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Gentlemen of the Council and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives

In compliance with a promise made you in my communication of the commencement of the present session, I have now the honor to lay before you a statement of the sales of the ten sections of land granted by Congress for a Legislative house at this place. The act vesting the Governor with authority to proceed in this business passed in July 1832_ Shortly after my return from Kentucky to the Territory in the fall of that year, I gave notice in several public prints of the terms on which the Ten Sections would be sold. The minimum price fixed was five dollars per acre subject to a deduction of six per Cent for prompt payment and a deduction of 1000 dollars to any person who would take 5 sections. The part for which a credit was given was to bear an interest of 10 per Cent subject to remission of interest if paid within nine months from the Contract, provided one fourth was paid in hand. The object of this proposal was to induce payment within the first year to enable me to go on with the State House, nor will a failure for a few days, or even weeks, be deemed a forfeiture of Claim to remission, provided I receive it in time to meet the expenses of the buildings without a resort to loans. After selling about six 6 sections of the land, on the terms of my Proclamation, and being assured that I should have the means to progress with the buildings, I thought it necessary and expedient to procure a skilful Architect to plan the State-House and superintend and direct the work. I applied, by letter, to a Mr. Shryock, of Lexington, Ky. of much fame as an Architect, who has planned and Superintended the erection of the Capitol of the state, to repair to this place and direct our operations.- He declined coming, owing to his engagements in Kentucky & other considerations; but sent on a Mr George Weigart, with a strong recommendation of his fitness for the undertaking.

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He furnished, also, a splendid plan of the building, but on too large and expensive a scale, for the fund placed at my disposal. Mr. Weigart & myself, after much consideration, abridged so far as to bring it within the means applicable to the object. The place being settled on, and a site selected and purchased, the most eligible to be had, with a clear title, I entered into a contract with ~~[/strikethrough]~~ Cook & ~~[/strikethrough]~~ Thorn, on behalf of himself and partner Cook then absent, for the execution of the stone and brick work, which was reduced to writing upon the arrival of Mr Cook, and is subject to the inspection of a Committee of the General Assembly, or any member & a Copy will be furnished to the General Assembly, if desired. Among other stipulations, the stone work was to be executed in the most substantial manner, and every thing found by the undertakers, at \$3 per Perch the brick work, at \$10. Per thousand; The brick made for the building to be the property of the public; all which will more fully appear by reference to the Contract.

Col Ashley, David G. Ellis, and William Russell, gave a portion of the site fixed on for the building and purchased the resides of Wm Russell, at the price of \$800, & calculated on a subscription to that amount, from persons owning property near the square selected for the public building, but in this I was particularly disappointed, as some most interested refused to subscribe a dollar. Ashley, Henderson, Byrd, Woodruff, & Lewis, subscribed different sums, accounting in the whole to almost \$400.- Col Ashley, who purchased Miss Henderson's property below the State-House, has agreed to pay \$50, subscribed by Henderson, besides the sum subscribed by himself. Their sum contributed will be collected in the course of the ensuing winter & ~~[/strikethrough]~~ spring ~~[/strikethrough]~~ Spring. The titles of the lots given by Ashley was in Russell I took Conveyances from Russell & Eller for the site of the State-House, to the Governor & his successors in office, in trust for the Territory for a State-House, & Co, with a guarantee of title to such person or persons as the sum may be vested in by by the future State of Arkansas.

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When this Territory shall be erected into an independent State. Copies of the deeds of Conveyance are herewith transmitted. I found it necessary, in an early stage of ~~my~~ my agency in ~~this~~ this business, to engage a skilful, judicious & responsible agent, to aid me in the sale of the lands & application of the funds-One upon whose responsibility & credit the work would be kept in motion, whether there was or not ~~always~~ always ~~at all times~~ funds on hand to meet currant demands. This agent, Col Chester Ashley, has most able & faithfully performed his duties to me and to the ~~people~~ people ~~people~~, & certainly merits their warmest thanks and approbation, instead of the ungenerous ~~foul~~ foul ~~suspicious~~ suspicious & reproaches with which he has been rewarded.

I claim no credit but which is due to confidence in my plans, ~~and~~ & ~~zeal~~ zeal & integrity of purpose in their execution. The public edifices now in progress, will be, I hope, lasting monuments of national Liberality, & of the talents and efficiency of the man who has long represented you in Congress. ~~and~~ and of the industry of and judgements of the agent I have selected to realize and apply the means confidence to his Care. ~~The~~ The stone work and brick work of the first story of the State-House are done, & well done, firm, and lasting._ One million of brick or more are made,_ The carpenters are preparing and will put up a tier of timbers on the walls in a few days, & in a few weeks, the brick work of the building will be finished, with the exception of the pavements and columns. The house will present two fronts, one to the river, the other to the town, of four 4 columns on each from eleven feet in advance of the building. The Legislative rooms will be on the second floor, & Committee rooms below. The Court_House will be near forty 40 feet east of the Legislative House; and the Office wing, having rooms for Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, & land Offices, will be placed the same distance on the west of the Centre building;-

