

## Andrew Jackson to Willie Blount, February 21, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO WILLIE BLOUNT.

Headquarters Near Washington, M. T., February 21, 1813

*D'r Sir:* On the evening of the 15th. January, I approached Natchez and it being late put to shore for the night having two days before dispatched major Carrol to Natchez for any dispatches that might be there and to meet the Cavalry, from major Carrol by express at 6 oclock I recd. two several communications from Genl Wilkinson advising of the scarcity of forage below, that the horses of the cavalry and mounted infantry must suffer, if we proceeded on to Neworleans and advising me to halt my detachment at Natchez and encamp my troop in its vicinity, also pointing out the prospects of our march towards mobile, and on that event, our position in this Neighbourhood more eligable for a movement, and the health of our troop, made it desirable that they should be halted here. I in persuance of his advice and from other weighty considerations, that I conceived would Justify me in a departure from your order, determined to fall down to Natchezs and disembark my troops, on the 16th. I dropped down to Natchez where I recd. another letter from him, still in stronger colours advising me to disembark my troops here, which I did on the morning of the 17th. and marched them to cantonment washington, where I met the cavalry and mounted infantry who had reached that place on the evening of the 16th. The cantonment being entirely out of repair, wood scarce, the old houses rotting down, has determined me to pitch my tents about one mile west of washington and four miles from Natchez in a handsome plain, wood and water convenient, at which place I shall remain

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for further orders keeping my Boats in readiness to embark in a moment and descend the river if required.

The troops are as healthy as could be expected, the second Regt. lost two men by death only, the first none.

I was detained by the running of the ice, four days at the mouth of Cumberland and three days at the mouth of the Ohio. I was detained one day by the sinking of a boat which struck a sawyer and went down in three minutes to her roof, the men and greater part of the arms were saved, and the chief of their cloathing and provisions. in due time you shall have a report of the loss thereby sustained.

My troops are in fine spirits and good subordination and I hope if we meet an enemy will support the honor of their state, I am Sir with every sentiment of respect yr mo ob serv