

tinued. The Clerks & Sheriffs perhaps may be paid as with us, only converting Tobacco fees into their worth in peltry. as to the rules of decision & modes of proceeding I suppose ours can be only gradually introduced.¹ It would be well to get their Militia disciplined by calling them regularly together according to our usage. however all this can only be recommended to your Discretion.

GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GEORGE R. CLARK, January 29, 1780

[Draper MSS., 29J8-17, copy in handwriting of Mann Butler.]

WMS.BURG Jan 29th 1780

SIR,

Your letters of October 26th & 28th and Novr 6th came safely to hand, and lastly that of August 24th, I am glad the proposition of establishing a post at, or near the mouth of Ohio² is likely to answer as well in practice as to us who judge on theory only, it seemed likely to do. I have therefore written to Mess^{rs} Walker and Smith, as you will see by the Enclosed copy of my letter to them, to take observations of the Latitudes thereabouts, that we may proceed on the surest grounds, you will pleas to furnish Assistants guards and all necessaries. I expect the description of the cliffs &c. will be so minute, as that when you see them, you will know them in the Plat, and of course know their Latitude. The choice of your ground for your fort, must be left to your-self. It should be as near the mouth of Ohio as can be found fit for Fortification and within our own lines. some attention will be Proper also to the circumjacent gronnds at [as?] it will Probably become a Town of importance. The nature of the defensive works and their extent, you will accommodate to your force. I would recommend great attention to the wood of your stockades, that it be of the most lasting kind. From the best information I have had, I take for granted that our line will pass below the Mouth of Ohio, Our purchases of the Cherokees hitherto have not extended southward or westward of the Tennessee; of course the little tract of country between the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee & the Carolina line (in which your fort will be) is still to be purchased from them before you can begin your work; to effect this, I have written to Major Martin, our Cherokee agent, of which letter I enclose

¹At first there seems to have been some attempt to introduce English modes of procedure, but gradually the French modes prevailed.

²Fort Jefferson.

you a copy. If the new fort should fall within this territory, and it can be purchased, we may grant lands to settlers who will fix round about the fort, Provided the Assembly should approve of it, as from its reasonableness I think they will. The manner in which the lots of land are laid off about the French villages, I have thought very wise and worthy of imitation. Perhaps besides guarding your promises of lands to settlers with the condition above mentioned, it would be well to add also, the mode of laying them off.

I send you recruiting instructions for having your Battalion filled up with men to be enlisted for the war, as I wish to avoid any on any other terms. Your instructions for recruiting which was communicated to us by some of your Officers in the fall, we took in, and gave them such as are now sent you, Instead of bounty money I send you three hundred Land warrants for five hundred and sixty acres of land each, which at forty pounds the hundred, being the Treasury price amounts to the bounty allowed by law:—these we think more likely to induce men to inlist than the money itself. I also send you twenty four Blank Commissions which will be necessary to officer eight companies, the present plan of the Continental Army having that number in a Battalion, and a Captain Lieutenant and Ensign only to each company. The officers of your Battalion when Commissioned will stand on a footing with the officers of the other state-Battallions. The state of the Public finances obliged the late Assembly to reduce very much their military establishment from what they had proposed at their session in May—they discontinued raising both the Eastern Battallions and one of the Western, so that there will be one Battallion only to send to you, to which is to be annexed Major Slaughters hundred men, who have already marched as I Expect for the falls of Ohio. I wish that one Battallion may be raised in time to join you in the spring. Very few returns having been made to me, I can not say what number is raised, probably not more than half. However, whatsoever number may be raised by that time shall march as soon as the season will admit. By them we will send such stores as to us occur to be necessary, such as powder, Lead, flints, hoes, axes, saws, gimblets, nails, hammers, augers, drawing knives, Trows and camp kettles. If there be any other articles necessary I must get you to write to me on the subject, also to settle the best route sending those articles hereafter. There being no guards to be had, militia for conveying them from the frontiers, and no dependance

