

## *To David Holmes*

Head Quarters 7. M. District  
Camp 4 miles below N. Orleans  
18 Jan: 1815

Sir

The repulse which the enemy met with on the 8th has, I believe, proved fatal to their hopes. Their loss on that day, was prodigious—exceeding according to their own accounts as well as to ours, 2600 Amongst their killed were genl Packingham the commander in cheif, & Major general Gibbs who died the day after the action. Major general Kean was wounded, but still lives. Their army is, at present, conducted by Major general Lambert, who, if I mistake not, finds himself in a very great perplexity. To advance he cannot—to retreat is shameful. Reduced to this unhappy dilemma, I believe he is disposed to encounter disgrace rather than ruin, & will, as soon as his arrangements for this purpose are effected, return to his shipping. This, at any rate, is the design to which many symptoms seem to point. Probably, when it is attempted to be put in execution I shall accompany him a short distance.

If ever there was an occassion on which providence interfered, immediately, in the affairs of men it seems to have been on this. What but such an interposition could have saved this Country? Let us mingle our joys & our thanksgivings together.

At a moment when my feelings are thus alive I should do violence to them if I did not hasten to offer you my thanks, as well for the good disposition you have manifested, as for the important services you have rendered. With the highest respect I have the honor to be Sir Yr. very Obt St.

Andrew Jackson  
Major genl comdg.

P.S. I must again entreat that when the vessel with the arms shall arrive at Natchez you will use your best means to have them hastened to this point with the utmost dispatch—having the man who had been entrusted with the transportation of them arrested & sent to me in confinement.<sup>1</sup>A.J—

LS, Ms-Ar (4-0568); LC, DLC (62); Draft in John Reid's hand, DLC (15); Facsimile of LS, DLC (71). Published in Bassett, 2:145–46.

1. AJ was referring to the delayed arms shipment from Pittsburgh. Contractors Jacob Smith and Thomas Maples were in fact arrested and tried on charges of “protecting the enemy and favouring his designs against the state of Louisiana.” Although the court-martial found the men not guilty, AJ registered his disapproval of the verdict. See Robert Butler to Abram R. Woolley, January 14; and General order reporting courts-martial, March 2.