forbes, he feared, might even be in league with them.³

For a time after the establishment of communication between Jackson and Callava in May, Jackson felt reassured. His aide, Richard K. Call, was sent to find out whether or not Callava was "a coward full of duplicity, or a candid honourable man."⁴ Call replied that he found the Spanish governor to be "a frank, ingenuous soldier" in whom the fullest confidence could be placed.⁵ This satisfied Jackson for a few days and he wrote that he expected no delay in the transfer after Forbes arrived from Havana on the *Hornet*.⁶ Less than two weeks later, however, he was declaring to John Quincy Adams, "every delay will be experienced that the Spanish officers think will be submitted to by the American Government."⁷

On May 30, Forbes sailed for Pensacola after having spent almost six weeks getting the necessary papers from the Cuban authorities. He attributed the delay to habitual Spanish tardiness and to such unforeseeable events as the death of the Intendant and his being succeeded by an officer who insisted upon fully reviewing all the negotiations before giving his approval to them. "The authorities here," he wrote, "consider it

2. Andrew Jackson to John Q. Adams, May 1, 1821, *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

3. Andrew Jackson to John Q. Adams, May 7, 1821, *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

4. Andrew Jackson to Richard K. Call, May 11, 1821, in Caroline Mays Brevard, *A History of Florida*, I (Deland, 1924), 260-261.

5. Richard K. Call to Andrew Jackson, May 21, 1821, *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

6. Andrew Jackson to John Q. Adams, May 21, 1821, in John Spencer Bassett (editor), *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson* (Washington, 1926-1935), III, 57.

7. Andrew Jackson to John Q. Adams, May 30, 1821, in Bassett, *Jackson Correspondence*, III, 62.

a *prompt dispatch!*"⁸ Monroe shared this attitude and advised Jackson to "make every allowance for the dilatory character of all transactions, habitual to the officers of the Spanish government."⁹

Consider at this point the contrasting natures of Jackson and the men with whom he dealt. Jackson himself was a product of the frontier, a believer in firm, direct, and energetic measures. He was a high ranking officer, immensely popular, and somewhat feared - for political reasons - by his own superiors; a man accorded a wide latitude in the interpretation and exercise of his powers; a man more accustomed to dealing with Indians and frontiersmen than with cultured, polished Europeans; a man, moreover, surrounded by young aides who knew less than he about diplomatic procedures and protocol. Nonetheless, he was an aristocrat of the West, noble in bearing, chivalric, too proud to have been lacking in diplomatic courtesies had he known what international usage demanded of him.

Callava, on the other hand, was a product of Europe. He had come from the great military bureaucracy of the ramshackle old Spanish Empire. Well versed in red tape, formalities, procedures, he was not a man to disregard the established channels of command or to take direct action, if it were unprecedented. He was, moreover, something of a "bright young man" in the vast bureaucracy, who had capped an outstanding military career by becoming a provincial governor before he was forty years of age, and he took undoubted pride in his office and standing. Because he was more urbane and possessed more sophistication than Jackson, it has often been overlooked that he was quite as proud and quite as stubborn as Jackson.

Though Jackson was quite irked that Callava would make no move toward evacuating Florida until orders came from

8. James G. Forbes to John Q. Adams, May 30, 1821, *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

9. John Q. Adams to Andrew Jackson, June 27, 1821, *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

Havana, he recognized Callava's position and assured him that he would not think of inducing him to act without orders. On June 9, however, the orders came and Jackson's impatience with delay then grew rapidly. On the fifteenth he moved to within fifteen miles of Pensacola and on July 11 he moved to within two miles of the city. During this time disputes were dealt with in regard to the removal of cannon from the forts and in regard to the transporting and supplying of Spanish civil officers, families, and servants - points that were all omitted from the treaty of cession. Jackson fumed at Callava's insistence on carrying off the cannon but he conceded that he would not induce him, if he could, "to depart from your positive instructions."¹⁰ During this time Jackson did not call on Callava or present his credentials, and Callava, as was proper, did not feel obligated to call upon Jackson to see them.

