

Andrew Jackson to John Sevier, April 20, 1808, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN SEVIER.

Hermitage April 20th 1808

Sir: I herewith inclose you a statement of William Meadows relative to the late murders, committed on our frontiers by a party of Creeks of about 440, including twelve whitemen. who these whitemen are is not ascertained, but it is to be presumed, that they are agents of some foreign power, exciting the creeks to acts of hostilities against the united States. On the rect, of the enclosed Statement I issued orders to the different brigades in my division without delay to place their brigades in a state of preparation to march at a minutes warning and to hold them in that state for further orders, from you or the goverment of the united States. I have directed General Johnston to be upon the alert, to act on the defensive only, untill the protection of the frontier and imperious necessity made it necessary to dislodge them from their present position on the south bank of the Tennessee and on that event to employ a Sufficent force to insure success. I have directed him, by confidential spies immediately to find out, their real numbers, position and warlike preparation, and transmit the same to me without delay, and not to make an attack upon them untill your orders are recd, unless imperious circumstances require it for the safety of our frontier. Should the information recd, from the spies make it an act of defence and safety to our frontier with a well selected band I will march to perform this duty, but unless imperious necessity require it will wait your orders. Our frontier must be protected, the blood of our innocent Citizens must not flow, with impunity. This Coalition must be destroyed and peace restored to our frontier. The frontier heretofore has suffered much and bore those sufferings with patience and fortitude. Justice forbids that again their

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patience should be put to the test, we only wait your orders and retaliation shall be made with due Consideration.

I am your most obt, Sevt,