ADM 1/4360/69-72
Cochrane to Croker
October 3, 1814

(3)

In relation to the Temporary rank of Colonel which I wished Major Nicholls to hold whilst acting with the Indians, it is conformable to what was (sic) adopted all through the American war, where provincial Rank was given as high as that of Brigadier General, & even to those who had never held any Military Rank whatever. With the Indians it is absolutely necessary to impress a belief that their leaders are men of rank & consequence, or as they style them, "great warriors". They are accustomed by their intercourse with the United States to see how Military Rank is prostituted, & that even the Taverns are kept by persons bearing the Rank of Colonels, Lt. Colonels etc. This being the case I judges it for the advantage of H.M. Service to place Major Nicholls in a situation beyond or at least equal to persons of this description.

After the Service has been completed at New Orleans & the country properly secured I beg leave to propose that should there be more Troops than are necessary for the security of our conquests they shall join the Marines upon the coast of Georgia & Carolina; and if an additional force can be sent from home so as to compose a body of six thousand men I am fully satisfied that these two States will be at our mercy. And by recruiting there during the winter I expect to add at least 2,000 men to that number before the month of April, at which time we shall be about to recommence our operations in the Chesapeak.

I submit this plan to the consideration of Government, & beg to be informed as soon as possible if it is to be acted upon.

As Rear Admiral Cockburn will be constantly employed upon that coast I recommend that their Lordships instructions directed to me off New Orleans should be sent in duplicate to him for his perusal.