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No. 95.

SAN FRANCISCO, *September 27, 1853.*

**GENTLEMEN:** In the execution of the law of Congress in relation to Indian reserves I have met with great and unexpected difficulties, and as it is important to me that I should be supported in my movements by the delegation in Congress from this State, I beg to submit the following fact: That, so far as I can discover, there is no land of the proper character and sufficient quantity south of Stockton on which to locate the reservations anticipated by the act of Congress, except such as are covered either by pre-emption claims or Spanish grants, and these of course cannot be applied to public use without previous purchase. I have therefore thought of making a conditional purchase of the necessary lands from the claimants; and as there is no time to be lost, if the plan already sanctioned by Congress is to be put in execution this winter, it is my wish to do so at once, on receiving your sanction to that measure. I would propose to make these purchases, subject to their ratification by Congress, at a sum not to exceed the government price of public lands, or at any appraised value, by disinterested persons, if desired by the government.

In connection with this subject, I enclose copies of the letters of Indian agent B. D. Wilson, and of Lieutenants Stoneman, Williamson,

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and Parke, who have fully explored the country as far as the Tejon pass, and whose statements fully sustain all I have said.

Permit me to beg a reply to this at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully, &c.,

E. F. BEALE,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

HON. WM. M. GWIN and HON. M. S. LATHAM.

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No. 96.

In view of the case as presented by the superintendent of Indians in the above letter and accompanying documents, I do not hesitate to say that he should make such conditional arrangements, subject to the approval of Congress, as in his opinion are indispensable to the successful operation of the law under which he proposes to locate the Indians, care being taken to so locate the reservations that they cannot interfere with or be surrounded by white settlements. I am authorized by Mr. Latham to give his concurrence to the above.

WM. M. GWIN.

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No. 97.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, *October 2, 1853.*

DEAR SIR: In the multiplicity of other engagements I have had some difficulty in finding a moment to respond to your letter of the 27th ultimo in relation to Indian reservations in California.

I should regret very much to find that you were unable to execute the act of Congress passed on the 3d March last. The plan contemplated by that law is in my opinion the only practicable one for preserving the Indians of this State from destruction. Unless they can be gathered together, and placed under military protection, we shall have a bloody war, which will result in the extermination of the race. The Indians should be withdrawn as much as possible from the white population, and taught to rely upon their own labor and industry for their support. The supplies which nature has heretofore furnished them will soon be cut off, and an attempt to sustain them otherwise than through their own labor would be impolitic.

It is well known to you that whilst the plan you are endeavoring to carry out received my warm support, yet I was utterly opposed to making the reservations as large as they are now authorized by law. Whilst we have some of the richest agricultural lands in the Union, the fact cannot be disguised that we have a large body of land in this State which cannot be cultivated. The greater portion of our population are engaged in commerce and mining. They are consumers, and in order to feed them all of our agricultural lands should be put under cultivation. We should not depend upon other States or foreign countries for our breadstuffs. If five reservations are made in this State,