

Friend

August 7th 1836

Sir,

I reached home on the evening of the 4th and was soon surrounded with the papers and letters which had been sent here in anticipation of my arrival. Amongst other important matters which immediately engaged my attention was the requisition of Genl Gaines on Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Believing that the reasons given for this requisition were not consistent with the neutrality which it is our duty to observe in respect to the contest in Texas, and that it would embarrass the appropriation which had been made of the 10,000 volunteers authorized by the recent

act of Congress, I informed Governor Cannon
by letter, on the 5th instant, that it could not receive
my sanction. The volunteers authorized by Congress
were thought competent with the aid of the regular
force to terminate the Indian war in the South,
and protect our western frontier: and they were
apportioned in a manner ^{the best calculated} to secure these objects.

Accordingly to this apportionment the volunteers raised
in Arkansas and Missouri and ordered to be
held in readiness for the defence of the western
frontier should have been called on before any
other requisition was made upon Tennessee who
has already more than her proportion in the
field. Should an emergency hereafter arise

making it necessary to have a greater force on that
point than was anticipated when the apportionment
was made it will be easy to order the East
Tennessee Brigade there. all the volunteers under
the act are engaged for one year service unless
sooner discharged. Taking this view of the
subject I regret that as soon as the War Department
had information of the requisition made by Gen
Ewing, it had not at once notified the Governors
of the States that the apportionment of the volunteers
at first communicated to them would not be departed
from, and that of course those in the States nearest
to the scene of threatened hostility would be first
called on. I had written thus far when

Your letter of the 26th of July last accompanied by
one from Gen Wool of the 15th of July and one from
Gen Towson of the 25th of July last was handed to me.

The letter from Gen Wool was unexpected. His guide
was the reputation on the State: and I cannot well
imagine how he could suppose that the Department

would authorize a greater number of troops to be
mustered and paid than he was ^{especially directed} ~~authorized~~

to receive. He was apprised fully of the appropriation

which had been made of the 10,000 volunteers, and of

the considerations which induced us to require 1000

from Florida, 2000 from Georgia, 2000 from Alabama,

and 2500 from Tennessee. This force was ^{designated} ~~assigned~~

in this manner because it was in the country

nearest to the Seminoles, Creek and Cherokee, and

to use his own discretion in fixing the number of men
to be recruited and mustered into the service, there could
be no certainty in the amount of force which would
be brought into the field. His guide was the
agreement upon Tennessee for 2500, and he should
never have departed from it.

The brave men whose patriotism brought them
into the field ought to be paid: but I seriously doubt
whether any of the money now appropriated can be used
for this purpose, as all the volunteers authorized by the
act of Congress have been apportioned, and the
appropriations should be first applicable to their payment
if they should be ordered into the field. All that
we can do is to bring the subject before the next

in like manner was the force ~~to be~~ designated for
the western frontier except a packet of about
430 men to be hereafter selected when it should
be ascertained where it would be most needed.

It is therefore unaccountable to me why Gen
Wool would receive and muster into the service
a greater number than has been called for, and
place under his command, particularly as he
knew that Tennessee had already been called
upon for more volunteers than her proportion in
the general apportionment. He knows that the
President can only execute the law and he ought to
have recollected that if the officers charged with
the military operation contemplated by the law were

Congress which I trust will pass an act authorizing
the payment. Those men obeyed the summons of
their country and ought not to suffer for the
indiscretion of those who caused more of them
to turn out than could be received into the service.
The excess would have been avoided had the Gov.
of Tennessee partitioned his requisition to each
county or regiment so as to make the proper
number. This however, can now only be
remedied. I cannot approve the mustering or
recption into the service of the excess further
than it may have been done to receive them
hereafter the justice which it will be in the
power of Congress to extend to them. They ought

to be paid for his ^{travel} and expense to, at, and from the
place of rendezvous, and Congress will doubly pay the
necessary land. Their promptness in tendering their services
and exposing themselves for the field is a high evidence
of patriotism and deserves the thanks of their country.

I shall enclose a copy of this letter to
Genl Wool, and write to the Governors of Kentucky,
Mississippi & Louisiana to withhold for the present
the quota called for under Genl Gaines requisition
and if ^{they are} concentrated to muster and discharge them
and wait for further orders.

I am v. respectfully

C. A. Harris of Andrew Jackson

adj. Genl.

A copy of the
letter referred to
is enclosed

Bates

GILBERT BOND

Hermitage
August 7th 1836

Sir,

I reached home on the evening of the 4th and was soon surrounded with the papers and letters which had been sent here in anticipation of my arrival. Amongst other important matters which immediately engaged my attention was the requisition of Genl Gaines on Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana. Believing that the reasons given for this requisition were not consistent with the neutrality which it is our duty to observe in respect to the contest in Texas, and that it would embarrass the appointment which had been made of the 10,000 volunteers authorised by the recent

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