

FRIDAY MORNING, JAN. 24, 1851.

The Indian Commissioners.

We happen to know something about this commission, something of its members, something of its intentions. Of the commission we can tell the Legislature and Gov. McDougall, what they already probably know, that it has ample powers to treat, and form treaties, with the Indians, that they have a *carte blanc* for that purpose, that they are prepared with proper goods for presents, and can draw upon the U. S. officers here for such funds as are necessary. In reference to the members of that commission we may say that we have full confidence in their ability and integrity to consummate their mission in a manner honorable to their government, advantageous to our citizens, and for the best future good of the Indians.

As to their intentions and movements. Their intentions are peaceable treaties and extinguishment of Indian titles, if it can be peaceably effected. For this relinquishment of course they are empowered to secure to the native occupants of the soil a remunerative consideration in the way of instalments or some other equally satisfactory and protective, which shall amply pay the Indians for the rights which they yield, and secure to them the means of subsistence. The article in the News of Wednesday, and referred to by Mr. McCorkle, as reported by the *San José Argus*, "that Dr. Wozencraft had gone to Sonoma for U. S. troops, to proceed against these Indians" is not correct. We saw and conversed with Dr. W. yesterday, and know that such is not the case.

When the Commissioners first arrived, Gen. Smith offered to place at their disposal such force as they thought necessary, if he had that force at command. He at the same time suggested, what they had already determined upon, viz: that they would not approach the Indians in a hostile manner, but first exhaust all peaceable means to effect the object of their mission. To approach them with a powerful force of troops would only defeat their purpose. Dr. Wozencraft has been to Benicia, not to Sonoma, and has only made a requisition upon Gen. Smith for an escort.

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Gen. S. has, however, determined to call together all the U. S. forces suitable for a campaign against the Indians, should that course unhappily become necessary. Those stationed in Oregon, as well as at different points in this State, will, we have been assured, be concentrated so that they may at once be put into active service in suppressing the hostilities, if peaceable measures fail. That the Indians may have to be punished severely and made to feel our power ere they will listen to wisdom and act in good faith, is quite probable—but at any rate, peace measures will first be tried. This is right; therefore we do not regret the moderate manner with which our Legislature seems determined to act respecting these disturbances. In the first place, everything which is reported about them is a huge exaggeration, much of it rumor, much colored by individual desire for speculation, and much downright lying by those who are anxious for peculation by means of an Indian war, or any other way.

Mr. Baldwin has the right of the matter. The law is sufficient now, without special enactment to authorize the sheriff of the counties to call out sufficient force to protect the inhabitants from depredations, and the miners of those counties are the men best capable of performing the service. It would be a piece of unworthy meddling, should our State government throw any insuperable barrier between our Commissioners and the pacification of the tribes. A force of volunteers would be certain to do that; and, besides, it seems that these hostilities are seized upon as a pretext for issuing \$300,000 State scrip, with an avidity which shows plainly that the object is not so much, on the part of some, a defence of the miners as a fleecing of the people.

We deny emphatically the right of the Legislature to pass any such act upon grounds partaking so much of rumor, and so very uncertain in all respects as to facts. We say again that there are persons who would willingly plunge the country in a war, and the State into a million dollars of indebtedness, could they thereby make a fortune. This whole matter belongs to the United States Government. She has troops enough and money enough on this coast to make the war, carry it on, and pay its expenses. She has as fine a set of officers here as can be produced any where, and a little skirmishing would be to them pastime. Let the State authorities, therefore, attend to their own legitimate business, plunge the State no further in debt, and leave to Uncle Sam and his servants to conduct this matter, which belongs exclu-