

Governor George Handley to Abraham Baldwin, Augusta, 24 March 1788

Since I have been in office I have had the honor of receiving four letters from you, viz., one without a date; the others of the 28 December 1787 and the 18th and 29th January 1788, which have been laid before the Executive. I should have acknowledged the receipt of the same ere this but no opportunity offering. Colonel [William] Few will leave this place in a few days on his way to New York. He has in charge some official papers to lay before Congress, to whom for politics and news I beg to refer you.

The Creek Indians are yet very troublesome on our frontiers, almost daily murdering our citizens, driving away their stock, burning of houses, and doing other cruel depredations. Such is the situation of this state, the want of provisions and other causes, that scarcely a sufficiency can be obtained to act on the defensive.

General [Andrew] Pickens, the commissioner appointed on the part of the State of South Carolina, and General [George] Mathews, on the part of this state to treat with the Southern tribes of Indians, agreeably to a resolution of Congress of the 26th of October last, are only come forward on that business. They were to meet, to proceed on the same about the 10th or 12th instant at Seneca on the Keowee River in South Carolina. Nothing as yet has transpired of the business of their meeting. If they should effect a treaty with the Creek Indians, which is much doubted, I shall take the earliest opportunity to inform you of their determination. It is generally supposed that the sum voted by Congress for this purpose is inadequate thereto; however, the commissioners will judge and report thereof. If the Indians should refuse to treat with the commissioners, it would be necessary that every exertion be made to Congress to procure sufficient supplies for the immediate defense and support of this state.

The Executive have directed Major [Robert] Forsyth, the state agent, to remit you one thousand dollars together with 1000 dollars more to Colonel Few.

Enclosed you will receive a copy of the Journal and proceedings of this state's Convention on the proposed Federal Constitution. The original Ratification of the same has been transmitted by Mr. [John] Wereat, President thereof, to the President of Congress sometime ago, which I presume has been received.

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