
DISBURSING AGENCY INDIAN DEPARTMENT IN CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, April 17, 1852.

SIR: Referring to my regular despatch of the 1st, and a special letter sent by the mail agent, Major Fearis, on the morning of the 5th instant, I have now the honor to enclose copies of a correspondence with Governor John Bigler, of this State, growing out of a report I sent him about the recent outrages committed by the whites upon the Indians on Humboldt bay, and on the Klamath, viz:

1. My letter to his excellency, dated 5th April.
2. His reply, dated 9th April.
3. My second letter, dated 12th April.
4. My letter to Gen. Hitchcock, dated 7th April—enclosed in above.
5. His excellency's reply, dated 15th April.
6. My third letter, dated 16th April.

As the principal facts connected with those outrages are referred to in these letters, I deem it unnecessary to give you a separate report upon them, which would necessarily be little more than a repetition of the details. What the results will be, in regard to the peace of that frontier, or to the investigation which Governor Bigler *promises to make*, time alone can determine. While I hope for the best, I have my fears. You will please to say whether you approve the suggestion I made as to the expenses which the trial and conviction of the aggressors may involve, in case they are incurred and reclamation made by the State treasury—which is, however, rather unlikely to happen; and also, whether you deem the general style of my letters to his excellency as proper and expedient. So much pains have been taken by the partisan press, and party leaders in the legislature, to falsify our acts and mislead the public judgment on the whole subject, that I have found it necessary to use rather unusual means to correct various misstatements and misapprehensions; but I hope not altogether without success.

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The State authorities are thorough partisans, and let no opportunity pass without giving the administration a *dig*, with a view to the manufacture of capital for *Buncombe*. From the correspondence now furnished, as well as from my previous despatches and enclosures, you will perceive that I have, though very reluctantly, had my hands full of business. Fortunately, I have had but few other and more direct duties, pertaining to my agency, claiming my attention, owing to the empty state of our treasury. As early as practicable, I trust you will remedy this difficulty. If it be true, as stated in the papers, that the appointment of superintendent of Indian affairs in California has been conferred on Mr. Beale, much of the responsibility heretofore resting on me, in the way of correspondence, will be removed; and full instructions will, I hope, indicate clearly our relative duties and relations to each other, and to the service. The appointment, if made as above, was wholly unexpected by the people here of either party.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

REDICK McKEE.

HON. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington.

P. S.—The legislature is still in session, but expected to adjourn, perhaps, in the ensuing week. No *joint resolutions* touching Indian affairs yet matured, and I do not think any will be.

R. McK.