

CASS TO ARMSTRONG

Detroit Oct 28. 1813

Extract

Sir,

In raising the 27th reg.;, contracts were made in different parts of the State of Ohio, for the purpose of furnishing the recruits with rations. This was done, in conformity with instructions from the Adjutant General's office. I have examined, and certified, the abstracts for those rations, agreeably to your letter upon that subject, of June last; and they have been presented to the District paymaster for payment, who re-

fuses, alledging, he has rec'd no instructions to pay them. I am anxious that specific directions should be given, as I am frequently applied to, on the subject, and as a long time has elapsed, since the rations were supplied.

I feel myself again compelled, to call the attention of the Government, to the distressed situation of the people of this country. Unless they are assisted from the public stores, they must, literally perish. The whole resources of the country are exhausted; & there being no means of transportation upon the Lake, but public vessels, it is impossible that provisions, commensurate with the wants of the inhabitants, can be imported. Any description, which I can give will feebly pourtray the situation of the country, & the calamities which the people have suffered. The principal part, of the resources, was consumed by the British; and the savages gleaned the residue. I am well convinced, from numberless facts, which have reached me, that there was no disposition, on the part of the British comg officer, to restrain their excesses. Fear, was the principal of his government, and how well he succeeded in exciting it, you need not, now, be told. An Indian agent, a man of talents and fidelity, is much wanted here, to superintend the Indian Department. There is no person of that description here, and the details of the business so interfere with my other duties, that it is impracticable to attend to it, with that diligence, which its importance requires. Instructions are necessary, in relation to the views of the Government towards the Indians. They are, daily, requiring provisions & ammunition. The latter article, a regard to our safety, forbids me from issuing, except, in very small quantities, merely to enable them to hunt. Lt Colo Warburton of the staff,

& Lt. Colo. Evans of the 41st, both taken upon the Trench, inform me, that, at one period, they issued, here and at Malden, between 14 and 15,000 rations, per day, to the Indians. I am convinced, they had a larger body of Indians than were ever before collected—probably, not less than 4,000 warriors. There is little reason to doubt but that the celebrated Tecumseh was killed in the battle. His body was seen by us all, and recognized to have been that of the Indian chief; and subsequent information confirms the identity.

The buildings in the Fort, and citadel, having been burn't by the enemy, the troops are building temporary huts to shelter themselves. I would suggest the propriety, at an early day, of making arrangements for the erection of permanent, useful buildings.

I am happy to inform you, that the two vessels, which Gen: Harrison supposed were lost, are safe, having, by the violence of the storm, been driven down the Lake.

I have the honor,
to be, sir,
Your obt, humble
Servt

Hon. Jno Armstrong

LEW CASS.