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MERCEDE RIVER, CALIFORNIA,  
June 1, 1851.

DEAR SIR: Having learned, from several officers of the United States army now in service on the river San Joaquin, that the commissioners, in their treaties with the various Indian tribes, thought of the necessity of appointing some medical gentleman to attend to the prevention and curacion of those contagious and malignant diseases which, if permitted to exist among them, would soon spread abroad among the whites, and be attended with ruinous consequences to all those who would be living east of the coast range of mountains, I therefore very respectfully solicit the appointment to this office, and trust that the references I will give you to the officers of the regular army now in this country, and to whose regiments I was attached in the campaigns of Mexico, will satisfy you fully of my qualifications for the office.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
W. M. RYER.

Col. ADAM JOHNSTON,  
*United States Indian Agent, California.*