

Silas Dinsmore to Andrew Jackson, January 27, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SILAS DINSMORE TO JACKSON.¹

¹ In view of Jackson's quarrel with Silas Dinsmore, in 1812, it is interesting to see by this letter that in the crises of 1814–1815 he came back to the Choctaw country and used his influence to keep the Choctaws loyal to the United States. This letter shows that he cooperated with Jackson and, taken in connection with Jackson's reply through his aide, Thomas L. Butler (Jan. 30), hardly warrants Parton's idea that Jackson's ill-feeling for Dinsmore was continuous. See Parton's *Jackson*, II. 576–581.

Camp Pearl River near Ford's, January 27, 1815.

Sir, I wrote you in haste yesterday morning by General Winchester's express. Since which the sixtown Indians² have increased their numbers to seventy two, badly armed, there being only seven Rifles, and twenty three common trading guns, most of them in bad order. Apprehensive of a deficiency in arms, I applied to Genl Winchester when at Mobile for a supply. He declined furnishing, because he had no order to send arms out of the limits of his command; and because he believed the Indians would be ordered to Mobile.

² See p. 73, n. 2, *ante*.

Col Nixon has advised you by the present express, of the report of the Contractor's Agent declaring his inability to supply the militia and Indians, for more than a few days, with bread stuff and forage. This report, and the want of funds in the Q. M. department, to make purchases, are much to be lamented, as it has defeated all the arrangements of Col. Nixon, with whose zeal for the public interest, you are sufficiently acquainted, to duly

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appretiate. I am much indebted to the Col. for the means he has taken to keep the Indians embodied and subsisted (till we can receive your orders) by ordering one hundred and [*blank*] bushels of peas, with which I shall make them satisfied while they last. I shall keep the Indians, which may join me, amused at least, and by shewing scouts, of those who have arms, on the coast, may have a good effect, to check the marauding parties of the enemy who may attempt foraging. And I hold myself responsible to defeat every attempt made, or to be made, to seduce the Indians from their attachment to the United States, and will not suffer myself to doubt that you will afford the necessary means to enable them to render efficient service.

I have the honour to be very respectfully Sir,³

³ Dinsmore wrote other letters to Jackson, on Feb. 10 and 11, 1815. They are written in a spirit of cordiality. In that of the 10th he acknowledged the receipt of Jackson's letter of Feb. 3, no copy of which has been found.