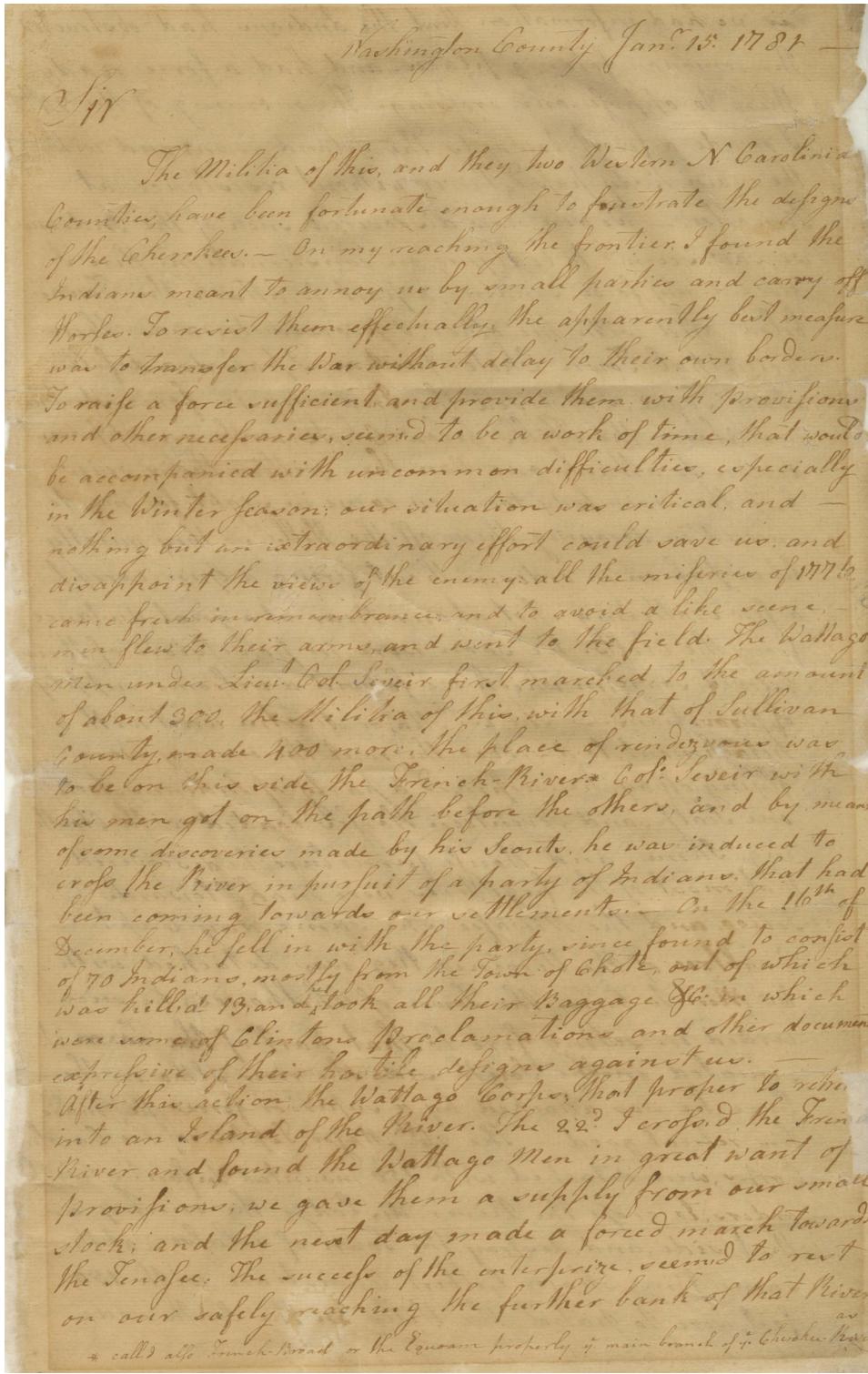


## Arthur Campbell, Letter to the Governor About Militia Attacks Against Indians, 1781 (page 1 of 6)



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## Arthur Campbell, Letter to the Governor About Militia Attacks Against Indians, 1781 (page 2 of 6)