By June 22, however, Callava felt impelled to suggest that Jackson might meet with him or that he might send his credentials.¹¹ Again Jackson passed up the opportunity to call and sent Callava certified copies of his commission, rather than the original which had been requested. On July 4, he told a friend:

I have not been yet in Pensacola, nor do I suppose I will be, until I go and enter as governor of the same, I never have been invited. I proposed an interview, the commandant declined it, and I would sink the place and him with it, before I would visit him. . . .¹²

That both Jackson and Callava may have misunderstood each other is quite likely. That Callava took Jackson's proposals for an interview as a request that he come out to the American camp seems clear. Likewise Jackson never seems to have taken

10. Andrew Jackson to Jose Callava, June 17, 1821, in Bassett, *Jackson Correspondence*, III, 70-71.

11. Jose Callava to Andrew Jackson, June 22, 1821, in Bassett, *Jackson Correspondence*, III, 74-75.

12. Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, July 4, 1821, Bassett, *Jackson Correspondence*, III, 89.

Callava's suggestions that he come to Pensacola as a direct invitation. If Callava's letter to Jackson of May 16 (Appendix I) is any indication of the clarity of the letters which passed between them, it is easy to see why misunderstandings existed. The translations in the printed official records are all in good English, but this letter, too, in the official records is in excellent English quite unlike this actual document which was sent to Jackson.¹³ (see facsimile)

The first two weeks in June were spent in loading transports, inventorying archives and inventorying ordnance. Callava had finally agreed to leave the ordnance if receipt should be given for it, leaving final disposition to be made by higher authority. Jackson agreed to this compromise on condition Callava would receipt for the transportation for civil officers, families, and servants, and their provisions. Jackson thought Callava agreed to this.¹⁴

Tempers grew short again when Callava told Jackson he would deliver the province on July 16 or 17. Jackson recounted all the earlier delays and stated that if the Spanish were not out by July 15, they would have to pay the expenses incurred by holding the transports two extra days.¹⁵

The proud, and stubborn, Castilian replied that Jackson might levy whatever charges he would, but that the province would not be delivered until July 17 at ten in the morning. The delay was attributed to the transports not being ready to sail, to his personal illness, and to the slowness of the American officers in helping with the ordnance inventory. Having received

13. Verbatim copies of the letter in Appendix I appear in the manuscript volume "Journal of Governor R. K. Call" in the Florida Historical Society Library, and is printed in Brevard, *History of Florida*, I, 262. The version in good English is found in *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1, and in *American State Papers: Foreign Relations*, IV, 761-762.

14. Andrew Jackson to John Q. Adams, June 29, 1821, *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

15. Andrew Jackson to Jose Callava, July 12, 1821 Bassett, *Jackson Correspondence*, III, 92-93.

his orders seventy-two days before the deadline specified for delivery, Callava asserted, "by making the delivery after 37 have elapsed, I think I have complied with whatever promises may have been made by His Catholic Majesty's Minister."¹⁶

This unbending reply brought from Jackson almost an apology. Of course, the general replied, had the unforeseen difficulties been explained he would have acquiesced in the delay. "I am satisfied," he wrote, "and wave the demand of demurrage on the vessels."¹⁷ Two days later Jackson wrote disclaiming any intention of having wounded Callava's feelings and expressing the hope that the latter should make allowances for his zeal in attempting to promote the interests of the United States.¹⁸

Callava replied generously that "a mutual misconception of our opinion is the cause of the unpleasant feelings of Your Excellency as well as of my own." The Spaniard then gently lectured Jackson upon his breach of international etiquette. He reminded the American that he had promptly entered into negotiations with him as soon as orders had arrived from Havana,

... without having seen your credentials and actuated solely by good faith; this circumstance is an unequivocal proof of the ingenuousness of my disposition, for Your Excellency cannot but observe that previously to taking that step, I ought to have seen your credentials.¹⁹

Callava went on to say that he had told Jackson, in response to his request from Manuel's asking an interview, that he might present his credentials in Pensacola at his convenience. You should have visited me then, he told Jackson, "an honour which I should have been warranted in returning immediately."

