

## Andrew Jackson to Robert Butler, August 27, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO COLONEL ROBERT BUTLER.1

1 Colonel Butler, Jackson's efficient adjutant-general, was then in Tennessee presiding over a court martial to try cases that arose from the late campaign.

Mobile, August 27, 1814. "10 oclock P. M"

*Sir.* By express in *Pitts* , I recd this evening at 5 oclock from Pensacola, the following information, confermed by a Mr Collins who has Colo Nicholas Pass, to protect him from the Indians viz that his B. M. ships *Hermes*, *Carron* and *Sophy*, has arrived at Pensacola on the 5th instant, with 200 land forces, and large supplies of arms, ordinance and ordinance stores under command of Colo Nicholas all which has been disembarked and the British Troops has taken possession of the Spanish Fort. The *Orpheus* is expected in a few days with 14 sail of the line and many transports with 10,000 Troops. It is further added that 14 sail of the line and Transports has arived at Barmuda, with 25,000 of Lord Wellingtons army etc etc, before one month the British and Spanish forces expect to be in Possession of Mobile and all the surrounding country.

The[re] will be bloody noses before this happens. I have ordered the differrent Indian agents to enroll every warrior that will take the field and put him on pay. I have called on all the militia I am authorised under the orders of Goverment, and I enclose you an appeal to the Patriotism of my fellow citizens, and hope to see my former comrades in arms again in the field bravely defending the eagles of their country. For believe me we have to Defend not only our Territory but our liberties, and I have no doubt from the

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confidential information I Possess, but the whole combined coalition are engaged in a league to subjugate america, and I believe it to be true that Rusia has offered to furnish 50,000. I mean to make a desperate struggle, and I wish you to see Captain Deaderick and Captain Parish, and say to them I expect them in the field with two companies which will make a Batalion, and the favorite six pounder. I wish you to Issue the necessary order to authorise Captain Deaderick and Parish to raise a Batalion of artillery. I want you to send on a confidential officer with the letter to Colo. Meigs<sup>2</sup> to lead on the Brave cherokees, and write in my name to Colo. Lowry,<sup>3</sup> and Brown, and have them marched directly to Fort Jackson. I want about 1000 horse with Genl Coffee at their head, Colo Dyer, Gibson, Cavanaugh and Molton with him or such officers as he may select. I wish you in my name to write to all the companies of horse who are ready and have tendered their services, there is Captain Sewan[?] and Captain childs in east Tennessee. These from East Tennessee will unite and march with the cherokees to Fort Jackson unless otherwise directed. The mounted men from Tennessee by Fort St. Stephens<sup>4</sup> to such Point thereafter as I may direct. you will cause the Contractors to lay in at Fort Jackson, Fort Williams and Fort Strother,<sup>5</sup> at each Post 6 months rations for three thousand men, and have secured sufficient Transportation, for the same. there is not a moment to be lost in Pushing on the Troops and supplies. From this quarter must come all our supplies, If great Britain and Spain can cut off the communication with New orleans by water, and the contractors must be urged to have the supplies pushed forward on the coosee. These things eranged and attended to you must without loss of time unite with me wherever I may be, first ordering on Major Piere<sup>6</sup> with all the recruits in this District, and such

2 Col. R. J. Meigs, agent to the Cherokees.

3 Col. John Lowry, a Cherokee chief.

4 On the Tombigbee, 70 miles north of Mobile.

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5 Fort Williams was on the Coosa, sixty miles above Fort Jackson, Fort Strother sixty miles higher on the same river.

6 Major H. D. Piere of the 44th Infantry.

Captains to command them as you may think proper. I want a field officer of the rifle corps and all the recruits belonging to that corps, I would order on Major Overton, and Captain Wm. O. Butler.<sup>7</sup> But I leave the situation to you as I am unadvised what officers remain there subject to my order. Expedition is every thing. I would to god John Hutchings<sup>8</sup> could come on. I wish you would say to the Irish to drop their race and betake themselves to the defence of their country. If this was not in the way I know Joney could bring a company of mounted men into the field.

7 Of the 44th Infantry, afterwards a major-general of volunteers in the Mexican War, and candidate for the vice-presidency on the ticket with Cass in 1848 (d. 1880).

8 See vol. I., P. 84.

Say to Mrs. Jackson (for I have not time to write) that I know not at what time I shall have the pleasure of seeing her and my sweet little Andrew But I shall write her as soon as I can see the intended movement of the enemy. Before this reaches you, we may have a brush. haste, have this letter complied with and then without one moments delay be with me, and write me on the receipt of this. with respects to all friends and love to Mrs. Jackson and Andrew, I am respectfully yrs.

P. S. If it should be necessary, Issue an order for the Dissolution of the court of which you are President. The good of the Publick Service cannot be Jeopardized for the Trial of Petty offences, and say to Colo. Sittler he must come on. We will have an active war. the enemy will make a sudden push, for the conquest of this country, and try to reduce some of our garrisons by a coup de main. I keep no copy, please copy and send it back by the first opportunity. You will appoint some officer to muster the cherokees, and write

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to Colo. Morgan if he will take the direction of them. Perhaps Colo. Gibson, or Major Strother would. Major Strother would answer verry well apply to him. you will give the necessary orders to the quarter master for the necessary transportation of the Troops and to contractor for the necessary supply of rations. I thought to have enclosed you an adress to the Brave Tennesseans, but I have not time, you will have to do it, I have wrote to Capt John Reid, formerly my aid, to prepare in my name an appeal to the citizens of Tennessee. Should he not be there, you will have to do it yourself.