

Head Quarters,

Montgomery, Jan 3<sup>d</sup> 1836.

Hon. Lewis Cap:

Sir,

On the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. I informed you of the actual commencement of hostilities, by the late towns of the Creek Indians; of the measures I had taken for the defence & protection of the settlers, and of my arrival here, to effectuate, more promptly, ~~the necessary~~ <sup>the necessary</sup> means for the accomplishment of those objects. The troops, I have ordered into service, are now rapidly ~~going~~ <sup>marching</sup> to their respective places of rendezvous, within the several counties occupied by the hostile party. There is already a respectable force at Insburg, under the immediate command of Major Genl. Patterson, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division (North Fla.) and a battalion at Irwin-  
ton — the latter, to be joined in two or three days by a Regiment from the 4<sup>th</sup> (the Mobile) Division. ~~Believing that~~ I have ordered about three full Regiments of mounted gun men and Infantry together, into the field, which will

probably be a sufficient force to suppress hostilities, and  
restore tranquility.

No murder, or conflagration, of which I have  
any well authenticated account, has been perpetrated  
within the limits of Alabama,  
since the troops began to enter the nation. It is said,  
however, that by friendly Indians, and by white men,  
who are deemed credible, that the hostile Indians are  
embodied in two parties: one with Neo-mico, between  
this & Columbus, <sup>most</sup> usually estimated at one thousand;  
the other under No Mathla, on the Statcher Club-  
ba, supposed to be six or seven hundred. There  
may not be more than ~~two~~ fifteen hundred warriors,  
in all - tho' many estimate them at two thousand,  
or upward. If these estimates be correct, the number  
of troops already ordered into service will probably  
be sufficient; but, if developments, resulting from actual  
operations, should prove them erroneous, I will soon  
add to this number, and render the force fully ade-  
quate to every exigency.

I have not yet heard any thing from Genl.  
Scott, except by rumor; which represents him to be  
sick, at St. Augustine.

I forward, by the same mail which carries this, the substance of a talk, between Hopothle Gohols and myself. You will find, he thinks, the present war has been produced by the retailers of spirituous liquors, and by the "Sand-stakes". <sup>My</sup> own opinion is, decidedly, that it has been mainly brought about by the latter. I have already seen some evidence - unquestionably genuine - going far to sustain my opinion; and have strong hopes of obtaining more, that will be perfectly conclusive.

Hopothle Gohols represents <sup>many of the</sup> people of the upper towns, as suffering for the means of subsistence - almost, if not quite, in a state of starvation - and that they are anxious to emigrate. He proposed encamping immediately with such of his people, as would march with him, if he could be aided with subsistence. Deeming it important to the safety of our citizens, to conciliate those who seem inclined to peace, and good economy to terminate the war speedily, I have promised <sup>to give</sup> him, and his people, with corn & bread, till I could hear from the President. In the mean time, I have written to the

emigrating contractors, notifying them of the desire of that portion of the tribe to encamp & emigrate, and have called on them to ~~supply them~~ furnish the necessary supplies. I have not yet received an answer.

I have addressed a communication, explanatory of my plan of operations, to the Military Officer commanding the Georgia Militia, at Columbus, of which I inclose a copy, for your information. — If we are not unfortunate, we shall terminate the war in a few weeks.

I was called on, today, for the expenses of the transportation of the Alabama Regiment, who served in the Florida Campaign, on their return from Mobile. I received satisfactory information that many of those troops were sick, or wounded; and not doubting the justice of their claims to transportation, homeward, after fighting the battles of their country, I gave orders for the employment of Steam Boats for that purpose. I hope you will let me hear from you on this subject, at as early a moment as may be consistent with your convenience. Colo. Hagan is with me in the capacity of Adj.



Letter to the

Hon Secy of State,

June.

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Cass

Head Quarters,

Montgomery, June 3d 1836.

Hon. Lewis Cass:

Sir,

On the 20th ult. I informed you of the actual commencement of hostilities, by the lower towns of the Creek Indians; of the measures I had taken for the defence & protection of the settlers; and of my arrival here, to effectuate, more promptly, the means necessary for the accomplishment of these objects. The troops, I have ordered into service, are now rapidly marching to their respective places of rendezvous, within the several counties occupied by the hostile party. There is, already, a respectable force at Tuskegee, under the immediate command of Major Genl. ~~Wm~~ Patterson, of the 1st Division (north Ala.) and a battalion at Irwinton - the latter, to be joined in two or three days by a regiment from the 4th (the Mobile) Division. I have ordered about three full regiments of mounted gun men and Infantry together, into the field, which will probably be a sufficient force to suppress hostilities, and restore tranquility.

No murder, or conflagration, of which I have any well authenticated account, has been perpetrated within the limits of Alabama since the troops began to enter the nation. It is said, however, by friendly Indians, and by white men, who are deemed credible, that the hostile Indians are embodied in two parties; one with Neo-micco, between this & Columbus, most usually estimated at one thousand; & the other under Neo Mathla, on the Hatcheechubba, supposed to be six or seven hundred. There may not be more than fifteen hundred warriors in all - tho' many estimate them at two thousand, or upwards. If these estimates be correct, the number of troops already ordered into service will probably be sufficient;

but, if developments, resulting from active operations, should prove them erroneous, I will soon add to their number, and render the force fully adequate to every exigency.

I have not yet heard anything from Genl. Scott, except by rumor; which represents him to be sick, at St. Augustine. I forward, by the same mail which carries this, the substance of a talk, between Hopothle Yoholo and myself. You will find, he thinks the present war has been produced by the retailers of spirituous liquors, and by the "Sand-shakers". My own opinion is, decidedly, that it has been mainly brought about by the latter. I have already seen some evidence - unquestionably genuine - going far to sustain my opinion; and have strong hopes of obtaining more, that will be perfectly conclusive.

Hopothle Yoholo represents that many of the people of the upper towns are suffering for the means of subsistence - almost, if not quite, in a state of starvation - and that they are anxious to emigrate. He proposed encamping immediately with such of his people, as would unite with him, if he could be aided with subsistence. Believing it important to the safety of our citizens to conciliate those who seem inclined to peace, and good economy to terminate the war speedily, I have promised to aid him, and his people, with corn & bread, till I can hear from the President. In the meantime, I have written to the emigrating contractors, notifying them of the desire of that portion of the tribe to encamp & emigrate, and have called on them to furnish the necessary supplies. I have not yet received an answer.

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a few weeks.

I was called on, today, for the expenses of the transportation of the Alabama Regiment, who served in the Florida campaign, on their return from Mobile. I received satisfactory information that many of those troops were sick, or wounded; and not doubting the justice of their claim to transportation, homeward, after fighting the battles of their country, I gave orders for the employment of Sham Boats for that purpose. I hope you will let me hear from you on this subject, at as early a moment as may be consistent with your convenience.

Col. Hagen is with me in the capacity of Adj. and Inspectr. Genl. and has rendered me very an essential service in organizing, and mustering the troops into service. His familiarity with necessary forms, and zeal in the prosecution of every measure, connected with the success of the campaign, have rendered him a valuable assistant. In the meantime, his opposition to the frauds which have been perpetrated on the Indians, has given him many violent enemies.

Most respectfully,

your obt. svt.

C. C. Clay.

(Copy of manuscript letter in State Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Ala.)