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S. Doc. 1.

HEADQUARTERS, PACIFIC DIVISION,

San Francisco, August 31, 1852.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the measures reported by my letter of the 30th July have succeeded in temporarily repressing a disposition to hostility on the part of the Indians on the upper waters of the San Joaquin; but I deem it my duty to suggest that unless something decisive shall be speedily done to determine by law the rights of the Indians, nothing but disorder and confusion, with bloodshed, can be anticipated.

The question to be determined is, whether the Indians in this State have rights, and shall be protected in them, according to legal usage in the older States? The practice is assumed by the whites in this country of occupying the desirable lands, either for gold hunting or agriculture, without leave of the Indians; and this inevitably leads to irritation, and must, in the end, produce wars of more or less serious character.

It is not wise to leave this state of things to settle itself; but competent and honest agents of the government should be employed to make treaties with the Indians calculated to give them support and protection, while the best portions of the country must be purchased for the whites. The task of settling this matter will become more and more difficult the longer it is delayed. I do not mean to be understood by these remarks as recommending the sanction of the treaties hitherto made, which I have many reasons for supposing worse than ill-judged.

As matters now stand, the United States troops are placed in a most delicate and awkward position. The whites go in upon Indian lands, provoke the Indians, bring on collisions, and then call for protection, and complain if it is not furnished, while the practical effect of the presence of the troops can be little else than to countenance and give security to them in their aggressions; the Indians, meanwhile, looking upon the military as their friends, and imploring their protection. This is precisely the case on the San Joaquin, where an extensive and expensive war may be expected to break out at any moment, produced by the conduct of the whites, and not of the Indians—the object of the former being to drive the Indians out of the rich valleys, that they may appropriate them to their own use.

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

E. A. HITCHCOCK,

Col. 2d Infantry, Brer. Brig. Gen'l Comd'g.

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HEADQUARTERS, PACIFIC DIVISION,

San Francisco, October 29, 1852.

SIR: Division orders No. 52, herewith enclosed, announces that the Yuma Indians have agreed upon peace with the whites, and there seems to be good grounds for the hope that the troubles in the southern district of California have been terminated. Brevet Major Heintzelman returned to Fort Yuma on the 10th instant from an expedition up the Colorado. He reports that the navigation of the Colorado above the junction of the Gila, for about a hundred miles, is better than below the