on collecting militia, can not you point out to us some place on the frontiers, where they may safely be lodged from time to time, and from where you can send for them with a proper escort? I would wish you also to inform me to what post I shall order the Battallion which is to join you. We received letters from M^r Pollock, in the fall informing of our debts at New Orleans, and his distresses. We had just taken measures by shipping Tobacco to France to procure necessaries for our Army.— having no other means of releaving M^r Pollock, we were obliged to give him drafts on France, which took the whole of that fund, and has distressed us exceedingly. The demands of Col^o Legras, and Capt^o Lintot¹ coming on us now, and it being impossible to rais hard money to discharge them, we are utterly at a loss what to do with them, indeed we shall not be able to determin them absolutely as to the sum we shall pay them, till we know from you what proportion of the Dollars for which they have drafts were expended at the depreciated prices, or in other words till we know from you what sum in hard money would reimburse their advances for which your drafts on us were made which we should be glad you would inform us of by the first opportunity, and send a duplicate by some second conveyance. The difficulty of answering demands of hard money renders it necessary for us to Contract no debts, where our paper is not current. It throws upon us the tedious and perplexing operation of investing paper money in Tobacco; finding transportation for the Tobacco to France; repeating this as often as the dangers of captures render necessary to ensure the safe arrival of some part, and negotiating Bills, besides the expensive train of Agents to do all this, and the delay it occasions to the orditer. we must therefore recommend to you to purchase nothing beyond the Ohio, which you can do without, or which may be obtained from the East side, where our paper is current. I am exceedingly glad you are making such timely provisions for your next years subsistence. A commissary for the western Department was appointed in the fall with orders to purchase provisions on the frontiers for one Battallion, his instructions shall be enlarged, and a notification sent him to comply with requisitions, besides this, we leave to your self to Commission M^r Shannon to act as commissary of Purchases, Issues, Stores, Quarter Master, or what ever else you may find him useful in, I suppose you will employ him principally about the posts while the one acting on the frontiers will be providing

¹ Evidently sent to Virginia as agents of the Illinois creditors.

thereabouts. We shall use all our endeavours to Furnish your men with necessary Clothing but long experience renders it proper to warn you that the supplys will [be] precarious. you cannot therefore be too attentive to the Providing them in your own quarter as far as Skins will enable you to do it — in short, I must confide in you to take such care of the men under you as an Economical house holder would of his own family,— doing Every thing within himself as far as he can, and calling for as few supplies as possible. The Less you depend for supplies from this quarter the less will you [be] disappointed by those impediments which distances and a precarious foreign commerce throws in the way, for these reasons it will be eligible to withdraw as many of your men as you can from the west side of the Ohio, leaving only as many men as will be necessary for keeping the Illinois settlements in spirits, but we must accomodate our measures for doing this, to our means. Perhaps this Idea may render doubtful the expediency of employing your men in building a fort at Kaskaskia — such fort might perhaps be necessary for the settlers to withdraw into in time of danger but might it not also render a surprise the more dangerous by giving the enemy a means of holding a settlement which itherwise they could only distress by a sudden visit and be obliged to abandon. — Of this you must be ultimately the judge. We approve very much of a mild conduct towards the inhabitants of the French Villages. It would be well to be introducing our Laws to their knowledge and to impress them strongly with the advantages of a free government — the training of their militia, and getting into subordination the proper officers should be particularly attended to. We wish them to consider us as brothers, and to participate with us the benefits of our rights and laws. We would have you cultivate Peace and cordial friendship with the several Tribes of Indians, (the Shawanoes Excepted) Endeavour that those who are in friendship with us live in peace also with one another. against those whom are our Enemies let loose the friendly Tribes. The Kickapoos should be encouraged against the hostile Tribes of Chickasaws and Choctaws, and the others against the Shawanoes. With the latter be cautious of the terms of Peace you admit. an evacuation of their Country, and removal utterly out of interference with us would be the most satisfactory. Ammunition should be furnished gratis to those Warriors who go actually on expeditions against the hostile Tribes. as to the English not withstanding their base Example, we wish not to Expose them to

