

Andrew Jackson to T. Jefferson, June 16, 1802, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

FERDINAND L. CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

Fort Claiborne East Bank of the Alabama, December 5, 1813.

Dear General , The Spies which I dispatched to Pensacola in consequence of the letter received from Col. Bowyer of which I advised you in my communication of the 29th ult. returned to camp yesterday evening after having visited that place. The amount of the information received is that there are no British forces landed; but that there are two armed Brigs and a Ship at Anchor in the bay. From circumstances it is believed that the Squadron which is there, are Privateersmen. They had captured some of our Coasters. The Spies were informed that two hundred Creeks had been in Pensacola and had recd. from the Spanish Authorities one thousand weight of Powder and a proportionate quantity of lead. This, as usual will be denied by the treacherous Spaniard. Some of the Enemy's armed vessels are in the vicinity of Mobile. A confidential officer will return from that Quarter to day, when I will be advised of the movements of the enemy. Pensacola is now the storehouse of contraband goods, the Sanctuary of old Tories, and the great support and cause of the disturbances on this Frontier. My Brave lads are badly cloathed. I wish to God my numbers were augmented and I could receive authority to move in that direction. The Southern borders cannot be safe until Pensacola is taken. Six hundred barrells of provision has arrived at this post. If nothing intervenes the Volunteers and 3d Regmt. will move for Weatherfords town on Cahaba in a few days, but for want of support in

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the Nation, will fall back to this post, as soon as we have destroyed the vilages in that Quarter.