

Galveston
3rd April 1876

Mrs. Patton Anderson
Monticello, Florida
My dear Madam,

Your esteemed letter of the 25th ult. reached me yesterday and I hasten to reply, that you may act promptly, should you conclude to do so at all.

It is a complicated question but easily solved, in my mind, if we react to first principles. It was not the government which we opposed, but the administration of it. So it is now defeated in our object we must remain as an integral part of the government and pay the taxes imposed. We pay our share to support the school at West Point, and are asking and receiving no favor, at the hand of our enemies, when we accept our part of the benefits. In this sentiment, I am confident your noble husband would have agreed with me.

But a more difficult question arises which your son alone can answer. Could he, with his high true and southern principles – principles his father's son must possess – so restrain and control himself as to peacefully tread the difficult path he would have to travel? He would find but few, if any, congenial spirits, and many, probably, to irritate and exasperate him. His life must then be one of constant trouble or partial isolation. If he can make up his mind to the latter, then I see no reason against acceptance. It will be a severe ordeal, but I have too much faith in the blood of Patton Anderson to doubt its successful passage by his son, should he deliberately decide to try it – May God, in His mercy, give him strength for the struggle.

It gives me great pleasure to know your children are proving worthy of their father – my best, truest, and noblest friend. I shall regard it a great favor for you to keep my name green & fresh in their memory.

Mrs. Bragg has been some weeks with her mother in Louisiana. With affectionate regards to yourself and children.

Faithfully yr. friend,
Braxton Bragg

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.