CAMUEL MAS (cont'd)
fort with scout also ignorant
of the number hould encounter.
His distract flowed me to crawl
behind a fell ree, where I lay
until the Lean led. My band of
14 had rid into 10 savages
hidden i ne corn grass like
ghosts i the 28 who ced the
hundres, five of us light.

The men sit in silence but then a ruckus causes several of them to respond. Two men, JOHN SETTON and JAMES MAY, are presented to Mason by his scouts. Setton's face is turned down.

> SCOUT 1 Captain, these two was making so much noise they never heard us ride up on 'em.

> SCOUT 2 Damn sho', and we wasn't even trying to be quiet. This dark-one here... (points to Setton) ... had this one... (points to May) ... tied up, stringing him behind his horse. He says he wants to join

> his horse. He says he wants to join up and brought you a bounty hunter as a token. He's got a reward paper with your name on it!

Setton doesn't speak nor raise his head.

JAMES MAY

Sir, I ain't hunting nobody, I
promise ya. I swear to God! Two
days ago I woke up to this man
standing over me with a knife. He's
had me tied up the whole time.
 (looks at Setton)
Son of a bitch didn't give me no
water and made me piss myself. What
kind of man makes another man piss
himself?!

SAMUEL MASON Where'd the paper come from?

JAMES MAY

I was given it back in Natchez. But sir, I ain't no bounty hunter. I ain't outfitted for it. I's given that paper in Natchez to pass along. Sir, could I have a drink?

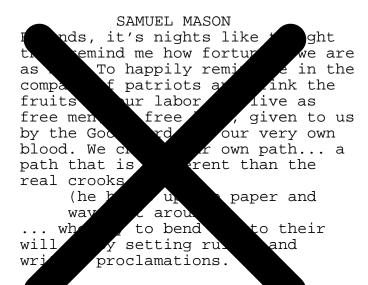
One of Mason's scouts gives the man a drink of whiskey. He coughs violently and then continues.

JAMES MAY

The man handed it to me said he was going to make sure this paper was put on every fencepost from Natchez to Nashville. Sir, I'm just walking to Nashville to care for my mama. God's word on that.

SAMUEL MASON Let me see the paper.

Scout 1 hands the reward poster to MASON. Nobody speaks as Mason studies the paper. He stands and turns his back to the fire to better read it. He brings the paper down and begins to speak.



The men all weer. Mason holds a bott whigh then clears his throat like a judge about to pass sentence.

SAMUEL MASON The noble Governor calls us "Pirates and Robbers". Well, he's got us there!

Everyone laughs and drinks.