
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
Benicia, April 11, 1855.

SIR: I am happy to report that since my letter of February 26, affairs on the Klamath river seem to have taken a more favorable turn. Captain Judah was sent, March 17, with a detachment of thirty men, to accompany Mr. Whipple, the special Indian agent, to the scene of difficulty. Captain Judah was instructed to aid the agent by all means in his power, and if the agent saw fit, to select a site for an Indian reserve, to examine it with reference to its suitability for a military post.

Captain Judah and Mr. Whipple arrived in the Indian country March 22. They found that the majority of the whites, who had interests in farming and mining at stake, were ready to leave the settlement of the troubles to them. There was much excitement among them, caused by the murder of one of the most influential chiefs named Patora, by a white man, who enticed him out to hunt for the purpose. Patora had not only given up his arms, but induced other Indians to do so, and "was universally respected for his honesty and friendly offices towards the whites." There were two companies of "volunteers," under brothers named Woodward, who would appear to be the authors of all the trouble. Being out of employment, they have embodied themselves, with the intention of claiming compensation for their services in "suppressing hostilities." Captain Judah reports that they went to one of the Indian ranches, called the Indians from their homes, shook hands with them, and immediately afterwards, each white picking his man, numbers of the Indians were shot. They then took away with them

some squaws "under the name of prisoners," whom they "outrageously abused." In calling attention to this report of Captain Judah, Brevet Lt. Col. Buchanan, commanding Fort Humboldt, remarks that this is "the battle! which has been described heretofore in the newspapers in such glowing colors." And, "as these men are now making efforts to get pay, as having been in the service, I deem it my duty to call especial attention to this case, in order that the government may be prepared to act on any application that may be made in favor of paying them. Muster-rolls of the party are in preparation, as I am informed."

March 28, Captain Judah writes as follows, after premising that the hostile Indians had separated, and taken to "recesses unknown and almost impenetrable to whites," in consequence of which he had abandoned the pursuit of them: In furtherance of "my intention to mete out justice to the Indian murderers, (for nothing short of their lives will satisfy the people upon the river,) through Indians now friendly, and of allowing the remainder to come in, it became necessary for me to communicate with the Indians below this point, numbering over three hundred warriors. Convinced, upon the representations of those who knew them best, that it would be useless in their present alarmed state, after the cowardly murder perpetrated by Captains C. and M. Woodward upon one of their ranches, and the indignities imposed by them and their men upon the squaws, to request them to meet me, I took with me Captain Young, Mr. Walker, and six men of my command, (having previously sent word to the mouth of the river of my intended visit,) and on Monday, 26th, proceeded in canoes to a ranch called Senigoyne, about twenty miles below this point, [camp Strawbridge,] and eighteen below any white settlement. The portion of the river I descended has never before been traversed by any government official, and by but few white men. In view of this fact, I made such observations upon the general character of the country through which it runs, and its adaptation to meet the wants and comfort of the Indian, as I thought might prove useful to any officer who should succeed me. I found every ranch deserted to the point referred to, and no Indians to meet me at the point designated. I immediately despatched two Indians to the mouth of the river, with messages from Captain Young and Mr. Walker, (well known to them,) and just before dusk last evening they arrived at my camp to the number of fifty-one, embracing the most prominent among them, and all armed with a species of long knife, bows and arrows. The details of our conference would be too extended to particularize. They complained much of the treatment they had experienced at the hands of the volunteers, enumerated their acts of forbearance, and asked me what I could expect of them, when, after their voluntary offer to operate against the hostiles, they were not permitted thus to justify their friendly protestations, because a portion of the whites (referring to the command of Mr. C. Woodward) would not concede the privilege of killing *them* (themselves) whenever they felt inclined to do so.

"They were perfectly ignorant of troops, or their character; and had been so often deceived by individuals representing themselves to be in

authority, that I found it next to impossible to convince them that I had any, or to make them understand its character. Before we separated, they became convinced that my intentions towards them were friendly; promised to co-operate with the Indians above in punishing the murderers, and agreed to meet me and them at a point about four miles below my present camp, on Saturday, 31st instant. Upon my return a few hours since, I found Mr. Whipple, who brought with him three Indians from the mouth of Salmon. I shall try to go to Hoopah valley to-morrow with Mr. Whipple, and bring down a deputation of the Trinity Indians. I have very little doubt but that the war party will be made up, and start to accomplish its object by the middle of next week. In the mean time I expect three of the hostile Indians to be brought to my camp, according to my directions, to-morrow—they having, through squaws, expressed their desire to come in. A majority of the people upon the river seem, from all I can learn, to acquiesce in the plan I am now endeavoring to carry out. There are, however, desperadoes who would, if an opportunity offered, kill any of the hostile Indians upon sight." Captain Judah thinks the presence of a permanent regular force in that section of the country is absolutely necessary to preserve peace between the whites and Indians. Should an Indian reserve be established there, the question will be settled, and Fort Humboldt may be broken up, and moved on to the reserve, depending on circumstances.

The 29th of March, eight hostile Indians and five squaws, instead of only three, came into Captain Judah's camp. Four were well armed with yagers. These were not implicated in the murders; but the names of the murderers were known to Captain Judah. The 30th March, Captain Judah held a conference with the Hoopah Valley Indians, "who number, it is said, nearly two hundred warriors."

April 3, a grand conference was held—deputations from the several tribes, to the number of seventy-five warriors, being present. Captain Judah writes: "I succeeded in securing their services in the execution of the plan I had determined upon. The war party will meet at Young's ferry on Friday, 6th instant, where I shall furnish them with ten rifles, and food, and give them the names of the eight murderers whom I wish to have killed. Any of the remaining hostiles whom they may encounter are to be sent in to my camp, where they will be taken care of with those already here, until arrangements are completed to locate them upon the river below, then return to their old ranches, situated as they are in the vicinity of the murder of the white men, being certain to prove fatal to them." "I leave to-morrow morning with Captain Young, for the mouth of Salmon river, twenty-eight miles above this point, for the purpose of making known to the people of the river what has been done, in order that they may do nothing to frustrate our operations; also, to station a guard of Captain Young's company at the mouth of Salmon for the protection of the friendly Indians near that point, against the desperadoes of Orleans bar and mouth of Salmon. I am daily in receipt of intelligence of outrages upon squaws, which I shall endeavor to prevent by moral, the only kind of suasion my limited authority permits me to use."

I make one more extract from Captain Judah's report, concerning the volunteers, showing who the Captain Young, to whom he refers, is:

"A man named Young, himself nearly an Indian in habits from long residence among various tribes, is in command of the only reliable company of volunteers in the field, being formed of men who live upon the river, and have interests at stake. The men of this company are at their respective residences, and ready to respond to the call of their leader at any moment. Captain Young is in the entire confidence of all the Indians below this place, and has his spies out at this time. He is daily apprized of the whereabouts of the Red Caps, who number only fourteen, the number of those hostile being made up probably to the number of thirty-four from other ranches." "I have this morning (March 22) apprized Captain F. M. Woodward that his services are no longer necessary, and he will leave in a day or two. I shall see his brother in the course of the day, and do not doubt but that he will also disband."

In conclusion, I have only to say, that Captain Judah's reports prove what I stated in my communication of February 26, that, "in this, as in a thousand other instances, the Indians were not to blame." After suffering the greatest outrages from the whites, they were still ready to listen to reason, and even to take arms against the few who, having killed several whites in retaliation, fled to the mountains.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,

Major General.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

New York, May 14, 1855.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

S. COOPER,

Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

May 15, 1855.