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SAN FRANCISCO, *April 1, 1852.*

SIR: My last despatch, under date of 17th ultimo, acknowledged the receipt of your letters of January 28th and 30th, and February 4th. My effort to obtain information touching the abuses referred to in Major Wessells's report to General Hitchcock, to which you called my attention, has resulted in the development of no facts tending either to enlighten my ignorance or sustain the injurious impressions which that report was calculated to make, at least by innuendo or insinuation. Enclosed I hand copies—

1st, of my letter of the 16th March to General Hitchcock, asking for information; 2d, of his reply, dated 23d idem; 3d, of Major Wessells's

"remarks," or additional report to Captain E. D. Townsend, referred to by General Hitchcock, March 21st; 4th, of my letter acknowledging the receipt of these papers, to General Hitchcock, dated March 26th.

From this correspondence you will see that "rumors" and impertinent speculations as to motives and facts but ill understood, lay at the bottom of the whole affair; and that while I have endeavored to clear up any seeming obscurities in the transactions referred to and commented upon, I have at the same time endeavored to suggest the impropriety of basing grave official reports, necessarily implicating the honor and integrity of public servants in another department, upon such unreliable *data*. While personally on the most pleasant social terms with all the gentlemen in the military department, I have in several instances observed a disposition on the part of officers in the service to underrate the capacity of mere "civilians" for conducting Indian negotiations, &c., and strong doubts about the propriety of the law or arrangement by which the management of our Indian relations was transferred from the *War* to the Department of the *Interior*. Why this should be so, or that "*esprit du corps*" should in any way influence gentlemen as fond of their case as most of the army officers in this country undoubtedly are, is to me quite inexplicable. To guard against the possibility of any such difficulties or misunderstandings in future, I deemed it proper to refer to General Hitchcock's and Major Wessells's communications at rather unusual length.

Within a few days I have received reports from the temporary agent in Scott's valley, advising that the Indians were all quiet, and apparently anxious to secure the confidence and good wishes of the whites. Many of the Klamath tribes, including their principal chief, *Ishack*, had left the river and removed to the reservation, and were building houses and preparing, in a small way, to cultivate some of their lands. He says they are waiting anxiously for my return, and for the completion of the arrangements made in the treaty for their permanent settlement. It is very important that as early as June I should be enabled to revisit that part of the State, and, either going or returning, visit and treat with the Trinity and Salmon River Indians. Some of the Trinity bands are troublesome to the packers, miners, &c., and my presence is strongly urged by the parties interested.

On the 20th ultimo I had a public interview with the Committee on Reservations in the Assembly, at Sacramento, and enclose a printed copy of my remarks on that occasion. I was too late to arrest fully the action of the House but I am assured by several influential senators that no offensive joint resolutions will be adopted by that body. From all I can learn, some of agent Wozencraft's reservations are perhaps liable to objections, and may be materially improved. In the ratification of his treaties in the Sacramento valley, provision might be made for a change of boundaries, or an entire change of location. If you think my remarks likely to be useful, perhaps the Intelligencer and Republic will copy them.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

REDICK MCKEE

Hon. LUKE LEA,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City.*