


9-18-1862

Letter from E. Kirby Smith to Braxton Bragg

Edmund Kirby-Smith

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1st & 2nd Army of Kentucky
Lexington, Ky. Sept. 18th 1862

General,

I have the honor to acknowledge this morning, the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant.

Gens. Smith's and Cleburne's Brigades will be at Shelbyville the 22nd; they will there receive orders from you, and can effect a junction with your Columns.

The enemy have been largely reinforced at Cincinnati, especially by troops from Louisville - They have fortified Covington, but have taken no steps towards strengthening Louisville, - the Stores & supplies, have been crossed to the Indiana side, and everything indicates an intention to evacuate the latter place, on the approach of our troops.

I will withdraw the remainder of my command to Paris, Georgetown & Frankfort, it can then readily be concentrated in either direction.

Marshall should advance to Mount Sterling, but I fear he will not come. His position there is the more important, as my spies from Cumberland Gap, say every preparation was made to evacuate on the 16th; their movements indicate Manchester, Booneville and Mt. Sterling, as their probable line of retreat. I shall be on the lookout for them.

I do not anticipate any immediate advance from Covington, they will await the movements of Buell on the arrival of old troops from the Mississippi.

I have still some 10,000 stand of arms, the trophies of the Richmond battles.

The Kentuckians are slow and backward in rallying to our standard - their hearts are evidently with us, but their blue-grass and fat cattle are against us - Several Regiments are in process of organization, and if we remain long enough, recruits will be found for all the disposable arms in our possession.

It is to be regretted that Buckenridge could not have moved into this portion of the State; his Regiments would have been filled up immediately, and his personal influence would have forwarded the organization of new levies.

Some steps should be taken towards the organization of a Provisional Government; - Where is Gov. Harves? -

I am Sir Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.

C. Kirby Smith
Maj. General

General
Beaumont Bragg
Comdg Dept. No. 2.

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H^d Grs. Army of Ky
Lexington Ky Sept 18th 1862

E. Kirby Smith
Maj Genl

Acknowledges reception of
Letter of 15th inst - Guards
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E. I. S. 18th Sept