

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Office Indian Affairs, January 31, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to remark, in regard to the reservations for the colonization of the Indians in California, that by an act of Congress, approved the 3d of March, 1853, it was provided that the President may make five military reservations from the public domain in the State of California, or the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, for Indian purposes, not to contain more than 25,000 acres each; that by an act approved the 31st July, 1854, it was provided that the reservations for the above purpose should be limited to three in number, each to contain not less than 5,000 nor more than 10,000 acres.

By the report of the superintendent of Indian affairs in that State, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, it will be seen that he is of opinion that the restrictions imposed by the last quoted act should be removed, from considerations of economy and philanthropy, and that the plan be enlarged and the provisions of the law of 1853 restored, thus increasing, as is demanded by the large numbers flocking to the reserves in operation, the means of improving, sustaining, and civilizing these people.

Should you approve of the plan suggested by the superintendent of thus increasing the number of reservations to five, as originally contemplated, I would respectfully recommend that it be laid before the President for his consideration, and, if approved, that an appropriation of \$150,000 for the additional two be asked of Congress for the year terminating the 30th of June, 1856, which is, in my opinion, sufficient.

It will be perceived that Mr. Henly recommends that one of these proposed reservations shall be located east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, beyond the limits of California, the justice of which I cannot admit. The people of New Mexico, in which Territory it is thus proposed to establish a portion of the California Indians, and finally all of them, are subjected to annoyances enough from those already among them, and I cannot see why California should be relieved at her expense.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

HON. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.