

From D.M. Frost to Robert M. Stewart

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Head Quarters South West Exped[it]ion

Camp Gentry

Nov[.] 27[, ] 1860

To His Excellency R[.]M[.] Stewart

Commander in Chief

Sir[, ]

I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at Smithton on yesterday at 12 oclock [MS. illegible] in the midst of a most disagreeable shower of rain which much interfered with and retarded the outfitting of my command; in consequence of which I have found it necessary to encamp my command within two and a half miles (the nearest [MS. illegible]) of the Village and then remain during this day in order to distribute stores, load wagons, provide transportation and supply horses for the Artillery. After an unusual amount of labor (which could only have been accomplished through the zeal and intelligence of every Officer of the Command) I am now prepared to start at daylight tomorrow on my march.

I have been much disappointed in finding that the companies that were supported by your Excellency to be organized and Ready to join me from Boonville and other points appear to have no existence, I am however consoled by the reflection that I have in the troops from St[.] Louis and Jefferson City a force amply sufficient, in my opinion, when combined with a few [irregulars?] (which I will doubtless be able to pick up) to accomplish all the objects of the Campaign.

The reports I receive from

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the disturbed district are so entirely conflicting that I am quite unable to increase in any respect the knowledge your Excellency already possesses, and from present appearances I am well satisfied that only the actual presence of my command upon the border will enable me to ascertain the Real position of affairs.

That there have been very serious violations of law there can be no doubt, and I have been informed by what seemed good authority that it can be proved before any tribunal that the Territory of our State had been invaded by the outlaw Montgomery and his band and one of our fellow Citizens taken into the neighboring Territory of Kansas and hanged, I have seen persons who have left the border through fear of their lives, and have been informed by them that a great many others are doing likewise.

I therefore deem it expedient and proper in view of all the foregoing circumstances to prosecute my march to the borders of our state with all possible expedition consistent with the efficiency of my command. I will endeavor to keep your Excellency fully informed of all

matters affecting the peace and good order of our frontier which your Excellency has shown you have so much at heart.

I am Sir Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Svt[.]

D.M. Frost

Brig. Genl[.] Commdg[.] South West Expedition