

Andrew Jackson to John Armstrong, May 10, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN ARMSTRONG.1

1 War Dept. files, also in Jackson MSS.

Hermitage, May 10, 1813

Sir: This will be handed you by Colo. Thos H. Benton, Commandant of the second regt. of Tennes[ee] volunteer Infantry, who having [been] detained here since the 22nd ultimo for the determination of the president, on the further service of the Detachment of Volunteers under my command, from the delay of communications on this subject a belief has arisen that our services to the north west will not be called for by the President. Colo. Benton having abandoned a profitable profession, for the tented fields, and having determined during the continuation of the present war to continue in the field of Mars, If Government will give him employ in her armies, goes on with this view to the city of Washington. did I think any thing was necessary to be said on the fitness of Colo. Benton to command it would be here added. his uniform good conduct, his industry and attention to the dicipline and police of his regiment speak more for his fitness than words, and a personal acquaintan[c]e with Colo. Benton will soon decide on the capacity of his mind, relative to tactics and military operations.

I have recd advices from Natchey stating that the asst D. q. master of that department has refused to pay the waggoners, employed [by] him to hall the sick of my detachment and the necessary Baggage to the Tennessee river, and he states to the waggoners, as I am advised by letters from the waggoners that he is instructed by Colo Shamburgh not to pay

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them. I have to ask that instructions be given for this expence to be paid and that no other circumstances will be permitted to arise, further to embitter the minds of the Detachment. they took the field with promptness they have and do stand ready to obey the call of their government for the tendered northwest service. They merit more attention than they have recd, their minds from the privations the[y] have suffered, from the agents of goverment withholding from them their Just and necessary supplies are sufficiently disgusted, and if the agents of goverment, are thus permitted to act with impunity the disgust will become so general in the west, that the administration will loose that united support that it uniformly recd, in this state. in this believe a candid man I refer you to Colo. Benton for information you will find him capable of giving it on every subject.

I am Sir with due consideration and respect