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SAN FRANCISCO, *July 15*, 1851.

SIR: My last letter was dated 30th ult., since which time I am without any of your favors to acknowledge.

I enclose a copy of a letter I addressed to Mr. Collector King on the 10th inst., in relation to an advance of funds, and his reply, agreeing to "take the responsibility" of advancing me the sum of \$5,000. This amount I received, and with between \$2,000 and \$3,000 I paid off

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several of our most pressing liabilities. The remainder I retain for the purchase of provisions and expenses of my party in the northern portion of the State, for which I expect to set out in a few days.

For \$1,000 advanced for Dr. Wozencraft last month, and the above \$5,000, I have given Mr. King drafts on you, payable out of the appropriation for making treaties, approved February 27. He will retain them here till after the arrival of the mail steamer due the 20th inst., so that if you have forwarded the funds to this place as requested, I may retire them; otherwise they will go forward for payment at Washington. If Colonel Barbour, who is still progressing south, as I understand, should draw on me for funds, as I think quite likely, and the next mail shall not bring me checks from you, I will be forced to sell a bill on you to my bankers on the best terms I can obtain. It will be better to lose a few hundred dollars in exchange than have the government dishonored by the continued inability of its public servants to meet their accruing expenses. In this event I shall probably make a bill on you for \$6,750: item, "for compensation," &c. My letter to Mr. King, asking for his assistance in carrying on the business of our mission, you will observe, by the copies annexed, was strongly backed by notes from Mr. Allen A. Hall, Gen. S. D. King, Gen. John Wilson, and Senator Gwin.

These gentlemen all know, either from experience or the report of others, how difficult it is to carry on public business in California even with proper facilities, and much more so when these are withheld by the government at home.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

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REDICK McKEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington.*

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