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The Panton, Leslie Papers

William Panton

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THE PANTON, LESLIE PAPERS

LETTERS OF WILLIAM PANTON TO

JOHN FORBES

Pensacola 6th May 1794

Dear Sir

Having got Ballanzategui underway I now send off Bob with my letters for Havana. You will now see how far this man is able to pay for the Brig Largo and, will register & consign it accordingly- Enclosed with this is put a copy of my letter to the Baron. I know not whether it will reach your wishes on the subject of complaint ag 't himself but I ventured as far as I thought it prud't to go & perhaps I have gone too far.

I have likewise wrote to Doctor Telleray a kind of a peace talk. It will not suit me to go northwardly until things are a little more settled.

Saint Augustine was threatened nor do I know if it is yet out of danger. I have advice that a schooner of ours was taken off Saint Augustine Bar & carried into Charleston. This must have been poor Bain in the vessel I ordered to be bought & which your Brother may have thought proper to send there in lieu of the despatch which I gave him reason to expect the beginning of the year.

Seagrove Carried no chiefs of any consequence with him, they repented at the Crissesaws and returned, a guard accompanied him to Port Landing.

As you understand Spanish it may be necessary to give a short power of attorney to Capt. Brown to dispose of the Brig despatch. In English I have given a letter to that effect, but a Spanish one will

NOTE-These letters are in continuation of the series of records of Panton, Leslie & Co. the publication of which has been continuous in the *Quarterly*. They are in the possession of Mrs. John W. Greenslade who has transcribed them.

be **better** witnessed by Lanzor to whom give my respects and ask him permission to remove our cattle from where they are to fix them in the Point on the west side of the River Styx. My good friends the Indians make me pay too much for their grass where they are at present and to drive them to Florida is not so convenient.

I beg my compliments to Blair, I have lost his receipt for eye water, beg him to renew it. The promise also to make me up some Elixir of Vitriol but forgot it, let him tell me how it is done.

W. Gerths negro has run off, I suspect his master had a hand in it.

I remain

Dr Sir

Your most Obed. Servt.

WM. PANTON.

Mr. John Forbes.

* * *

Pensacola 4th. June 1794

Mr. John Forbes

Dear Sir,

The Schooner Santa Maria returned from Appalachy & by Her I got letters from John Leslie to the 31st of March who informs me that his annual supply consisting of nigh 5000 sterling was intercepted near Augustine Bar by a Caroline French Privateer & carried into Chas.town-I have also a report from the lower Towns of the Creeks that Wemyss in the Granada Packet was taken somewhere in the Gulph on the otherside of the point of Florida & carried into Savannah, but this last wants confirmation--provided we are well covered with Insurance these Captures will be of no injury to our affairs for Leslie has plenty of old goods on

hand and with respect to the skins they have gone to a good Market.

I observe by your letter of the 11th ulto. that the Dispatch went from your harbour on the 10th-I am now busy with my letter for New Providence meaning to send away the Santa Maria tomorrow or next day. The Baron has not acknowledged the receipt of my memorial to myself, but he has wrote White desiring him to inform me of his having sent it in the Packet recommending the several matters set forth in it to the immediate attention of Government-This may be true but why did he not write me to that effect himself-

It was not Bayne who was taken-the vessels name was the Aurora a Schooner, & Commanded by Capt. Dickie - I hear nothing of Bayne but I suppose he must cast up by & bye

I wish you to obtain Lanzos permission to put my cattle at the River Styx as they are now on the move & I expect to hear of their having crossed the Scambia every day

I observe that the present for the Indians to Mobile too much resembles what has come here: being enough to send the Indians home disappointed & displeased which has ever been the case since I have been here-Mellford is here with his tribes & keeps me in continual fret with his & their noise

Mr. Booth sends you the remainder of your Beef & by next occasion you will get some Port wine which Bob is Bottling off-

Monsr. Troubet wrote me for some Porter & I have put a Cask on board which is placed to your debit & you will charge him what you sell it to others at, here we sell it at 28 reals per dozen I shall send you some Porter by next occasion or even by this if he does not sail to night

Our Traders have come down handsomely this month past & we now have in store above 70000 lb. weight of skins-

This, with their renewed assurances, induces me to send on additional order to come out in the last ship

Tell Blair that his Prescription hurt rather than benefited my Eyes they are far from being well- and to mend the matter I have a severe pain in my left ankle which is the Ruhmatism or the Gout but a little patience and all will be well again-

I remain Dr Sir

Your most obedt

WM PANTON.