

Frankfort 2d Oct. 1812

My dear Sir

The army on the direction to Detroit was a few days ago upon the point of seperating. And that part of it confided to the comand of General Winchester shewed a strong disposition to mutiny from the time he took the direction of it.

This unforunate scism and mutiny of the army has fortunately subsided by the appointment of Governor Harrison by the President, to the chief command of the armys north west of the Ohio.

Troops are on the way from Virginia and Pennsylvania to join General Harrison and if the artillery was now up we might calculate in a few weeks upon having possession of Detroit once more and of part of Canada before the winter sets in. The force ordered on is fully equal to the object and the President is determined to regain the ground that was lost by the disgracefull surrender of Detroit, and the army under Genl. Hull and to persecute with increased vigour the objects of the campaign. --- The only source from which disappointment can be apprehended is the want of winter cloathing for the troops of this state, that is, our quota of the 100,000 of the detached militia. They went out most of them very bare, under expectation of supplies from the government which was a mistaken calculation; most of them are without blankets, and many have not a single woollen garment of any kind -- with only a thin linen dress it appears impossible they can incounter the severe winter blasts of Canada which the plan of operations before them, and the advanced stage of the season seems to render almost unavoidable.

I have great reliance that on this interesting occasion our fellow citizens will shew a spirit of generosity becoming the occasion. Subscriptions are afoot in many parts with seeming success. I feel a great confidence that our affairs before next Christmas will assume a very different appearance if our troops from the want of cloathing are not confined to their tents in that cold region. A train of artillery is now preparing at Pittsburgh with all possible expedition, under the direction of an officer of rank and talents who is shortly expected to decend the Ohio with them. The moment they arrive we shall hear of a quick movement of the army. The purchase of strong draft horses are ordered for the transportation of the cannon.

I was at Louisville when the voluntiers passed that place. Saw your son the Major. He was well and in high spirits. There were many gray heads amongst them and all remarkably well fixed. In short I have never seen such a set of men since the Revolutionary War. If they don't fail for provisions we may make great calculations upon the powers

of such an army under the gallant officer who commands them. At the time they marched there was no authority for the purchase of a single pound of beef at public expence for them. But there has since arrived a power for that purpose and was instantly forwarded on to the acting governor at Vincennes for the purchas of beef for the army. It is said beef cattle can be had in that quarter. If a supply is procured in time we may expect a glorious issue of the expedition under General Hopkins.

Accept, my dear sir, assurances of good will and esteem from your old friend.

Issac Shelby

~~Addressed to:~~

Frankfort, Ky.  
Oct. 3d

*On return fold of letter*

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Colo. George Thompson  
Harrodsburgh  
Mercer County