

Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, December 22, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN COFFEE.

Fort Strother, December 22, 1813

D'r Genl: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the recpt of your letter of the 18th. Instant, and with sincere regret I learn your indisposition, at this moment when your service was all important. But indisposition, and health are not within our control, and ought not to be subjects of inquietude, altho your present indisposition fills me with regret, when I find your Brigades patriotism is as much indisposed, as you are in body, which, in all probability would have been prevented had your health been such as you could have been at their head—their disgrace prevented, and also examplanary punishment to many.

can it be true what I hear! that the voluntary defenders of their countries rights has been the first to violate the laws of the Territory that they were called upon to protect, insult their citizens and their laws, and instead of repelling and subduing lawless mobs, were the first to become riotters themselves. I have to request a report of every individual both officer and men that were engaged in overawing the Geoler of Huntsville, and compelling him to liberate the prisoners, and also a full report of every officer and man of your Brigade, who have deserted the service without a discharge, that I may take the most effi[c]ient means in my power to have them arrested and punished agreable to law.

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have Just recd. a letter from Governor Blount, a copy of which with my order of this date I have sent you, and directed to be delivered to Major Shaw, at Fort Deposit there to be read to your Brigade by him should you not be

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there which I do not expect, and which will be forwarded by him to you. It will give the Volunteers and detached militia his Ideas of the law and their time of service, and I hope produce the former quietude and harmony, that has existed in our camp again to prevade it, and that no ideas will prevail but the chastise of the creeks, and cheerfull services, untill honourably discharged.

I have to repeat again that you will urge the contractors to send up ample supplies of breadstuff, on the pack horses, and in all waggons that can be had, and that you will order up your Brigade with it. Deerskins can be got in abundance, three skins will make three bags that will pack a horse, two side bags, and one on the Top, they are better than any other kind of bags, the hair will keep the meal dry, and they will last the campaign. I have ordered back the quartermaster general, to have them brought up with the asst D. adjutant General Major Antony with powers to purchase in case they contractors has not a sufficient supply on hand. A movement I must make, supplies I must have to make the movement, and with supplies you must order up your Brigade. you will find from the Governors letter the prospect of provisions on the allabama and ample supply of corn which is reallised by express recd from Genl Flouranoy and Genl Claibourne. Could we get on we would soon reach the promised land that flows with milk and honey. use your utmost with the contractors and hurry on supplies. Wishing you a speedy restoration to your health, and Junction with me, I am Dr Genl yr mo ob. serv.