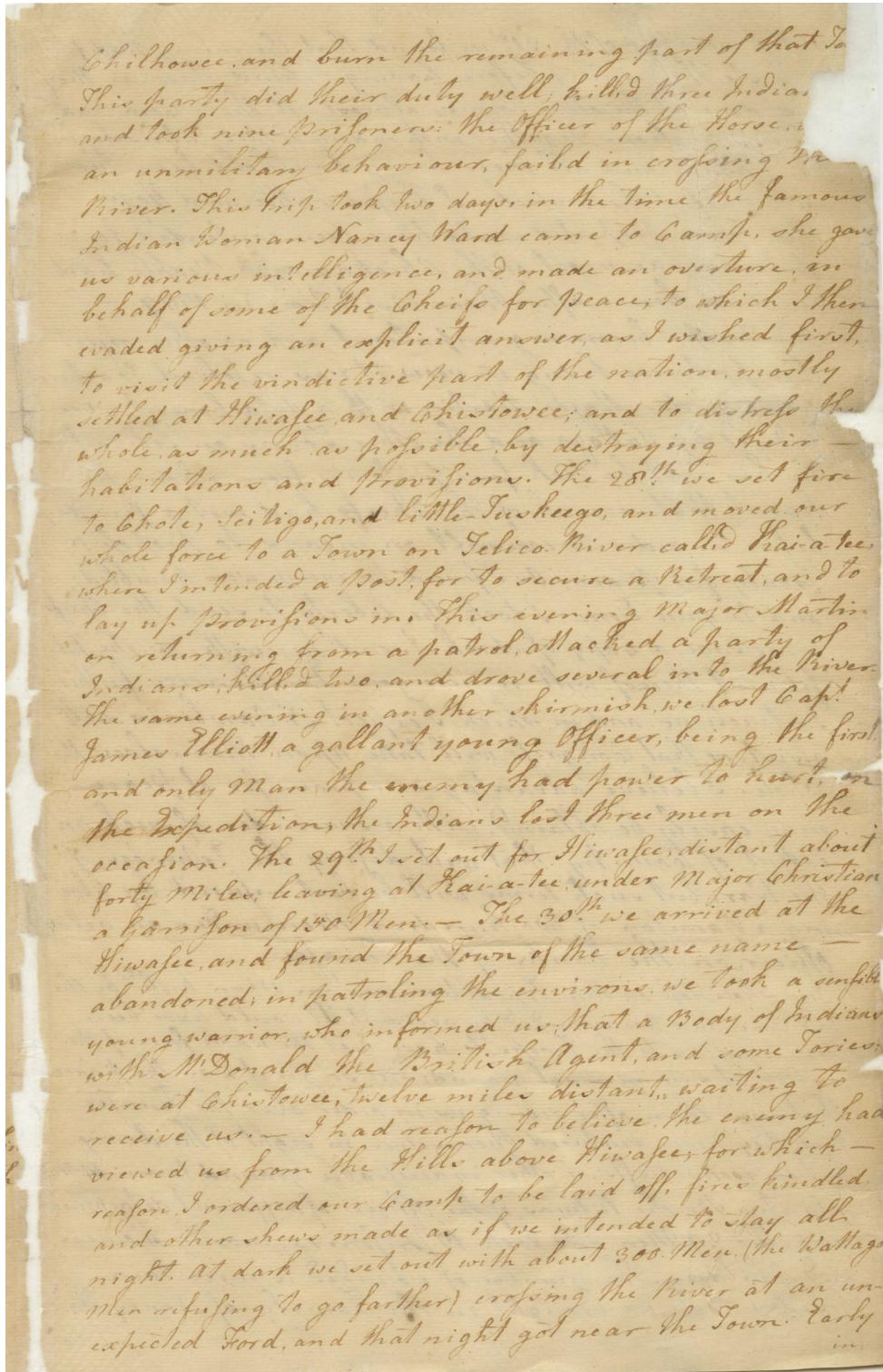
as we had information that the Indians had obstructed the common fording places, and had a force ready there to oppose our crossing. The morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> I made a feint towards the Island Town, and with the main Body passed River without resistance at Tisnollee. — We were now discovered, such of the Indians we saw, seemed to be flying in consternation. Here I divided my force, sending a part to attack the Tosoio below, and with the other, I proceeded towards their principal Town Chote. Just as I passed a defile above Togue, I observed the Indians in force stretching along the Hills below Chote, with an apparent design to attack our Van. There within their veins, but the main body too soon, came in sight, for me to succeed in decoying them off the Hills, so they quietly let us pass on in order, without firing a gun, except a few scattering shot at our rear, at a great distance from the clefts. We soon were in possession of their beloved Town, in which we found a welcome supply of provision. — The 25<sup>th</sup> Major Martin went with a detachment, to discover the road the enemy were flying off by; he surprised a party of Indians, took one Scalp, and seventeen Horses loaded with Clothing, Skins, and House furniture; he discovered that most of the fugitives, were making towards — Telico, and the Hiwasee. The same day Cap<sup>t</sup> Crabtree of the Virginia Reg<sup>t</sup> was detached with 60 Men to burn the Town of Chilhowee; he succeeded in setting fire to that part of the Town it is situated on the South side the river, altho in the time, he was attacked by a superior force. He made his retreat good. — The 26<sup>th</sup> Major Sipson of the Carolin Corps, was detached with 150 mounted Infantry, with orders to cross the River, dislodge the enemy on that side, and destroy the Town of Telafsee; at the same time, Major Gilbert Christian with 150 foot, were to patrol the Hills on the South side

