

## Andrew Jackson to Alexander Cochrane, February 20, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ALEXANDER COCHRANE.1

1 Draft in Edward Livingston's handwriting. Printed in Latour, app., p. lxxxv.

New Orleans, February 20, 1815.

*Sir:* I am honored by your letter of the 12th Instant by the return of my flag inclosing a copy of Commodore Pattersons to you with some marginal, strictures on its contents; the naval and military Departments in our service being totally independent of each other; I am not permitted to Defend, still less to censure the conduct or correspondence of the officer, at the head of the former, his Distinguished merit and general correctness of conduct, make it presumable that he will be able to justify his proceedings to the Goverment to whom alone he is accountable.

On the subject of the Exchange your assurance that the one hundred men sent off on the Ramillies as well as the five Detained for the condemnation of the Gun boats will be delivered on their return is satisfactory to myself and to Commodore Patterson and I now Dispatch all the prisoners in a situation to be removed as by the Enclosed list; the residue to the amount of [ *blank* ] now at Natchez were sent for and will be forwarded to the Balize as soon as they shall arrive

You will perceive by this Sir that I perfectly acquiesce in the propriety of your remark that justice requires me to follow the example of confidence given, by yourself and Genl. Lambert in the Delivery of the prisoners belonging to my army previous to the receipt of those taken from you; a confidence always mutually due from Enemies who respect Each

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other and particularly proper between those who in the probable course of Events may soon cease to be such.

There is another subject on which a passage in Genl. Lamberts last letter renders it necessary for me to address you. I mean that of the negro slaves belonging to several inhabitants on the Mississippi now in your fleet. I had written to Genl. Lambert on this head two several [?] letters in consequence of his informing me that these persons would be Delivered to their masters on their application; to the first I received no answer to the last I am informed that he Genl Lambert “ *has nothing to do with it*”. Mr. White to whom an order was given to receive such as were willing to Return to their masters having reported to me that he found several who were ready to accompany him but that he was not permitted to take them I am now Obliged Sir explicitly to ask whether the property thus taken is intended to be restored, and if it be that a time and place may be appointed for its Delivery

the Prisoners from Natchez will arrive in less than ten Days they will immediately sail for the Balize and it is hoped that the Prisoners taken at Ft. Bowyer may meet them there to be conveyed both in the same vessels.