**Personal Letters Regarding Missouri Compromise**

[John Henry Eaton to Andrew Jackson, March 11, 1820](https://www.loc.gov/item/maj009419/), "The President says he has received your letter. He said he wanted to have with me some conversation in relation to it, but it being a levee evening and much crowded no opportunity was then had. He desired me to say to you, that he had been so taken up with the deep **agitations** here the (Missouri bill), that he did not [have] time but that he would shortly write to you. The agitation was indeed great I assure you—dissolution of the Union had become quite a familiar subject. By the compromise however restricting slavery north of 36½ degrees we ended this unpleasant question. Of this the Southern people are complaining, but they ought not, for it has preserved peace, **dissipated** angry feelings, and dispelled appearances which seemed dark and horrible and threatening to the interest and harmony of the nation. The constitution has not been surrendered by this peace offering, for it only applies while a territory when it is admitted congress have the power and right to legislate, and not when they shall become States"

[John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, June 1, 1820](https://www.loc.gov/item/maj009502/), "I perceive you have strong **foreboding** as to our future policy. The discussion on the Missouri question has undoubtedly contributed to weaken in some degree the attachment of our southern and western people to the Union; but the agitators of that question have, in my opinion, not only completely failed; but have destroyed to a great extent their capacity for future mischief. Should Missouri be admitted at the next session, as I think she will without difficulty, the evil effects of the discussion must gradually **subside**."

[President James Monroe's notes, February 13, 1820, on the Missouri Compromise](https://www.loc.gov/resource/mss33217.007/?sp=707), "The idea was that if the whole arrangement, to this effect, could be secured, that it would be better to adopt it, than break the union. Neither did Mr. Barbour, nor any other person alluded to, favor this, but to save the union, believing it to be in **imminent** danger.”

[Thomas Jefferson to William Short, April 13, 1820](https://www.loc.gov/item/mtjbib023789/), "...the Missouri question aroused and filled me with alarm...I have been among the most **sanguine** in believing that our Union would be of long duration. I now doubt it much..."

**Vocab**

Foreboding – a feeling that something bad will happen

Agitations – anxiety or nervous excitement

Dissipated – to cause to disappear

Subside – become less intense

Imminent – about to happen

Sanguine – optimistic or positive