

Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, December 11, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN COFFEE.

New Orleans, December 11, 1814.

D'r General: I reached this place on the 1st instant, halted two days and proceeded down the river to examine its defence as low at Fort St. Phillips, and find with a few auxiliary Bateriae, it can be made impregnable against any invading foe, orders have been taken for the necessary defence which will be compleated in a short time. I returned to this place night before last, and on yesterday was informed by Mr Brant Contractors agent that you had reached the neighbourhood of Baton Rouge where he had furnished you sufficient supplies of rations. I hope you have ample supplies of forrage. your Position is a favourable one to cover the Amite, and prevent an enemy from advancing through lake Maurapa, and up the Manshack.¹ The vessels of the enemy has made there appearance, on the coast near Ship and cat Islands, and the contractors vessels on their voyage to Mobile has returned. I expect this is a faint, to draw my attention to that point when they mean to strike at another—however I will look at them there and provide for there reception else where. I beg of you to advise me of your wants and that of your Brave men, and as far as I can they shall be supplied. to your Brave officers and men Present my approbation and thanks for their prompt and speedy march from Mobile to this section of the District, and enduring their privations without complaint or murmur—they have set a fit example to the oldest veteran troops and Established a fame for themselves as durable as marble. forward me a report of the state of your Brigade, and if you have heard from Jackey I pray you inform me. I have had no information

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1 Maurepas; Manchac.

from Tennessee since I saw you, except I see in the Nashville Gazette—that “ *Packolett has beat the noted horse Double-head with great Ease* ”. two mails are due from the East. I suppose detained by high waters. I have had incessant rains on me untill today ever since I left you, and from the unusual height of the Mississippi, it is fair to Judge that there has been a great fall of rain in the upper country.

I have only to add, that you will hold your Brigade in compleat readiness to march at a moments warning. We may, or may not have a fandango, with Lord Hill, in the christmas holidays. If so you and your Brave followers must participate, in the frolic. I hope the west Tennessee militia and the Kentuckians will reach here in due time to participate. With a Tender of my best wishes believe me to be

respectfully yr mo. ob. serv.