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And each wing to be connected to the Centre building by dwarf Colonades. The situation, moreover, is commanding, having a street on every side, and a view of it can never be obscured by any advance ~~of~~ ~~in~~ improvement or population of the town. It is intended to have the Lower floors of all the buildings paved with brick of a proper size, and the whole covered with tin ~~trim~~ of a suitable quality; and, in the end, it would be becoming to inclose the public square with a railing of cast Iron, which will probably cost less than \$1000- As various conjectures are indulged in regard to the probable expense of the State-House, although I have no certain data upon which to hazard a definite or satisfactory opinion, yet it may not be amiss to state, that, when the work was commenced, it was supposed by the Superintendent that the Centre, or Legislative House would ~~be~~ ~~cost~~ less than \$20000; but I have even believed myself that it would exceed that sum. From twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars, I think a fair estimate of the whole expense of the Centre building; leaving from six to eight thousand dollars of the Ten Section fund applicable to the erection of the West, or office wing. Much must, however, depend upon the manner in which the interior of the building is finished.

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The Carpenter's work of the Lower rooms of the State-House, & the interior of the office wing, will be done in the plainest ~~manner~~ & most economical manner, &, indeed, the interior of the whole buildings, except the Court ~~House~~ & legislative rooms, which ought to be furnished with a reasonable regard to taste & elegance. \$30.000 Thirty thousand dollars will be nearly sufficient, if not entirely so, for the State-House & office wing. ~~The~~ ~~funds~~ applicable to the Court House & Jail, will be very ample for those objects, & I anticipate, with some confidence, a surplus adequate to the erection of a Governor's house. ~~The~~ ~~Court_House~~, & a Jail sufficiently extensive

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and substantial, can be built during ~~]~~ during ~~]~~ the next season. Then is every reason to calculate that the State-House, if not entirely finished, will be in readiness for the use of the General Assembly by their next session- ¶ I beg leave to lay before you, the report of Chester Ashley, the agent charged with the selection & sale of the Ten Sections, and the disbursement of the proceeds under my instruction, which I believe to be Correct. From his report to me, the General Assembly will be informed of the quantity of land sold, the price, amount of cash rcd. paid out, & notes, with good security on hand. The Sum of \$30,000 may be fairly anticipated from the sale of the Ten Sections, beside an addition of interest ~~]~~ which is ~~]~~ equal to the salary of the Superintendent of the works, who is allowed the sum ~~]~~ a salary ~~]~~ of \$80. per month, solong as his services are needed._ Eight 8 sections have been sold for the sum of \$24,504,- of which \$6,854 has been rcd in cash, and \$17,630 in notes, were secured. To which duty be added \$400, subscribed for the purchase of the State-House site;

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Making the sum of \$24,904, of available funds on hand- more than sufficient to complete the State-House, leaving two sections to be dispersed of, 521 acres and forty-six hundredth, of which have been sold, but the location is suspended by the objections of the Commissioner of the Land-Office, which, if obviated, and the land paid for, will place under my control upwards of \$27,000; and leave 758 acres & seventy-five hundredths of the Ten Sections to be disposed of. From this statement of facts, you will be satisfied with the assurance I now give the public, that the buildings confided to my charge will progress with all reasonable dispatch, unless, indeed, they should be arrested by

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the threatened Proclamation of the Secretary, who, I understand, has given it out in speeches, that the moment my back is turned, ~~that~~ he will issue one against the course pursued. After I had executed the authority dedicated to me by act of Congress, by selling eight 8 sections of the Ten Sections Of land, purchased a site for a State-house, commenced the building, and entered into ~~a~~ written contracts for the work to the amount of twelve or fifteen thousand dollars, near two months after my departure for Kentucky, when the undertakers were in full operation with the building, in the height of an animated electioneering Contest in this Territory, without any hint to, in consultation wit, me, by letter or otherwise,

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the Secretary, Mr. Fulton, addressed a letter to Col Ashley, the agent charged with the pecuniary arrangements in relation to the Public Buildings. Asserting, that the Governor had no authority to apply the Ten Section Fund to the erection of a State-House; and if Col Ashley had withheld the funds, as indicated in Mr. Fulton's letter, and the public works had been stopped, a majority of members would probably have been returned to the General Assembly particularly hostile to the Governor, & Col Lewiss election might have been affected. The undertaker of the building would have been ruined, and must have been indemnified for their losses out of my private fortune, or the Public Treasury. Fortunately for me and the Country, the intelligence, firmness, & fidelity, of my agent, averted these disastrous consequences.- I indulge a hope, however, that the late administration given to the Secretary, by the General Assembly, in reference to his

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attempt to have the Governor convicted of a Lawless exercise of power, will free me from and further farther embarrassment from that quarter.

I regret that I am not yet have not been able to to have furnish made made but furnish a statement of the sales of lands sold for building a Court-house and Jail, and of the Seminary Lands.

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I expect to be able to furnish both before you adjourn. Cay

I expect to have it in my power to Communicate both, before your adjournment.

John Pope

Little Rock
Mr. 15th, 1833