

**Address of the Indian Agents.**

Below we publish an address of the Agents appointed by the General Government for the purpose of treating with the Indians, to the people of California. We commend it to the attention of those living in the Indian Districts, and trust that it will be respected. The Agents proceed this day to the capital at San José.

To the People of California, residing in the vicinity of the Indian Troubles: The undersigned, appointed by the President of the United States, Special Commissioners, with plenary powers to visit and negotiate treaties of peace and friendship, with the various tribes of Indians in California, deem it proper in this way to announce their arrival in the country, and their intention to enter upon the important duties of their mission, as early as the state of the weather, and of the roads, will admit of travelling. In the meantime, hearing of the difficulties which have recently existed and are said still to exist, on the borders of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, as well as in other parts of the State, the Commissioners appeal to their fellow citizens, in such disturbed districts to adopt and pursue towards the Indians a course of conduct marked by mildness, moderation and forbearance—holding themselves wholly on the defensive, at least until time shall be afforded us to investigate, and, if practicable, redress their grievances.

All good citizens and emigrants are interested in restoring to the frontier settlements the peaceful and amiable relations which once so happily existed between them and the Indians.

That in some of the difficulties which have recently occurred the Indians have been the aggressors—that the whites have had much provocation to justify the severity of their measures of retaliation, will not be denied; still, so far as our information extends, many lives have been sacrificed, and much ill feeling engendered unnecessarily.

The Indians of this country are represented as extremely ignorant, lazy and degraded, at the same time generally harmless and peaceable in their habits, indisposed to controversy, or war with the whites, until actually goaded to seek revenge for injuries inflicted upon them. For them many allowances should be made. Their very imbecility, poverty, and degradation, should, with enlightened and liberal white men, entitle them to commiseration and long forbearance.

They were the original owners and occupants of those beautiful valleys and mountain ranges. Their fishing and hunting grounds, and acorn orchards, surrounding the graves of their fathers for many generations, were long unclaimed by others. Until the discovery of the golden treasures, contained in the mountain gorges and water courses of California, the white and red man lived together in peace and mutual security. Since that period, we are informed, the Indian has been by many considered and treated as an intruder, as a common enemy of the whites, and in many instances shot down with as little compunction as a deer or antelope.

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As there is now *no farther west*, to which they can be removed, the General Government and the people of California appear to have left but one alternative in relation to these remnants of once numerous and powerful tribes, viz: *extermination or domestication*. As the latter includes all proper measures for their protection and gradual improvement, and secures to the people of the State an element greatly needed in the development of its resources, viz: cheap labor—it is the one which we deem the part of wisdom to adopt, and, if possible, consummate.

It will be our earnest endeavor to quiet the difficulties which now exist, and afford to both whites and Indians, throughout California, such protection of property as their good conduct may entitle them to.

It is essential to the character of the State, and indeed of the United States, as a civilized and Christian nation, that a stop should be put to the shedding of blood. If hereafter depredations are committed by the Indians, upon either the persons or property of the whites, and you will apprise us of the facts, we will use all proper exertion to bring the offenders to justice, by the military force of the United States, or otherwise.

If, on the other hand, an Indian, or Indians shall be killed in your neighborhood by a white man or a body of white men, without the authority of law, we request that in like manner, information may be sent to us. The shooting in cold blood, of a white man by an Indian, is *murder* punishable by *death*. So likewise if an Indian be *murdered* by a white man, the crime is the same, the punishment should be the same, and the safety and security of every community demands that equal and exact justice be meted out to all alike. We design paying our respects to your Governor and other public functionaries at San Jose, and hope to obtain from them much valuable information touching our proposed duties. Ere long we shall hope to meet many of you in your respective neighborhoods, and avail ourselves of your experience and advice in effecting the objects in view.

Very Respectfully, Your Obed't Serv'ts,  
REDICK MCKEE,  
GEO. W. BARBOUR,  
O. M. WOZENCRAFT

San Francisco, Jan. 13, 1851.  
P. S. So far as opportunities may serve the Commissioners will feel obliged if intelligent miners, traders, &c., will take pains to explain the purport of this paper to the chiefs and head men of such tribes as they may meet.