

**Thomas Pinckney to Andrew Jackson, March 11, 1814,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**THOMAS PINCKNEY TO JACKSON.**

Fort Hawkins, March 11, 1814.

. . . . I much regret the embarrassments with which you have to contend from the misconduct of men who to gratify personal envy or resentment, or to obtain transient popularity would sacrifice the best interests of their Country: the directions you have given to Brigadier General Doherty to crush at once every act of mutiny and sedition among the Troops under his command are correct: the laws are sufficiently strong for this purpose if administered with decision and firmness. I would however advise you not to give your personal Enemies advantage over you by measures, in which it is not well ascertained, that the law will support you: and as I presume that General Doherty is still within the State of Tennessee it would be safest and nearly as effectual, either to drum out of Camp with ignominy, individual citizens not of the Army engaged in the practice you describe, or to deliver them over to the civil magistrate with an accusation on Oath of the offences they have committed; all of which I presume would be punishable as misdemeanors: and the act of persuading Soldiers to desert, is made particularly penal by the 19th Section of the act of 1802 fixing the military establishment of the United States.

If individuals follow the Army into the Enemy's Country where the civil process of the Courts cannot extend, they can only there be restrained from their misdeeds by the military power to which they would in that case render themselves liable. The Jealosey which prevails in our Country against all military authority is the foundation of the above

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advice; for I would no more give my civil opponent a legal advantage over me, than I would willingly suffer an enemy in the field to throw himself on my flank. . . .