

It is certain that they were levied for six months. But to ascertain the legality of that levy, & of course the equity of the sentence, I must have recourse to Gov. Blount for the order from the President, under which the levy was made; and to the Secretary of War, to know if such order was issued. If the order was not given, the whole proceedings are without the sanction of law; & these hapless men shall be restored to their families, their friends & their country. — Thus, Fellow Citizens, should he have soliloquized on that solemn occasion. If he had been thoughtful enough to have made this application, the Secretary of War would have informed him, that no such order was on the records of the Department; & consequently, had not been issued. Gov. Blount, unable to produce his authority, would have been forced to admit the illegality of his own conduct. Being ^{recently} called upon by the Military Committee in Congress, for information on the subject, he failed, in reply, to exhibit any order from the Department, & merely furnished his own unlicensed order of the 20th of May, which is wholly irrelevant to the point in question. The conclusion, then, is inevitable, that it was the sacred duty of Gen. Jackson, thus to investigate the law, & been determined by it and the dictates of humanity. Instead of this, by a wanton exercise of his power, he consigned to the cold & cheerless grave, six of ^{his} wretched countrymen. Great God! and has it come to this? — That, in a land of boasted freedom, military power should legalize & sanctify the stupid error of a Governor, or the still more stupid sentence of an ignorant & unfeeling court? — That our laws & Constitution should be despoiled, by a ruthless hand, of their fairest attributes, the security of life & personal liberty, those sacred principles for which our fathers in England, struggled against their iron-handed & perfidious monarch? Is it thus that you honour the memory of the patriots of the Revolution, by surrendering the rights & liberties for which they fought & bled, that you might