

ADM 1 / 4360 / 141-145*
Croker to Colverane
August 10, 1814 (cont.)

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The measures which you state yourself to have taken, and to intend to pursue for arming and disciplining the Indians, my Lords fully approve, and the suggestions you offer for carrying on this system into more complete effect, have been submitted to the consideration of the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies.

On the point however of the ranks of Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel which you state that you propose conferring on Major Nicholls of the Marines, my Lords commanded me to remind you that they have not themselves the power of conferring, and still less of authorizing you to confer any military rank, and they desire that this part of your intentions with regard to Major Nicholls be abandoned, or, if already done, recalled.

I am commanded to conclude by acquainting you that in the event of your being engaged in any enterprise against the Enemy inconsistent with the pursuance of your plans against Louisiana, and which you may think more likely to be of advantage to His Majesty's arms, you are authorized to postpone or even abandon the object now in contemplation, but in this event you will not fail to give timely notice to the force to be assembled at Negris, and to convey to them orders for a junction with you, or for such other proceedings as, in conjunction with Major General Ross, you may think proper to adopt.

I have only now to repeat to you their Lordships' authority (originally conveyed ~~to~~ in my letter by the Pique) to proceed on the expedition to the Gulf of Mexico yourself.