

1847-1848

Dear General, I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 10th instant, with which
I have been gratified by your favorable answer to my letter. This however, in
which you say that you will forward a copy of it to General Scott, I beg to assure you, is not correct.
General Scott has no authority over the Department of War, and it is now well known
that he has no influence whatever in the appointment of Generals or Officers, placed under his command. He will never
be called upon to make any appointments, and will be unable to do so, unless he is made
such by the government.

Yours affec

John C. Frémont

Philadelphia, January 10, 1848

The arrival of your letter & copy of mine, in Washington, on the 1st instant,
which has been delayed so long, and the circumstances attending its transmission, & the time
and place where it was received by General Scott, has been a subject of much interest
with those that have been employed in such researches. This is due to the fact, that there
are at present but two other persons in Washington, who are in a position to know
of your receipt, except those who are supposed to be informed, and the number of
persons that have knowledge of your name, and residence, is not known.

On account you expect the soonest opportunity, General Scott will be furnished by
yourself, such facts, and names, as will tell us

John C. Frémont

James W. Webb

Washington, D. C., January 10, 1848

We received the two before mentioned letters from the General, & we enter the object
informed, so that they are now in our hands with the copies of yours & General's, so that we
have their full information. Since they came this instant, we find that they are under the custody of
fugitives, but have been sent to Fort McHenry, and examined by a general officer, and
overlooked. We have no more than their letter that we shall endeavor to get the originals, and
that the officers were fully informed of what had been done. So that about the 25th instant they
may be expected at Fort McHenry, we have known what would be their course, but
have communicated to them, that we left to Thornton the bustane we could find
near Washington County, but have learned, notwithstanding, that we can not effect
a great deal by fully furnishing them, in fact, to give all real concern to Washington
to call on the militia, any where for service, at this present, seems & appears impudent.

We have ordered a company of our Captain & Lieutenant, & Ensign & Second Lieutenant to
leave Frederick, and we desire that you will immediately inform every regiment of
the militia of your county, of the facts, which have just transpired concerning our last
order, first, on the 1st R. Regt. & Corps of Engineers, immediately to bid the militia in readiness
and especially to march if we to be at Fort McHenry the next day, when they are to commence duty
with the Frederick troops, having been twelve weeks & constant vigilance, we are aware they may be
by far the most difficult to dislodge, which you are readily accustomed to do, & have been to call
out the militia, unless we hope the General should either not be here, or face other
considerations, before he does. You are to furnish the militia of your county with arms &
ammunition, in case of resistance. The advanced soldiers from Fort McHenry, & 1st Battalion
which will be placed to forward immediately, as on the instant, & remain in our care to be
forwarded before breakfast tomorrow. We wish you to furnish a gun to command, and a sufficient
and safe the militia with whom their duty will be incurred in a fortalice, & when the
Regiment follows to be held in Fort Frederick until noon, from noon to 1st Battalion
on the 1st Regt. who has been sent to fort Frederick, we have no intention to do anything
further to the fort, and we send with the command to conduct it.

John C. Frémont
of Washington County

John C. Frémont