\* or Longing-Cancer Town & Government on it River

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Chilhowee, and burn the remaining part of that Town. This party did their duty well, kill'd three Indians, and took nine Prisoners. The Officer of the Horse, in an unmilitary behaviour, failed in crossing the River. This Trip took two days, in the time the famous Indian Woman Nancy Ward came to Camp, she gave us various intelligence, and made an overture, on behalf of some of the Chiefs for Peace, to which I then evaded giving an explicit answer, as I wished first, to visit the vindictive part of the nation, mostly settled at Hiwassee and Chistowee; and to distress the whole, as much as possible, by destroying their habitations and Provisions. The 28<sup>th</sup> we set fire to Chote, Sciago, and Little-Tuskego, and moved our whole force to a Town on Tellico River called Haia-tee, where I intended a Post, for to secure a Retreat, and to lay up Provisions in. This evening Major Martin, on returning from a patrol, attacked a party of Indians, kill'd two, and drove several into the River. The same evening in another skirmish, we lost Capt. James Elliott, a gallant young Officer, being the first, and only Man the enemy had power to kill, on the expedition; the Indians lost three men on the occasion. The 29<sup>th</sup> I set out for Hiwassee, distant about forty Miles, leaving at Haia-tee under Major Christian a garrison of 100 Men. — The 30<sup>th</sup> we arrived at the Hiwassee, and found the Town of the same name — abandoned; in patrolling the environs, we took a sensible young warrior, who informed us, that a Body of Indians with McDonald the British Agent, and some Tories, were at Chistowee, twelve miles distant, waiting to receive us. — I had reason to believe the enemy had viewed us from the Hills above Hiwassee for which reason I ordered our Camp to be laid off, fires kindled, and other shew made as if we intended to stay all night. At dark we set out with about 300 Men (the Wallago men refusing to go farther) crossing the River at an unexpected Ford, and that night got near the Town. Early in

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in the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> we found that the enemy had fled  
haste the evening before, leaving behind them, as they  
had done at the other Towns, almost all their Corn and  
other Provisions, together with many of their utensils for  
agriculture, and all their heavy household furniture  
with great part of their Stock of Horses, Cattle, and Hogs. —  
These Towns I expected would have been contended for with  
obstinacy; as most of the Chickamogga People had  
removed hence after their visitation in 1779. —

Our Troops becoming impatient, and no other object  
of importance being in view, it was resolved to return  
homewards. Major Martin with a detachment were  
ordered by Satoga and the other Towns on Tellico River  
in his route, he took four prisoners, from whom he  
learnt, that several of the Chiefs had met a few days  
before in order to consult on means to propose a  
Treaty for peace. As I found the enemy were humbled,  
and to gain time, I took the liberty to send the Chiefs  
a message, a copy of which I send herewith, as the ful-  
filment thereof will require your Excellencies further  
Instructions; and in which I expect N. Carolinia will  
assist, or that Congress will take upon themselves the  
whole. I believe advantageous promises of peace —  
may easily be obtained, with a surrender of such an  
extent of Country that will defray the expences of  
the War, but such terms will be best ensured by plac-  
ing a garrison of two hundred Men under an active  
Officer, on the banks of the Tenasee.

Our whole loss on this Expedition, was one man killed by the  
Indians, and two wounded by accident. It would have been  
very pleasing to the Troops, to have met the whole force of the  
nation at once, on equal ground; but so great was the panic  
that seized them, after seeing us in order over the Tenasee,  
that they never ventured themselves in sight of the Army,  
but on rocky clefts, or other inaccessible ground to our Mount  
Infantry. By the Returns of the Officers of different detachments  
we killed 29 Men, and took 17 Prisoners, mostly Women  
and Children. The number of wounded is uncertain.  
Besides these we brought in the family of Nancy Ward,  
who

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who for their good offices, we considered in another. The whole are in Major Martin's care at the Great Island until the sense of government is known how they are to be disposed of. — The Towns of Chote, Scitico, — Chilhowee, Toque, Neliqua, Hoi-a-tee, LaWoogo, Telico, Hiawee and Chitowee all principal Towns, be some small ones, and several scattering settlements in which were upwards of One Thousand Houses, and no less than fifty thousand Bushels of Corn, and large quantities of other kinds of provisions, all of which, after taking sufficient subsistence for the army, whilst in the Country and on its return, were committed to flames, or otherwise destroyed. No place in the Province remained uninjured, except the small Town of Telafsee, a scattering settlement, in the neighbourhood of Chichamogga, and the Town of Galoogee situated on the sources of the Mobile. — We found in Ohana-States Baggage, which he left behind in his flight, various manuscripts, copies of Treaties, Commission Letters, and other Archives of the nation, some of which shows the double game that people have been carrying on, during the present War. There seemed to be not a man of honor among the Chiefs, except him of Hoi-a-tee, whom I would willingly have discriminated had it been in my power. Never did a people so happily situated, act more foolishly in losing their lives, and their Country, at a time, an advantageous neutrality was held out to them; but such is the consequences of British seduction.