In my capacity of Governor of a Province. . . it was my duty to support my station with all the circum-

16. Jose Callava to Andrew Jackson, July 13, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 94-97.

17. Andrew Jackson to Jose Callava, July 13, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 98-99.

18. Andrew Jackson to Jose Callava, July 15, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 100.

19. Jose Callava to Andrew Jackson, July 16, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 101-102.

spection due to it; for what I might have done as Jose Callava as often as I pleased, the pretensions of my Nation would not permit me to think of; because according to the Etiquette necessarily observed amongst nations, I should be subjected to a humiliation in appearance indecorous in making those previous advances to Your Excellency which of right should first proceed from the part of Your Excellency. . . .²⁰

In delivering over St. Marks without having seen the credentials, Callava declared that he had deviated from his obligations at considerable risk, "for the delicacy of my own feelings made me even prefer my own ruin to putting Your Excellency under the necessity of showing me your credentials." The Spanish governor claimed that he had waived all points of etiquette "which were my due" yet he conceded to Jackson, "I believe it to be equally true that you are incapable of wilfully and intentionally disregarding what is due to me; but since it is no longer possible to correct the error . . . far be it from us to permit the occurrence to occasion new explanations, or the slightest resentment."

To clinch his point with documentary evidence, Callava sent along to Jackson a little volume detailing how everything was conducted on the occasion of the transfer of Louisiana to the United States. He hoped that the general would "peruse" it and from it "be convinced how erroneous the opinion is which Your Excellency has unhappily formed of me."²¹

Jackson replied in a conciliatory vein conceding that "the misunderstanding must have existed from the want of a proper interpretation of our real thoughts as expressed in our correspondence."

"Let me assure you," he wrote, "I should have met you with pleasure in Pensacola, had I not conceived that it was

20. *Ibid.*

21. *Ibid.*

not your wish. . . . I was induced to believe that an undue condescension was expected." Jackson concluded this message with the ambiguous remark, "I am certain after further acquaintance we will know how to appreciate each other."²²

This was the last correspondence which passed between the two before the transfer of flags on the next day. This era of good feeling between them was brief, however. On August 1, Jose Cruzat, Callava's secretary, told Major Henry Stanton, who waited upon him for Callava's long overdue signature upon the receipt for transportation and supplies furnished beyond the requirements of the treaty, that the Spanish minister at Washington had told Callava flatly that such items were to be supplied by the United States according to the treaty. Callava therefore stoutly maintained that he could sign no receipt which stated that these items were not required by treaty and which referred settlement for them to higher authority.²³ All Jackson's misgivings about "Spanish treachery" surged back at this turn of events and he charged Callava with "a willful breach of the agreement." Indignantly he voided his own receipts given to Callava for the ordnance and stormed, "This closes my correspondence with Your Excellency on this subject for ever."²⁴ The stage was now set for the famous Vidal affair.

It was shortly after this exchange that Mercedes Vidal went to the American authorities for aid in securing the estate due her as one of the natural heirs of Nicholas Maria Vidal. Vidal had been a Spanish military auditor who died in 1806 leaving a considerable legacy to his heirs. It had gone into the hands of Forbes and Company for settlement, but not until 1820 had the heirs been able to force an accounting from the executors. The auditor who examined the accounts found them to be fraudulent and wholly irregular, and he recommended that suit

22. Andrew Jackson to Jose Callava, July 16, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 103-104.

23. Jose Cruzat to Henry Stanton, August 1, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 107n.

24. Andrew Jackson to Jose Callava, August 3, 1821, *ibid.*, III, 108-111.

be brought to force the executors to an accounting. This was followed by a decree by Callava ordering such an accounting, a decree which had not been enforced, however, up to the time the Vidal woman appealed to Alcalde H. M. Brackenridge for justice.

The papers needed to prove the case were not among those relating to private property transactions and, consequently, were not to be delivered to the American government. Whether or not these papers were properly filed is subject to grave doubt; however, because of Vidal's office, they were filed with the papers of the military tribunal and the revenue department - to which the United States had no claim. Jackson, however, insisted that no matter where they were they concerned private property and must be seized. He came to the conclusion that Callava must be in league with Forbes and Company to defraud the Vidal heirs, and sharing the common belief of Americans that the company had encouraged Indian outrages on the frontier, he was in no mood to trifle.

Alcalde Brackenridge easily got Jackson's order for the papers, and as quickly drew from Callava a refusal to deliver them. The order was made known to Callava while he was dining with a large company at the residence of Colonel James Brooke, commander of the United States troops in Pensacola. Brooke and several other leading Americans were embarrassed by the indignity shown their friend and took his side in the controversy. Undaunted, Jackson ordered a squad of soldiers who were sent to the residence of Callava where he was routed from bed and placed under arrest. Escorted to the Government House, he was confronted by an angry, hot, tired Andrew Jackson and a scene of wild confusion ensued. Jackson and Callava both talked loudly, each in his own language, with Callava making loud inflammatory asides to the onlookers (so inflammatory that Jackson's translators dared not repeat them to him). Jackson's stubborn demands for the papers were countered by

Callava's equally stubborn insistence on formal procedures and written requests which must pay him deference either as Spanish commissioner or former governor. At length Jackson ordered Callava jailed and signed a warrant for the seizure of the documents in his possession.