the inhumanities of a savage enemy. Let this reproach remain on them; but for our selves we would not have our national character tarnished with such a Practice — If indeed they strike the Indians, these will have a natural right to punish the aggressions and we, none to hinder them. It will then be no act of ours — but to invite them to a Participation of the War, is what we would avoid by all possible Means. If the English would admit them to trade, and by that means get those wants supplied which we cannot supply, I should think it right Provided they require from them no terms of departing from their neutrality. if they [do] not permit this, I think the Indians might be urged to break off all correspondence with them to forbid their Emissaries from coming among them and to send them to you if they disregarded the prohibition: It would be well to communicate honestly to them our present want of those articles necessary for them and our inability to get them, to encourage them to struggle with the difficulties, as we do till Peace, when they may be confidently assured we will spare nothing to put our Trade on a comfortable and just footing. in the mean time we must endeavor to furnish them with ammunition to provide skins to cloth themselves. With a disposition to do them every friendly office, and to gain their Love, we would yet wish to avoid their visits; Except those who come with Cap Lintot We have found them very hard to pleas, expensive and troublesome, and they are more over exposed to danger in passing western counties. It will be well therefore (Especially during the War) to waive their visits in as inoffensive a way as possible.

In a letter to you of the 1st instant I supposed you would either the ensuing summer engage either in the shawanoes war, or against Detroit, leaving the choice of these, and all other objects to your self. I must also refer to you whether it will be best to build the Fort at the mouth of Ohio before you begin your campaign or after you shall [have] ended it. perhaps indeed the delays of obtaining leave from the Cherokees or of making a purchase from them may oblige you to postpone it till the fall.

I have received Letters from Captains Shelby and Worthington, the former acquainting me he had received your instructions to rais a troop of horse: — the latter, that he had raised one. from the date of your letter to Shelby, I knew you could not have been apprized that the Assembly had authorized us to rais a Troop for you, and that we had given a commission to Rogers by whom you sent us information of the

Capture of St Vincenes. Rogers accordingly raised his men, got all accoutrements, and marched to join you in the fall. As to Capt. Worthington who says he has raised his men you must state to us the necessity for your having two troops, so we may lay it before the Assembly, who alone have power of giving sanction to the measure. The distress of the public Treasury will be a great obstacle, so that it will be well for you to take measures for reserving to your self the benefit of Capt. Worthington's men in some other capacity, if they should be disappointed of as horsemen.

I am Sir,

Your very humble servt.,

(Signed) THOMAS JEFFERSON.

His Excellency

Brig. Gen^l George Rogers Clark, Commanding western wing U. S. Army.

JOHN MONTGOMERY TO GEORGE R. CLARK, February 1, 1780.

[Draper MSS., 50J9.— A. L. S.]

FORT CLARK, February 1th, 1780.

DEAR COLO,

Sir I Would be Glad to inform you of som pertiCluers Which I left out in the other letter in Regard of the peltrey Fund ¹ Which Colo Todd left in the Hands of Capt Winstone and My Self Which he Had lent to Som traiding Jentlemen all Except What he had propagated to his own Use and Som trifles for the trupes and Fortey fore packs Which it is out of My power to Git out of their hands as the Say the Have accounts aganst the States nearley Sufficant to Ballance their accounts & Before the deperture of Colo Todd Capt Winstone went up to pancore to Receve the Ballance of the peltrey Which he Received the above fortrey fore packs Som time after I Maid a contract for provition to the amount of fortrey packs ho I Geve an order to Receve from M^r peroe ² he winston left it with But upon seing the order he Wrote Me Back a letter that he never Received But twenty odd packs I then Found that Capt Winstone Must have put the Ballance to his own use I then Geve the inhabents orders on Capt winston Which he Received and Excepted to the amount of the packs he had put to his own use Which he is obliged to pay which Geve Me Som Satisfaction for the Rogery desined to the

¹ See note p. 128.

² Michel Perrault.