

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. }

*Milledgeville, Dec. 4, 1830. }*

The United States Troops having been withdrawn from the Cherokee Territory, it is expected that numerous persons will be again tempted into the gold region.

The law which has been passed for the protection of the mines, requires of me to take immediate possession of them, without prescribing the means to be used, or placing any at the control of the Executive Department for that purpose. Although I am authorised to use a military force to defend the mines, it will be in vain to attempt to do so, until that part of the law, which makes the digging for gold a crime, goes into operation. Permit me, therefore, to ask of the legislature, that it will devise some effectual and immediate means for the protection of this public property. Even after the taking of gold shall have become a highly penal offence, it is believed that the law will be continually violated, if no other means of prevention are provided: than what are pointed out in the law which has been passed. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend to the legislature, either to organize an effectual guard, to be stationed at the mines, or to place all the mines in the possession of individuals, under such contracts as may induce their occupation.

Signed, GEORGE R. GILMER.

The Committee on Agriculture and Inter