
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, January 31, 1855.

SIR: With respect to the communication of the superintendent of Indian affairs in California, of the 8th of December, wherein he speaks of the inconvenience and almost insuperable obstacles resulting to the management of our Indian relations from the operation of the proviso of the act of Congress approved on the 31st July last, which is, that "no more than twenty thousand dollars shall be drawn by the superintendent, or be in his hands unexpended at one and the same time," which I referred to you on the 5th instant for such action as you might deem expedient, and upon which you now do me the honor to ask my opinion, I have to report that the inconvenience complained of is cause of embarrassment, and to be remedied only by a repeal of the proviso.

With this limitation existing, as is set forth by the superintendent, and as stated, it would be very embarrassing to his conducting the affairs of his superintendency properly; and Congress, it seems to me, should leave to the executive the control of the funds appropriated, as circumstances may demand, he having the power to remove, whenever he is of opinion that an improper use is being made thereof. Such would prevent an improper application to as great extent as any other

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means which would not produce too much detriment to the public service.

I can see no objection to the modification proposed, as, should it be adopted, it is the intention of this office to make remittances to the superintendent quarterly instead of only semi-annually, as heretofore. The letter of Mr. Henly is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

HON. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.
