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The Panton, Leslie Papers

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THE PANTON, LESLIE PAPERS
WILLIAM PANTON TO JOHN FORBES

Pensacola 29th June 1794

Mr. John Forbes,

My dear Sir:

I have your several letters of the 8th, 12th and 16th instant to answer.

I gave Seagrove's talk to the Choctaws into the hands of Colo. White, who has not returned it to me; but I will ask him for it and you shall have it back. The Baron has a report that Seagrove was displaced and that another agent is appointed in his room, of which, I believe not one syllable.

The man proved himself too good a servant to be displaced, and I am much mistaken if the Baron will not soon hear of his return to his former stand in the Tuchebatchy, where in all probability he will chalk out a job for the Western Mexico, that will occasion him to repent of his shameful parsimony in his conduct to Indians,-he has not a straight line in any one instance that regards these people! and the name of a Spaniard he has greatly helped to render more odious, if possible, than ever it was among Indians, even in the day of Cortes.

The Townspeople in the lower Creeks have been here, where they were fed on one pint of rice a day and not a grain more-the presents they got were so trifling that they would have tossed them into the Bay, but for certain reasons that was given them by Milford-and they carried them home with them I fear as a testimony to their Countrymen how unreasonable it is to place any confidence in the promises made them from this side-Creeks, Cherokees everyone is dissatisfied.

It appears something extraordinary, yet it is no less certain that my Creek 'Tradders' have been extremely punctual in their payments this Spring. They have not it is true, all of them been able to ballance acco'ts. but they have mostly all of them been here with the whole of the skins they had on hand notwithstanding of Seagroves promises of a cheap trade . . . I suppose he is not ready yet with his goods at prime cost, and perhaps my Lads from their punctuality now, expects to [illegible] their credit in the Winter, but I shall see how things are by that time, and shall govern myself accordingly- There is here 89 hhl'ds skins besides a great many Bears Otters Beavers and small furs-not one of the Cherokees have appeared as yet but in the Fall I look for them. I shall be extremely glad to find untrue the report of Wamps's capture, but it is certain that Seagrove wrote an account of it to his agent in the Cussitaws asserted more [illegible] and that skins were for sale in Lond. poor Wamps if this is true, loses about 1200 Drs. being cash he got for his first adventure.-

The Baron must do as he pleases with my Memorial, but in six or eight months our bonds will become something looser than they are at present when we must strive to draw our necks out of the halter in the best manner we can.

With this you will receive Gayoso's letter to Butlers in answer to the one he wrote him on the subject of Turnbull. It just serves to show that there is two Jesuits instead of one, and that it is difficult to say who is the more to blame-if Turnbull feels himself falling behind he will no doubt call on his friends to share the loss, which I presume will not be pleasant to them.

I send you your account current with the interest calculated on it to the 30 inst.-I could allow no

abatement in the hire of the Brig, the convenience of which enabled you to get rid of your skins that otherwise would have remained all the year on hand, owing to the Esdailes late arrival and I assure you the Brig with all the freights she made is far from saving herself.

I can give no further credit on Domanges accounts until actually received :

I have looked into our books to see what allowance was made to new concern for packing the skins of 1792 and in the month of August 1795 I find old concern debited for packing 358 hhds and nine casks-

[This letter is wnsigned and seems to have been Panton's copy.]

[Endorsed:]

Wm. Panton, Esq.

to

John Forbes, Esq.