3-19-1852

Letter, March 19, 1852, from Thomas Green Clemson to James Calhoun

Thomas Green Clemson

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Every thing was done that could be done by me & my friend in order to have the effect intended. The pictures were sent them without my direct order to send them without any order.

They made a claim of information from the Patent Office which I think for the purpose. Delany is an excellent artist & all others to be good.

Collown received your letter & was delighted.

The one all well.

Your affectionate brother

Trenton, March 19th, 1832

My dear James:

The paintings of your father have reached New York safely & will leave tomorrow in the steamer for Philadelphia. I had some trouble in getting them through the Custom House from your duty but succeeded.

I write with pride of the paintings because they were in an awful condition from having been included so long after being freshly painted. They will remain there perhaps a natural color by being exposed to the free air for some days & if being washed several times a day with cold, clean...
Dear Mr. Walker,

I do think they had better be taken out of their proper place. I have written to Mr. Howard to that effect. You will not be able to judge of the painting until the color is returned. By the way, I do not mean the frame, that should be carefully avoided. They should not be varnished for a year or so. If it is only then that they will appear, they should be considered as they were painted —

This is for the State. I have requested Mr. Howard to remain in it until it is received. I am concerned to know how it is to be returned without formalities.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
THE PORTRAIT IN THE CENTER IS DISCUSSED IN THE LETTER IN THE CASE BELOW FROM THOMAS GREEN CLEMSON TO HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW JAMES E. CALHOUN.

THE LETTER READS, AS FOLLOWS:

Trenton, March 10th, 1852

My dear James,

The paintings of your father have reached New York safely & will leave tomorrow in the steamer for Charleston. I had some trouble in getting them through the Custom House free from duty but succeeded.

I would not judge of the paintings because they were in an awful condition from having been inclosed so long, after being freshly painted. They will recover their freshness & natural colour by being exposed to the free air for some days & by being washed several times a day with cold, clean rain water. To do this they had better be taken out of their frames. I have written Mr. Gourdin to that effect. You will not be able to judge of the painting until the colour is returned. By the open air I do not mean the sun, that should be carefully avoided. They should not be varnished for a year & it is only then that they will appear as they should & as they were painted.

One is for the State, & I have requested Mr. Gourdin to retain it until it has recovered & to inform me how it is to be sent & what formalities should be observed.

One is for yourself, one for Mr. Gourdin, and one for William Lowndes & the other for the State as I observed.

I have written Lowndes about it some time since but have never heard a word from him in answer. I of course advanced the money to pay for his since the pictures could not come without. As I do not know where he is you will please write him that the picture is in Charleston.

My portrait of your father was considered a very fine likeness by all who saw it & Win. De Block appears to have copied it as nearly as possible. I hope they will give entire satisfaction.

Everything was done that could be done by me and my friend, an artist who superintended the execution & he was directed not to send them without they were entirely satisfactory. They were copies as I informed you from the Portrait & the Daguerrotype which I left for the purpose. De Block is an eminent artist & they all ought to be good.

Calhoun received your letter and was delighted.

We are all well.

Your affectionate brother,
Thomas G. Clemson

(To) James Ed. Calhoun Esq.