

Savannah State of Georgia

25th Oct 1734

Dear Sir

I am much oblig'd by your very polite favor of the 9th August in answer to my letter of the 15th June, the Military arrangement then suggested appears now to be necessary, as the Commissioners have not been able to succeed in holding a treaty with the Indians without offering in judgment, without even deigning to return an answer to the bait delivered by verbal question, which gives just ground to apprehend an immediate serious war; in fact they have already commenced hostilities on the frontiers of this State, as appears by an express from an Col. Irvine of the Militia on the 13th Instant who says "the Indians have burnt down Kemps fort in Washington County, & some houses". One reason for their refusing to treat, may probably be accounted for, by the following circumstances, as Mr. Gibney was on his way with the Indians to the rock landing, he was overtaken by an express from New Orleans, with the ratification of a treaty commenced some time since, between the Spanish & the Indians, & lately confirmed by Charles the 5th the present King of Spain, guaranteeing to the Indians all their lands.

I am much obliged by your very polite favor of the 9th., August in answer to my letter of the 15th June, the Military arrangement then suggested appears now to be necessary, as the Commissioners have not been able to succeed in holding a treaty with the Indians

Col Irvine of the Militia who says the Indians have beat down Kemps fort in Washington County & some houses.

The reason for them refusing to treat may possibly be accounted for by the following circumstance as Mr. Gilvery was on his way with the Indians to the rock landing, and was overtaken by an express from New Orleans, with the ratification of a treaty commenced sometime since between the Spanish & Creek Nations, & lately confirmed by Charles the IV the present King of Spain guaranteeing to the Indians all their land they possess or claim on the East side of the Mississippi, this instrument of writing Mr Osbourne one of the Commissioners, assures me (upon his Sacred Honor) he both seen & read, being handed to him by Mr. Gilvery for that purpose;

I believe I told you on the 15th June “that I was decidedly of Opinion, we never should have a permanent peace with the Creek Nation; who are numerous & insolent, until they were made to experience our superiority in the Fields & an Army stationed for the protection of the Southern States, not only against the incursions of the Indians, but also against the ideal claims of the Spaniards”

Their late Conduct verifies this Opinion, & points out the indispensable neglect of compelling the Creeks to treat upon our own terms in the Heart of their Country, which I pledge myself to effect, at the head of Four Battalions of Infantry of Six hundred effectives each two Regiments of Cavalry of Four Hundred Forty forenty pin each & ^ (a Corps of) two Hundred & fifty Artillery—purposely Offered & well appointed, which is as large as a Operating force, as can be conveniently supplied with provisions & a draft of Militia in addition to this force may be necessary for the purpose of keeping open the Communication between the cavalry from which we undecipherable draw our supplies & the Indian Nation, & for the defense of proper deposits & places of Arms in case of a serious Operation; I expect shortly to obtain an accurate acct of the numbers of Gun men which can be afforded to us from a Mr Gilvery, and a trader of the Indians. Mr Gilvery, formerly a trader, now a rich planter near this place / I undecipherable had a list of the towns & number of fighting men in each, but it is mislaid, however I recollect that the aggregate of the Upper & lower Creeks was some where about 6,000 the Chocktaws 5,000 the Cherokee, 1,500 & the Cherraws 800 Gun mans,

We have nothing to apprehend I believe but from the Creeks, on the Contrary we may probably have the assistance of the Chocktaws & Cherokees if necessary as they have heretofore been enemies to the Creeks & frequently at war with them; but should a general confederacy take place, they can not support themselves but for a very short time in body- & should they collect upon the undecipherable of the Occasion, it may be the happy means of putting a speedy conclusion to this war, as their numbers will only serve to confuse & render them an easy undecipherable to our undecipherable Cavalry often being routed by the Infantry & artillery, in an open wood & campaigns County, such as that professed by the Creek Nation for thier most part is,

is I shall be much Obliged by the earliest

information should a Military Arrangement be thought necessary, & also for your undecipherable with His Excellency the President, in Obtaining me the Command of this Expedition.

Circumstances will admit in order to facilitate an affectual Operation, should such measures be adopted.

I have the honor to be
Your Most Able
Giving
Humblest

Anthony Wayne