

"[My Dear Sir: -- To-day Brought Me
in Receipt of Your Esteemed
Favor...]" Sacramento Daily Union,
July 12, 1851: p. 2, col. 3.

COTTON WOOD, Shasta County, }
June 28th, 1851. }

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,
U. S. Indian Commissioner.

My Dear Sir:—To-day brought me in receipt of your esteemed favor, dated Benicia the 7th ultimo, and I am highly gratified to learn of your intention to visit this part of the State. I am convinced from some late facts, that your presence is much required in this district.—Within the past week our troubles and misunderstandings with Indians, have been augmented to such a degree as to keep up a fearful excitement. The Indians in the vicinity of Pitt Fork, are more daring in their depredations than ever before. Several whites have been killed and many badly wounded, and a great deal of property in the shape of stock stolen by them. The vicinity of the Springs or Shasta City, suffer more particularly than any part of this district.

A few days since a volunteer party of about thirty men, proceeded against some Indians on the eastern side of the Sacramento river, to avenge the murder of a man which was perpetrated on Churn Creek. They were out three days, and killed some fourteen or fifteen Indians.

From many facts which this community have before them, it places beyond a doubt that many of our Indian troubles arise in the first place from aggressions made by the white man; this however, has ever been the case from our earliest intercourse with the Indian tribes,—hence the great necessity of your influence. I feel confident that no part of the State requires more prompt action than we do here, and I will be most happy to give you all the assistance in my power to bring about a better state of affairs. At present I am busily engaged in harvesting my crop, which is unusually large, and I have employed a great many friendly Indians, who live in the vicinity of my ranch. I think that in estimating the number at five hundred, that I am not over the mark, including women and children—and when you visit me, I will be able to call in a great many more. I have already

in estimating the number at five hundred, that I am not over the mark, including women and children—and when you visit me, I will be able to call in a great many more. I have already advised them of your intention.

Up to this time I have heard nothing of the troops to which you refer. In going among the Pitt River Indians, I would recommend a strong escort.

In about two weeks I intend going below to Sacramento and San Francisco, but if I could learn that you should visit here soon, would make the time longer.

Very truly, yours,

P. B. READING.

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DAILY UNION

SACRAMENTO, SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1851.