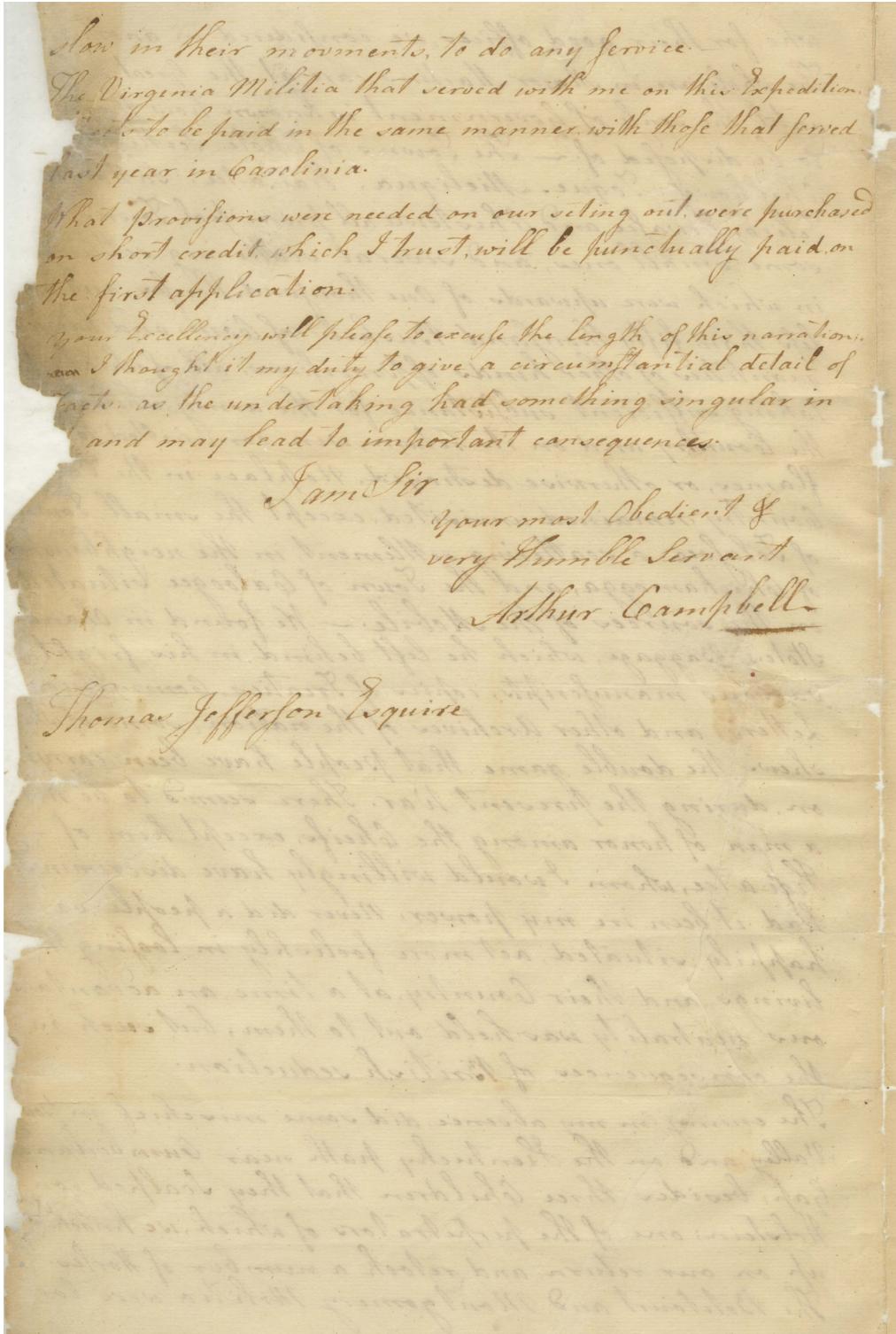
The enemy in my absence did some mischief in New-Valley and on the Kentucky path near Cumberland Gap, besides three children that they scalped on Holstein; one of the perpetrators of which, we knocked up on our return, and retook a number of horses.

The Botetourt and Montgomery Militia were too

Slow.

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