At the jail Callava's friends gathered with wine and food and the rest of the night was spent in feasting and drinking and derisively mocking Andrew Jackson. After his release the next day, Callava soon set out for Washington where he was consoled by the Spanish minister and those who thought poorly of Andrew Jackson. His version of the event received wide circulation by Jackson's political enemies, and another episode in the varied career of Andrew Jackson was well on the way to being wonderfully embroidered.²⁵

APPENDIX I

[Jose Callava to Andrew Jackson] *

To his Excellency

I have received with great satisfaction yesterday morning by Capn. Richard K. Call Adjudent of your Excellency your correspondence dated the 11th of the present month refering to my answer of the 4th instent. -

I am convince to have manifested Lawyer BrackKenridge Esqr. in our deliberation in order to delivered me the first correspondence of your Excellency; that no objection appears to be in which your Excellency should not have in this place the deposit of provisions refer: and I have done it in this case to Capn. Call.

25. Jackson's account of the affair may be found in a letter to Adams in Bassett, *Jackson Correspondence*, III, 112-116. Jackson's translator, Brackenridge, wrote an account which may be found in *American State Papers: Miscellaneous*, II, 828. Callava's account may be seen in *American State Papers: Foreign Relations*, IV, 768. In addition both Bassett and Marquis James give colorful accounts of the interview between the two men in their biographies of Jackson.

* The originals of this letter and those which follow are at the University of Florida.

The wisdom of your Excellency his so greatness as well as necessary and consequently the action declared by you to be your opinion about transporting from Sn. Markes to this place the Espanish Troops and join together with the remains to be exported under the convoy of the Sloop of war of the United States Army the Hornet, with Safety; and I will with great pleasure contributed so Soon I will received the depending orders from his Excellency the Capn. General to avery thing concerning in my power, and with the activity, and energy able to resist any difficulty that could deducted any daley, and Angry not to be this day in my power to Executed, for Such orders are not yet arrive.

I hope your Excellency will do me the honor to be convince great and entirely; that I am with your on conformity; that every thing should be manage with Kind, and feelings of friendship between us, and Kindness to your most interested desires towards me and to my officers; and troops under my Command.

So Soon I will be authorize to concern in the evacuation of this province, I will immediately Send to your Excellency all the informations requested by you, and all those necessary also to contributed to the best concerning upon this Subject.

Capn. Call was considered and respected by me; not only by his particular merits, but also by the respectable and great, that was to me the recommendation of your Excellency towards him: and with all, I do answer to the Correspondence of your Excellency which I refer and also understood.

God Keep your Excellency many years. Pensacola May 16th 1821.

Jose Callava

To his Excellency Andrew Jackson, Esqr. Major General of the S. Division of the United States Army

* * * * *

APPENDIX II

[James Gadsden to Richard K. Call]

Montpelier

June 11, 1821

My Dear Call

I sincerely congratulate you on the arrival of the Hornet. It has produced but one sensation here among officers & soldiers. On reading the order on parade to be prepared for marching on Thursday next for Pensacola the joyful feelings of the soldiers could not be suppressed. It broke out in a general murmur of satisfaction on their dismissal.

The Blunder committed by Forbes whether intentional or not has excited the General.¹ He has written the would be Commissioner & I have endeavoured to soften down some of the asperity of his language, but the communication still retains an expression of dissatisfaction.

The General approved of my leaving you to execute the duties assigned me: He has confidence be assured in you & I hope that the Governor will meet with that disposition as to enable you to accomplish your Commission in your usual style of despatch.

We are under orders to march on Thursday morning; but I am in doubts myself whether a movement can be effected before Saturday. Sunday night the General will probably spend at Manuels² & he will send me into the city of Pensacola to notify the Governor or Commissioner of his arrival with a request that he may fix the day when they may meet & concert

1. Col. James Grant Forbes, who brought the orders from the Captain General of Cuba to Governor Jose Callava for the transfer of Florida, carried an order designating himself as the officer to whom West Florida was to be delivered. Apparently this was a misunderstanding or clerical error on the part of the authorities in Havana. On his objection, the authorities amended the order to read that the province should be received by Forbes or duly constituted authorities of the U. S.

