

Andrew Jackson to John Lambert, March 13, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO MAJOR-GENERAL LAMBERT.1

1 Copy. Printed in Latour, app., p. c.

New Orleans, March 13, 1815.

Sir: It is with great satisfaction that I inform you of my having received this day official advices of the ratification and interchange of the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain. A copy of the treaty and of the ratification will be presented to you by major woodruff of the 3d Infty, who will express to you more fully than I can in the compass of a letter those sentiments which the new state of things between the two nations inspires.

I have by special directions of the Secretary at war ordered an immediate cessation of hostilities and by the like order make this communication to you. Mr. Livingston is empowered to make such arrangements for the restorations required by the 1st article of the treaty² and to receive all places now in your possession, as well as the slaves mentioned in your former letters and all public property, conformably to the provisions of the said treaty.

² The first article of the treaty referred to the restoration of "all territory, places and possessions whatsoever, taken by either party from the other, during the war, or which may be taken after the signing of the treaty, excepting only the islands hereinafter mentioned". Neither side was to carry away artillery or other public property found in the forts, "or any slaves or other private property". The execution of this clause hung fire

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with respect to the slaves who fled to the British ships. The officers in command refused persistently to force them to return to their masters, as this correspondence shows. The result was a series of American claims against the British government. In the convention of 1818 (Art. 5) they were referred for arbitration, and eventually under this procedure Great Britain paid more than a million dollars in satisfaction of the claims.

Any facility or accommodations that may be required for your supplies or the comforts of your sick or wounded in my power will be given with the greatest pleasure.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect Sir

Your most obdt Servt.