Columbia Yards
13th February 1837.

Dear General,

Your favor has reached me in company with unpleasant intelligence in relation to some men being killed near “Faukton.” I had ordered a ferry and a Block House at the crossing opposite to that place. The orders given by me have been disregarded, by those to whom my orders were given, previous to my departure from Nauvoo.

If my orders are not obeyed, and vigilance kept up, we must look out for disaster, and their frequent occurrence. I have done every thing in my power, and of those whom I deputed, will not attend to the duties assigned them. God will curse them as he has done! Why was not the ferry on Trinity established? and the Block House built? At least one hundred men were there, for months idle, when they could have accomplished the work in four days, had my orders been obeyed? Why did so few men go out and do watch kept? Such things as murder and destruction of human life will follow such conduct. I lay this bloodshed on the heads of those who disobey my orders, or forget my counsel. Call on Col. Smiley, Cooley, and others who received my orders and see if they have been obeyed. Mr. D. Parker can tell you how far they have been regarded.

Surely such men can only look for the execution of a community, but not its blinding. The soldier that is above his duty must also be above commendation.

It is greatly desirable to me that you should make yourself acquainted with my several orders, and you can
then see the awful dilinquency, which takes place and must be remedied, or the Country lost at once.

A call is now made on me to raise mounted men & send and see what Indians they were. It is too late, had the officers obeyed my orders it had never happened. The Commissioners appointed have done nothing. Never wrote me line to me. Millard I am informed has gone to the W. States. Do pray let me know about these matters. Act yourself and for the best with the Indian. I wish it understood that no dilinquenys can or will now be overlooked.

Colonel Millard must be aware of how he has left Texas at this Crisis without a support, that he has incurred the penalty of those who disdained our Standard. If he does not I regret his carelsness and all that Can redeem him will be his future attention to the duties assigned to him by the Government.

Your attention can paid to the subject in this a treaty might have been held with the Indians. Now months have transpired and I am solated with the Cry of Masacre. I pray you to render all the aid in your power to give securety to the frontier.

Yours Friend

Genl. Thomas J. Ruste

Thos. McClintock