

MILITARY FORCES ON THE FRONTIERS OF IOWA AND
WISCONSIN.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

A report from the Adjutant General, relative to the military forces on the frontiers of Iowa and Wisconsin, and the cause for the disbanding of the mounted volunteers stationed at Fort Atkinson ; in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 2d instant.

JANUARY 14, 1847.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 8, 1847.

SIR : In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 2d instant, requiring the Secretary of War to inform the House " what military forces are at present on the frontiers of Iowa and Wisconsin, and the cause of disbanding the late company of mounted volunteers stationed at Fort Atkinson," I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a report of the Adjutant General of the army, containing the information required.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

HON. JOHN W. DAVIS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Adjutant General's Office, Washington, January 7, 1847.

SIR : In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 2d instant, I have the honor to report that the " military forces at present on the frontiers of Iowa and Wisconsin" consist of one company of regular infantry, about seventy strong, at Fort Snelling, Falls of St. Anthony, Iowa ; one company of volunteer infantry, sixty seven strong, at Fort Atkinson, on Turkey river, Iowa ; and one company of volunteer infantry, seventy five strong, at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin ; in all three companies of infantry, numbering two hundred and twelve men.

In answer to the second branch of the resolution, calling "for the cause of disbanding the late company of mounted volunteers stationed at Fort Atkinson, Iowa," I beg leave to refer to my report of the 15th ultimo upon the letter of his Excellency Governor Clarke, of Iowa, transmitting a protest against the discharge of this company, a copy of which report is herewith respectfully enclosed.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Hon. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Adjutant General's Office, Washington, December 15, 1846.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report upon the letter of his Excellency Governor Clarke, of Iowa, of the 25th ultimo, protesting against the discharge of the mounted company of Iowa volunteers, recently in the service of the United States at Fort Atkinson, and asking that that company be again received into service, either for the purpose of garrisoning said post or performing field duty.

It appears that, on the 15th July, 1846, a company of Iowa volunteer foot was mustered into service to replace the regular garrison withdrawn from Fort Atkinson for service in the field; and that, on the 21st July last, in compliance with the request of Governor Clarke, the Secretary of War authorized him to raise a company of cavalry, to be also stationed at Fort Atkinson, which company was organized accordingly, and mustered into service September 9, 1846. On the representation, however, of Brevet Brigadier General Brooke, commanding west division, seen in his letter of September 22d, that there was no necessity for the employment of so strong a force at Fort Atkinson, and on his recommendation that one of the companies be mustered out of service, he was directed, October 3d, to give the necessary orders to that effect, designating the company which could be dispensed with, with the greatest advantage to the public service. It further appears that, in conformity to these instructions, General Brooke ordered Brevet Major Hooe, 5th infantry, to muster out the mounted company, (Captain Parker's,) which duty that officer performed on the 5th ultimo.

General Brooke, the responsible commander, has recently inspected Fort Atkinson, and it cannot be supposed that he would have advised the reduction of the garrison of that post, had there, in his opinion, existed the least necessity for the continuance there of the additional mounted company at so much expense to the public. Under these circumstances, therefore, it is believed there is no occasion for the re-employment of the disbanded company, for which application is now made, at least in its former capacity; and with respect to the alternative offer of the company for service in Mexico, it would not seem expedient to accept this proffer of its aid at this time.

Respectfully submitted.

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Hon. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.