2. The residence of Manuel Gonzalez, located about fifteen miles from Pensacola.

the necessary measures, mode of delivery &c &c &c &c &c &c &c &c &c &c

What an expression here it means much by constuction but in reality nothing.

We have at length received the Army Register: The disappointment among the officers in this quarter is not as great as expected; although there are some hard cases. ³

Lt Donaldson sends you a paper with the Register; & containing the appointments made in Florida. This last has disappointed us all & I assure you the General feels sensibly the neglect evinced toward his recommendations. A certain Great Man has only strengthened a suspicion long entertained of [torn] temporising spirit, & jesuistical [?] feelings. [torn] cannot say no, or resist the importunities of lose whose possess influence in political society.

I hope the disappointment will not be severe to you; The General will provide for you if possible. But the late act of the Executive, while it has neglected his friends, has diminished his power of providing for them. ⁴

God Bless you & may you
live as the Spaniard says
one Thousand years

Gadsden

Give my respects to Bronaugh, Shannon &c. I protest against your interfering in a certain case connected with a certain Georgia Belle. I have prior claims, having first encountered

3. In 1821, the Congress of the United States passed an act for the reduction of the armed forces under which many officers were retired or reduced in rank. The Army Register brought the news of these changes. Andrew Jackson was one of the officers retired.

4. President James Monroe filled all the federal offices in Florida without consulting Jackson and ignoring recommendations made by him. Call had been recommended for the post of Secretary of West Florida. Jackson was left only with the local Territorial offices to fill. The "Great Man" referred to was probably Monroe.

her in the wilderness; & having first testified to her excellencies & beauties.

APPENDIX III

[Andrew Jackson to Richard K. Call]

Montpelier June 11th 1821 -

11 o'clock A.M.

Dr. Call

This moment Dick ⁵ has arrived with a note from Doctor Brunough [*sic*] - and I am still more gratified to find that the Governor of Pensacola is the sole commissioner with whom we have to act - and his assurances to you that the order for the delivery of St Marks should be given you on the morning of yesterday is a sure pledge that no delay is intended - and I have no doubt, but the Governor of East Florida is appointed sole commissioner for the delivery of East Florida and that Don Aredondo is merely the agent to carry the order as Don Alva was here. ⁶

I enclose for your perusal my letter to Colo. Forbes, which I wish you to seal & deliver to him, from which you will find the Colo. agency has ceased as soon as he delivers the archives to me, if he has brought them.

I send Dick back immediately and give him the letters which Capt Donelson was to hand you, as the Capt is sick. I am fearfull he cannot travel as fast as I wish him. I will leave here on Thursday morning with the Troops, and am prepared to set out sooner if it should be necessary, but for the want of waggons which are sent for I cannot move the Troops before Thursday morning.

It is important I should get possession of Pensacola as early as possible as I cannot send Colo. Gadsden to St Augustine

5. Dick was a Negro slave, the trusted personal servant of Dr. James C. Bronaugh.

6. Forbes was accompanied to Pensacola by two Spanish officers, Arredondo and Alva who apparently were the official agents of the Captain General to transmit the transfer orders.

before I do - and I hope the Governor of Pensacola will consent to the removal of his troops to the Barranca remain himself if he chooses in the Government house, keep his own guard or be furnished with one by me, untill his Troops are paid and it suits him to embark, which I am convinced from his character he is disposed to do as early as he can both on account of the season as well as to free the U States from that Demurrage on the Transports you will therefore, if it should become necessary for you to speak to him on this subject before I receive further advice from you, or his communication to me which, from his promise in his letter to me I await; you can suggest to him with the assurance, of my real wish for all things to be done with the greatest cordiality, and my full confidence in his assurances and that of the Minister of Spain to our government that no unnecessary delay shall take place.

Should the Governor not write me I shall adress him by Colo. Gadsden when I reach Mr Manuels, which I suppose will be on Saturday next.

Present me to Dr. Brunough & Brackenridge & communicate to them the substance of my letter to Colo. Forbes confidentially
In haste

yr friend

Andrew Jackson

Capt Richard K. Call