

Willie Blount to Andrew Jackson, December 15, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIE BLOUNT TO JACKSON.

Baxter Grove, December 15, 1813.

Dear sir , Yours of the 8th. Instant is just to hand. I have reason to believe that Col. Carroll will soon be with you with at least as many men, as the number of Volunteers under the Act of Congress now with you make; and as those Congress Volunteers are anxious to return home, and as it is probable that the public service will be in all respects as well promoted by your dismissing or discharging those Volunteers I will do all I can to promote their dismissal or discharge by recommending of it to you to discharge them, relying on Col. Carroll's being with you in a few days with an equal number of men, it can make no material difference with the Govt. whether those now with you stay, if an equal number supply their places, but I feel confident that at least two thirds of the Volunteers will stay—my former letters will shew you my ideas fully as to my power or right of instruction about their discharge. I think with you that public good will be promoted by your discharging of them, not knowing the will of the President about this business; have the Volunteers thought whether the Genl. Government will pay them for their services rendered if they are discharged without his order. I wish them to get their pay and it would be well for you to mention the risk they will run about the pay but that you are willing to comply with their wish to dismiss or discharge them, or to keep them longer as they please until the answer of Govt. is known. I have written to the Secy War several times on that subject but as yet have no answer. The Militia were detached for six months service but I have no instructions from Govt. how long they are to serve, have asked the Secy War the question

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and his answer when recd. I will transmit to you it may be expected shortly and I will as you will endeavor to act for the best—mildly. In haste with cordial esteem, I am

yours sincerely