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CAPTIVITY OF JOHN BRADLEY

Abingdon Va June 29 1843

My dear General,

On behalf of myself, as well as on behalf of Capt. Reuben Bradley an aged and devoted personal friend of yours, I beg to ask your interposition with President Santa Anna of Mexico, to obtain the liberation of John Bradley now a prisoner in the Castle of Perote in that republic.

Mr John Bradley is the son of Capt. Bradley. Some fifteen or twenty years ago he removed to Alabama where he became a merchant, acquired by his industry wealth and married the daughter of Tom Lewis formerly of Botetourt county in the State and son of Gen^{1} Andrew Lewis of the revolution. Bradley is an active enterprising & clever man, but a few years ago was unfortunate in business — and having a growing family — now an interesting wife, seven small children, he thought he could better his condition by removing to Texas and becoming a planter. With this view he removed last year and settled in the country near S^{t} Antonio.

When Judge Hutchison and forty or fifty gentlemen, attending court at S^{t} Antonio, were captured by a party of Mexicans and carried off in Sept. last a company of volunteers from the neighborhood assembled together under a Captain Dawson or Davison to pursue the Mexicans and retake the captured citizens, and Mr Bradley was one of the company. This company fell in with a Mexican force, had a desperate fight, were litterally cut to pieces and Bradley with a few survivors made prisoners. They were taken to the Castle at Perote and kept there in chains, except those released, and treated with great severity.

Most of the others have been released through the interposition of our Minister at the Mexican court and others, but Bradley is yet a prisoner, and I presume for want of friends to represent his case.

Some gentlemen here and the people have taken a deep interest in the matter, but seem to be at a loss who to ask to interpose.
Captain Bradley and myself have thought of you and feel confident that through you his release can be effected.

If you will then, my dear Sir, ask this release from Santa Anna as a personal favor, to yourself, you will place myself under great obligations as well as the aged father, who is now near eighty and on the verge of the grave, and will call from him blessings on your name as long as the vital spark lasts.

Mrs Campbell desires to send you her most sincere regards and to ask for your health.

With the most sincere respect
I am your obt. servt

David Campbell*

To genl Andrew Jackson.

*David Campbell was governor of Virginia from March 31, 1837, to March 31, 1840.