
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Sacramento City, April 15, 1852.

SIR: Your letter of the 12th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed by you to General E. A. Hitchcock on the 7th instant, has been received; and, in reply, I have the honor to refer you to the memorial addressed to me by the senators and representatives from the counties of Trinity, Shasta, and Klamath, a copy of which will be transmitted to the Senate, in obedience to a resolution adopted by that body, and a duplicate copy of which I transmit, herewith, for your perusal.

I cannot undertake to discuss or decide a point of difference between yourself and the respectable gentlemen representing the counties named in the legislature; nor can I discern that, in the letter which I addressed to you on the 9th instant, there is any misapprehension or misconstruction of your statements. The localities which you have described as the immediate scene of the outrages are all situated within the counties of Trinity, Klamath, Shasta, and Siskiyou, the counties named in the memorial addressed to me by their representatives. In your letter of the 12th instant you attempt to palliate the imputations made upon American citizens in your letter of the 5th instant, by declaring that you referred to "Mexicans, Chilians, Sydneyites, and renegades from justice in the old States," as the "murderers of Indians in cold blood," and as the parties whom you desire to have arrested and punished. If, in your letter of the 5th instant, you referred to "Mexicans, Chilians, and Sydneyites," why did you follow up such a reference by an assumption, in the same letter, that their aggressions against the Indians have, "at all events, brought lasting disgrace upon the American name?"

I cannot admit that the American government is responsible for the crimes of "Mexicans, Chilians, and Sydneyites," or that "lasting disgrace" can be brought upon "the American name" by the misdemeanors of "renegades from justice in the old States."

But you may have forgotten that, in your letter of the 5th instant, you name, as the perpetrator of one of the most atrocious of the outrages detailed by you, "a man from Missouri," an American citizen. I am authorized, by members of the legislature and other respectable gentlemen, to inform you that this "man from Missouri" is the son of a highly respectable merchant at St. Louis; and that himself and his business partners in California, Messrs. Roach, McDermit, and Stentz, are gentlemen of irreproachable character. These statements, authenticated so fully, incline me to believe that there are no good reasons to justify a change of the opinion expressed in the communication which

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I had the honor to address to you on the 9th, that an investigation of the circumstances will fully acquit the American citizens residing in the northern counties of the charge of "murdering naked and defenceless Indians in cold blood."

In the letter addressed by you to Brevet Brigadier General Hitchcock, on the 7th instant, you invite his attention to "the propriety of sending immediately a small body of troops to each of the Indian reservations near the junction of the Trinity and Klamath, and in Scott's valley."

The localities designated may be well adapted to the service; and, if deemed to be so by the distinguished officer referred to, I confidently trust that he will not consider himself bound to enforce treaty stipulations which have not received the sanction of the Senate of the United States. The treaties negotiated by you in those localities, so far as they assign fixed and determinate boundaries to valuable lands reserved for the permanent use and occupation of the Indians, are opposed to the wishes and the interests of the people of this State.

It may be proper to remark, that I have assurances of the united opposition of our delegation in Congress to the ratification of the treaties, and that their rejection by the United States Senate may be regarded as beyond a doubt. I have entire confidence that the officer in command of the Pacific division will not voluntarily interpose obstacles to the public interests, and I trust you will patiently await the action of the Senate, and not so far disregard the well-matured judgment of the people of California, and the State authorities, as to assume a position or adopt measures calculated to aggravate difficulties—the speedy termination of which is so imperatively demanded by the public good.

I renew to you the assurances given in a former letter, that I will exercise all the power reposed in me to punish offenders against the laws, and to promote the public peace.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGLER.

HON. REDICK MCKEE, *Indian Agent, &c.*
