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### 1873 June 24: Powell Clayton, New York, to Governor Elisha Baxter, Concerning Election of Baxter as Governor

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New York

Powell Clayton

Private

New York  
June 24<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Governor

Your letter of June 10<sup>th</sup> is before me, I was glad to receive it and entirely satisfied with its contents. It was just such a frank and open exposition as I expected to receive from you. I think we know each other, and at the same time understand the feelings mischief-makers of both parties who seem so anxious to place a gulf between us. I see by the papers that Brooks has gone to the Circuit Court with this case. Is this really a just & accomplish anything thing? or is it merely an attempt to get a lot of testimony before the country. Their persistence is worthy of a better cause, but they are wasting their energies, and to no



a somewhat vulgar expression, they might as well attempt to "fast against the wind" as to get the people to believe that they represent an honest and pious-sounding cause. I understand that McEllen and Bonner are very severe upon me, they have no reason to be, for they took their own course and ought to be willing to abide the result. Upon the score of just-claims in my behalf they must not claim to control my present or future course, that would place me in a condition of political slavery that I could not for one moment submit to.

I trust there will be no further serious question raised as to the expediency of your election and your right to exercise the functions of the Executive Office, and that you may have a peaceful and successful administration. I am detained

here in the interests of the Railroad, I represent and am very much encouraged with prospect of success. I hope to return in a few weeks, at which time I hope to be able to make some suggestions concerning the finances of the State which I think will strike you as valuable. The Railroad debt can be reduced largely during your administration, by the adoption of a proper course, of this I am confident. And the desirability of which I know you recognize.

Respects to Mrs. Baxter  
Yours truly  
James Calhoun

To  
Hon. Olisha Baxter  
Little Rock  
Ark.