

Copy,

Gov Milton

Orange Hill Fla

13. June. 1864.

My Dr Sir

I am in receipt of communication from Gov Watts of Ala stating that he hopes to be furnished by Sec War with a battery of four guns and to be permitted to furnish an Infantry & Artillery Co to co-operate with your Excellency in the protection of the Salt Works at West Bay. It is earnestly hoped that this arrangement may meet with yr Excellency's approbation & that by the suggested co-operation of this State & Ala, such security may be afforded the Salt makers here as to insure the large amt of Salt thereby to be produced.

The operatives have so long & so often been injured & annoyed by insignificant raids upon their works that, unless protection from some quarter, be afforded the business will be entirely abandoned and our country suffer to the large amt of Salt capable of being produced there. A very small force at the proper place might easily have captured or prevented any raiding party which has yet been there & the Salt makers wd willingly pay the expenses of the required protection & then be able to furnish Salt at a lower price than at present.

Knowing that you feel an intense interest in the welfare of our country & hoping this subject will claim yr particular attention

I am

Yr obt Svc

D. P. Everett

P.S. I have just learned that a raid was made upon the Salt Works a few days since and for the first time this year, Kettles were broken besides the usual stealing of negroes provisions.

Some few operatives have determined to persevere but others have abandoned the work & while the danger exists few if any other works will be commenced

D. P. E.

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