

Executive Department, Ala.  
Tuskaloosa, March 30<sup>th</sup> 1837

Dear Sir;

With much pleasure, I tender you my sincere congratulations, on the happy and (to you) honorable termination of the War with the Seminole Indians. Whilst assaults were being made, elsewhere, Upon your well winning Just laurels for yourself. The citizens of the southwest can never cease to appreciate your services, and cherish your fame; nor can I believe you have anything to fear, in regard to either, from your fellow citizens, throughout the Union.

You have doubtless seen that we have had another Creek War. The remanent of the tribe commenced their murders, and depreations, anew, about the first of January; and they have repeated them at intervals up to the present time. I was satisfied from the moment I received the first intelligence, that nothing would restore safety and tranquility, to the inhabitants, but the entire removal of all Indians from the Country; and, therefore, at once urged that course upon the commanding officer at Fort Mitchell, and some of the contractors Finding it necessary to the accomplishment of my views, I called of the Secretary of War, ad interim, for his sanction, and the aid of his authority, about the first of February; and, in due time, obtained an order from him, for their immediate removal to Mobile Point, where they are to be joined by the warriors, now in Florida, and thence proceed to the country assigned for them West of the Mississippi.

From the best information I can obtain, few of the Indians, who were really hostile, have been killed, or taken. Some of the still remain in the swamps of the Cuba-Hatchee, and the Cowaglee; but the greater portion have fled farther South, and are now in the Hammocks and morasses, which border the Choctawhatchie and Pea River, near the Florida line. I have received several communications from the quarter-one from the Colo. commanding the militia of Dale County, borne by the late representative from that county, in the Legislature, who is an intelligent & honest man,

which represents the number of warriors at about two hundred. This estimate may be large - but each party, that has been attacked, so far as I am informed, has been able to repel the Citizens, who assembled, and marched against them I have ordered the commanding officer of the Dale county Militia to raise a company of infantry, and station it at a suitable point for repelling the incursions of the enemy; and I have ordered the commanding officer of the troops who have been mustered into service in the Creek county to detach a part of his force to aid in the defence of this part of our southern frontier, if any can be spared from other duties. From recent information, I entertain some doubt, whether sufficient aid can be furnished from that quarter. It is understood that the troops have had some recent skirmishes with parties of hostile Indians, remaining in the nation, which did not eventuate in very decisive victories.

It is, also represented ( I believe truly) that a number of the Florida Indians, still remain within the limits of that Territory, near the Choctaw hatchie. It is supposed they have taken no part in the war; yet, it is necessary to the permanent tranquility of the white population, and also to their own welfare, that they should be removed.

Would it not be well, for you to send a detachment to that quarter, sufficient to kill, or capture the fugitive hostile Creeks; and also to remove the small party of Florida Indians? I trust by the time this reaches you, the further services of the Alabama troops will not be necessary in East Florida; and that they may soon be on their return march. If this conjecture be well founded, they could be transported from Tampa, to Pensacola, or Choctawhatchie bay, with great facility, and speedily be in the infested district. I understand the Choctawhatchie is navigable up to the Alabama line; and if so, would greatly expedite the transportation

of the Infantry, and stores of subsistence &c., However, I think Lt. Colo. Cawfield's Battalion would be competent to the proposed duty; and after dispatching that, they could continue their march homeward through Dale, Pike, Barbour, Russell, & Macon, sweeping the country of the outlying and straggling Creeks, in those counties.

I am very desirous that your operations should result in definite peace, and security, to the whole country, through which you have passed. I feel assured, you are equally anxious for such a result, and shall therefore,

hope my suggestions will meet your favorable consideration.

Should you think it necessary to continue a force, during the summer, at the post in Florida, I trust that duty will not be assigned to the Alabama Volunteers-especially to Lt. Colo. Cawfield, Battalion. They are from one of the most mountainous, & healthy regions of the South-west; and, if stationed there during the approaching season, would inevitably fall victims to the diseases of the climate. These troops are (as I confidently hope you have found them) brave, generous, and patriotic citizens; and I should most earnestly depreciate their exposure to the hot sun, and humid atmosphere of Florida, for the next four or five months. \*

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

With the highest regard,

I am, Dr Sir;

Your friend & obt svt.

C.C. Clay

Major Gen. Thos S. Jesup,  
Tampa Bay Florida.

\* I hope you will return through Alabama, and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you.

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Source: Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Governor C.C. Clay administrative records, SG6483 folder 8