

## William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, January 31, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, January 31, 1815.

*Sir*, Applications being hourly addressed to me by the militia officers of the state, to learn the disposition to be made of the various Detachments, now at this place, and finding a wish very general on the part of the citizens to return to their respective Homes, I take the liberty to ask, whether in your Judgment the services of the whole or what part of the militia of this state now in the service of the united states can be dispensed with, and *at what period* ? May I also ask whether since the date of your last letter upon the subject, you have heard any thing further, from the British commander respecting the negroe slaves? You will excuse my solicitude upon a subject so immediately interesting to many good citizens of the state, and in whose behalf, in my character as civil Governor I would wish to address a letter to the British commander, and to convey it by three distinguished citizens, if you should not already, have effected the restoration of their property<sup>1</sup> I am Sir

<sup>1</sup> The two subjects mentioned in this letter, the dismissal of the militia and the recovery of the slaves, became sore points between Jackson and the governor. The latter conceived his authority affected by Jackson's insistence that the question of getting the slaves was wholly a military matter, in which the civil authorities had no part.

very Respectfully