

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
Benicia, California, September 19, 1856.

COLONEL: For the information of the Lieutenant General commanding the Army, and the Secretary of War, I herewith forward a copy of a letter from Colonel Wright, 9th infantry, dated September 8, 1856. He has gone to the Walla-Walla country to superintend the establishing of a post in that country, to be under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe, and to visit the several neighboring tribes, to ascertain their feelings and disposition towards the whites. I, however, apprehend no difficulty whatever with them, and certainly not if the volunteers can be kept out of the Indian country. The object hitherto has been plunder—on the one hand, the treasury of the United States; and on the other, the extermination and plunder of the Indians, who have a large number of horses and cattle. I do not believe Governor Curry could have fitted out a winter expedition against the Walla-Wallas, but from the fact that they had a great number of horses and cattle, by the capture of which the volunteers expected a large remuneration. This information is from sources not to be doubted.

By the next steamer I will transmit a report of the treatment and management of Indian affairs in California. It was my intention to have transmitted it by the steamer of the 20th instant, but delayed in consequence of not receiving important information anticipated.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS, *A. A. G.*,
Headquarters of the Army, New York.