

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
Benicia, California, September 3, 1856.

COLONEL: Since my communication of the 19th of August, I have received communications from Colonel George Wright, 9th infantry, of the 25th and 27th of July, and 3d, 17th, and 24th (two) of August, copies of which are herewith enclosed; all of which I would commend to the attention of the Lieutenant General commanding the Army and

the Secretary of War. I also enclose a copy of instructions to Colonel Wright, dated the 1st instant.

By Colonel Wright's letter of the 17th August, it will be perceived that "Governor Stevens has countermanded his requisition for two additional companies of volunteers, and those now in the field will be required forthwith to leave the country." See my communications addressed to the headquarters of the army, dated 4th and 19th August; also a copy of instructions, already forwarded to the headquarters of the army, to Colonel Wright, dated the 3d of July. It will also be seen by the letter of August 24th, that Colonel Wright has recovered uninjured the howitzer abandoned by Major Haller.

I have never doubted for a moment that as soon as the volunteers ceased their depredations and savage barbarities on the Indians, arrangements could be made satisfactory to all concerned. Nothing is required but common justice and the ordinary feelings of humanity to be extended to the Indians, to keep them quiet and to preserve the peace of the country. The object of the war has been, from the commencement, one of plunder of the Indians and the treasury of the United States, prompted by political and pecuniary considerations, not doubting, in consequence of the appropriation of \$900,000 on account of a pretended Indian war in California, and the appropriation of \$70,000 on account of a small Indian fight in the Rogue river country, that Congress would, no matter how great the expense, pay the bill. The advocates of the war, in reference to the expense, have uniformly referred to the California appropriation as conclusive evidence that the expenses of the recent war would be paid by the United States. Hence, powers not conferred on the President of the United States were assumed by Governors Curry and Stevens in raising volunteers and marching them beyond their own jurisdiction, and making war on Indians peaceably inclined, and who would not have made war on the whites if they had not been attacked. All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *A. A. G.*,
Headquarters of the Army, New York.