Philadelphia Jan. 28th, 1829.

My Dear & Honoured Sir,

you will impute, I hope, the liberty which I take in writing to you, to my strong attachment to you, and the earnest desire of my heart that you may prove the best President who ever acted as Chief Magistrate of our nation. My principal design at present is to give you the copy of a letter which I have today received from the Rev. Lyman Beecher, D.D. of Boston, the most distinguished divine at present living in Massachusetts, if not in New England, from which you will learn the sentiments of many of the thousands of your friends & of your countrymen who wish you the highest honour, usefulness & happiness in your exalted station. I feel confident that both your sense of duty & your desire to gratify a numerous class of your firm supporters, would prevent you from publicly travelling on the Lord's day, except in a case of necessity. If, however, you take a ride in a boat, or walk through the woods, you would of course, with propriety proceed in it; but when on land, if the stage of Monday would carry you in season to the place of destination, I feel confident that you would set an example of resting on the day prescribed. You are not ignorant of the effect produced by that needless exception of Mr. Adams, and that will appear to you the letter which follows.

*Rev. Dr. Ely* - Brother.

A fear has been expressed here that
as Genl. Jackson sets out for Congress only till after notified officially of his election, he may be tempted inadvertently to ride on the sabbath, at a time when it might injure both us & him greatly; and as you have seen & corresponded with him, I was requested to suggest to you our wish that you would write a line to the General, and put him on his guard in this thing: for as Nobody, almost, loved his predecessor, or regrets the election of Jackson, and all seem to be prepared to give him a candid trial, he possesses a fine opportunity to a virtuous & independent example to secure the confidence & affection of all the friends of virtue in the nation. If nothing happens to prevent, I should apprehend that he may become one of the most popular men who have set at helm, and a great blessing to the civil & religious interests of the nation. He possesses a noble opportunity to distinguish himself as a patriot and friend of good men, and not the head of a party. I am affectionately yours,

Lyman Beecher,

This coming from Boston, one of the most influential men in it, deserves regard, & rejoice to know that New England will not be as well pleased with the Patriarch of the Hermitage, as with our former Resident. We do not wish, dear Sir, to seem to prescribe your course of conduct. We are not bigots, but believe the sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. I have travelled on that day, in order to do it again, when duly called, but the papers unhappily, in this instance publish the arrival of our great men, & do not give the religious public the reasons for their journey on the sabbath, although they might in some cases, be satisfatory to the strictest moralists. It was lately published that Mr. Calhoun arrived, for instance, in Washington on the sabbath, and it created a prejudice against him immediately in many of our citizens. On that subject, I need say no more, for I suspect...
This letter will not reach you until you will have arrived in N. I send it to the Hermitage because Mr Beecher seems to think, with many others, that you will not leave home until the 20th of Feb next.

Something of the public voice may be learned from the numerous & most respectable petitions which have lately been sent to Congress on the subject of transporting the mail on the Sabbath in the time of peace. I saw one in Alabama lately subscribed by 7000 names. We do not wish any national legislation about our holy days or religious matters, but merely that our Government should not instruct their agents to violate the Sabbath, set an unhappy example in this matter.

Civil law should enforce the religious observance of any day; and at the same time no Christian ruler or of a Christian people should do violence to his own professed personal principles.

My wife sends her kind regards to you, and says that she shall feel little interest in it till you will still regard it much as you well; as a great pilgrimage. Old Mrs. Calhoun, the mother-in-law of the Vice President will miss you dear wife more than any one else. She did that she would never spend another winter there if you should become President, that the might see a few years since, several said to me: "God bless characters here!"

May the Lord bless and keep you my dear and much esteemed friend.

Ezra Stiles Elly.
Mr. Ely to
A. Jackson
22 Oct. 1829

Sir,

[Signature]

Gentlemen,

Andrew Jackson,
Hermitage, near
Nashville,
Tennessee.

[Indecipherable text]