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STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA,  
*February 11, 1851.*

**SIR:** My last letter, of the 14th ultimo, announced our safe arrival, and covered a printed copy of our address to the frontier people of the

State. I hope the views therein expressed have met your approval, as I am happy to find they have with thinking, intelligent men here. That the paper would be approved by the politicians, who are seeking, through the Indian disturbances, to make themselves great heroes, and the only friends of the emigrant and miner, we did not expect. The present governor of this State (McDougal) is very belligerent in his feelings, and has ordered the sheriff of the county of Mariposa to call out two hundred men to *chastise* the Indians in that quarter. Volunteers expect to be paid from five to ten dollars per day, and *another* pretty little claim will thus be made up against "Uncle Sam," who is expected, eventually, to foot the bills. The governor tendered us a volunteer escort, but this we respectfully declined, as General Smith had ordered one for us, with every aid and assistance his department could afford. We are now *en route* for the Mariposa country, with an escort of one hundred and one picked men, ten officers, three six-mule covered wagons, and some one hundred and fifty pack-mules to carry our provisions, ammunition, and Indian goods, all under the command of Capt. E. D. Keyes, an experienced and excellent officer, from whom we feel assured, not only of protection, but of cordial co-operation in our endeavors to pacify the Indians with the olive-branch rather than the sword. We arrived here, by steamer, from Benicia, on the 8th instant; yesterday evening the horses and mules for transportation arrived; to-day we are arranging for the journey, and expect to be on the road, in the direction of the Tulare lake, early to-morrow morning. At Benicia we employed Captain Carson (brother of the celebrated Kit Carson, and known to the Indians of this country as the *one-eyed captain*) as interpreter, but as yet he has not joined us.

Col. Barbour and Dr. Wozencraft left early this morning for Dent's ferry, on the Stanislaus, about forty miles east, where there is a large rancheria of friendly Indians, with a view of getting some of their head men for guides, interpreters, and runners, to communicate with the tribes further south and in the mountains. At present it is considered unsafe for white men to visit the tribes in the disturbed districts. I remained here to superintend the landing of our goods. We expect they will overtake us about the crossing of the Mercede. We are gathering all the information we can, and by no means despair of effecting, in the name of their great father, the President, a very general pacification; but it will be a work requiring address, time, and probably a large outlay of money for goods and provisions. So many direct injuries have been inflicted on these Indians by the whites, and so many promises made them of restitution and redress, all of which remain unfulfilled, that they have lost all confidence, and are now, we are told, fighting with desperation for their lives and country. The whites have driven most of the southern tribes up into mountains, from whence, as opportunities serve, they sally out into the valleys to steal and drive off cattle and mules, as an only alternative for starvation. Then comes up the cry of Indian depredations, invasion, murders, and the absolute necessity for exterminating the whole race! You will see, therefore, that we have a two-fold difficulty to meet, and, if possible, obviate. What we may be able to accomplish is known only to Him who has the destinies of all nations and races of people in his hand; but we go out

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in the hope that our efforts will result in great good to the Indian population, to the State of California, and to the credit of our common country. In this land of gold every movement involves immense expense, and you must be prepared for meeting large requisitions, under the most economical course we can possibly adopt. We received at San Francisco the report made by you to the President, touching the affairs of your bureau, and were gratified by its perusal. The message of President Fillmore, and the reports from the various departments, have met very general approval throughout this country. We hope by the first mail—at all events, by an early steamer—to receive from you further remittances, and any further instructions you may deem useful. We will write you from time to time, as we may find opportunities of sending to the bay, as to our progress and operations.

In haste, but very respectfully, your most obedient servant,  
REDICK McKEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington.*

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