

Andrew Jackson to James Winchester, November 28, 1811, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JAMES WINCHESTER, DIVISION ORDERS.

Hermitage, November 28, 1811

The Period has arived that calls for the energies of the nation; our government have been compelled by the conduct and acts of great Britain to take a stand, that must lead to actual war if great Britain should not immediately retrace her steps, and repair the many insults and multiplied injuries that we have so long and so patiently endured from, her. To prepare for this event, it is necessary, that we should place ourselves in a state of readiness to support our goverment and with a strong hand insist [on] that Justice from her, that in a state of peace she has so long and so unjustly withheld from us. It is at length discovered that indecisive and wayward measures will not do. Our president in his communication to congress has taken that firm and manly stand worthy the chief magistrate of america, and which is necessary to preserve our national honor and independance, and it will be the pride and boast of every lover of his country to support the goverment in every measure it may take in persuit of that Justice that is due to us as a neutral and independant nation. In the west on the wabash, excited by some secrete influence the savage Tomhawk and scalping knife is raised the blow is struk *war savage war* has been commenced, and we have to regret, the loss of many of our brave country men who on the 7th. instant fell bravely by the hands of the deceitfull and ruthless savages. The blood of our murdered fellow citizens must be revenged. Governor Harrison for the want of sufficient force has been compelled to retreat. he must be aided. I have wrote to him of this date, that on his call on me, I will march with 1000 or 500 men to his support. in the patriotic ardor of my division I have implicit confidence, that in ten days, that number by voluntary enlistment

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can be marched. I have confidence that all those who tendered their services to the general government on a former occasion and particularly, the independant companys of infantry and riffle corps will now come forward and renew it. you will see from the Presidents communication to congress that he recommends that provisions be made “for the acceptance of volunteer corps whose patriotic ardor may court a participation in urgent services” you will therefore without delay place your Brigade in the best Possible state of readiness, to furnish your quota of such requisition as may be made of me by the President of the united States thro the Governor of this State, instill into the minds of your officers a proper attention to discipline and encourage as much as in your power lies volunteer corps sufficient to act in urgent services. recommend to your officers, to meet every fortnight for drill by this means they will acquire a knowledge of Tactick themselves which when acquired they can easily difuse thro their men. as early as practible make known to me the state of your Brigade, the number of volunteers inrolled and ready for duty. Should Governor Harrison Invite me to his aid, I shall make known, by a general order, the mode of equipment the time and place of Rendezvous. I have appointed Major John Coffee of Rutherford my second aid in the room of Colo. Purdy resigned, and all officers are commanded and required to obey him as such.¹

¹ With respect of this proclamation, Felix Grundy on Dec. 24, 1811, wrote Jackson, from Washington, as follows: “I have with great pleasure, receiv'd a newspaper containing Genrl Jackson's Division orders, they breath no doubt the sentiments of my District and what added much to my gratification was the circumstance of their arrival a few days after I had in a speech stated what I believed the sentiments of my Constituents were—while others were speaking doubtingly about the sentiments of their Districts, I had only to pull out, my Genrls orders, as I often said to shew, what my Constituents thought and felt for he had confirmed every thing I had said on the subject. I took the liberty of transmitting the paper containing those orders to the president, and firmly beleive, that G Britain must recede or this Congress will declare war. If the latter takes place the Canadas and Florida will be the

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Theatres of our offensive operations. If War is not resorted to, one thing is certain to my mind, this nation or rather their representatives will be disgraced.”