
SAN FRANCISCO, *January 31, 1852.*

**SIR: My last letter accompanied (on the 15th instant) seven original
treaties made in 1851 with various Indian tribes in this State. Since**

then I have received your letter of 5th ultimo, acknowledging receipt of mine of 12th September. By the return of Dr. Wozencraft from the southern district I learn that the recent disturbances in that quarter have been settled, and at present the country is quiet. I am promised a history of the origin and causes of this outbreak by the representatives from that district, which will probably throw light upon the subject. At present I do not pretend to reconcile the conflicting and highly-colored statements pro and con.

Since my last despatch I have, at the request of the honorable committees of the Senate and Assembly, visited the present capital, (Sacramento City,) and endeavored in a plain way to disabuse the public mind on the subject of the extent and value of the lands reserved by our treaties for the settlement of the Indians. Some of the partisan papers have been trying for months past to inflame the public mind, and excite prejudices against the treaties by misrepresentations as to the extent and value of the reservations. They charged that we had given the Indians large bodies of the finest farming and mineral lands in the State, to the great prejudice of the white settlers. I thought it my duty, therefore, to comply with the request of the committees, and endeavor to show that this was all a mistake; and if it were otherwise, it would nevertheless be the best policy to acquiesce in the arrangement made and making for quieting the country, trusting to time and future negotiations to make the proper corrections. In point of fact, all the reservations thrown together would not probably exceed one per cent. of the whole area—certainly not that proportion of the really good lands. In my judgment there are not more than two or three out of the whole number of reservations which any practical man or company would purchase, *as a whole*, at even one cent per acre, subject to State and county taxes. Still, we had endeavored to include in every such selection some good lands, capable of subsisting the Indians; and it would have been wretched policy, as well as gross injustice, to have done otherwise. Our object had been to give them lands which they could work, and upon the product subsist after two or three years, during which the government would aid them by supplies of food, clothing, &c.

An imperfect report of my remarks on the occasion is contained in the Daily Union of the 27th inst., which I send by mail. The committees will, I think, recommend in their reports a general acquiescence in our treaty arrangements.

The immense war debt of the State, amounting already to near two millions, will probably deter the political economists of this legislature from voting any more appropriations for *such* purposes: if so, the frontiers will probably remain quiet. The Indian wars of California have been, I do think, the most absurd, unnecessary, and unproductive of any possible good result, of any ever waged by our people. It is now pretty well understood that the prime movers were not without *substantial pecuniary reasons* for their patriotism; and however the State may suffer in her financial resources or credit, *they will not be among the afflicted*. These are matters, however, which, not being connected with my official duties, I do not agitate.

I am still waiting with anxiety for your directions as to my proposed

S. Doc. 4.

249

visit to the seat of government, and trust the steamer hourly expected
may bring me letters.

With high regard, your most obedient servant,

REDICK McKEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City.
