

"lead to this Department" which are supposed to convey
 the power of extending the term of service to six months,
 refer to the words "any deficiency which may arise in
 Gen. Jackson's division". The word "deficiency" (no man,
 I presume, will deny,) means a want of force or num-
 ber, I had no relation to the term of service. With what
 propriety then, can it be insisted, that this order gave
 Gov. Blount authority to enlist them for six months?
 The conclusion of the order, & his subsequent letter on
 the same subject, in which no allusion is made to
 any term of service, will sustain me in this construc-
 tion. "It may be well that your Excellency should con-
 sult Gen. Pinckney on such occasion, as he can best
 judge of the whole number necessary to the attain-
 ment of the public objects." Again, "My letter of
 the 11th Jan. will have anticipated your inquiries
 relative to further detachments of militia". The Secre-
 tary made no mention of the term of service, because
 he had written to Gov. Blount only eight days before,
 in his letter of the 3rd of Jan. instructing him, "that the
 militia may be considered as having been called
 out under the law of 1795 which limits the service of
 to three months." The construction for which I con-
 tend - that it was not the intention of the President, to
 give the Governor power to enlist this regiment for a
 greater term than three months - is strengthened, in a still
 higher degree, by the fact that the Secretary, in his let-
 ter of the 15th of April, more than three months af-
 ter he issued the order for its enlistment, & only thirty
 five days before it was actually called into service,
 authorized him, at the instance of the President, to
 discharge from the service of the United States, a de-
 tachment of militia that had served only three months.
 Your Excellency's letter, of March 23rd has been received.