
DURKEE'S FERRY, ON THE KLAMATH RIVER,
October 4, 1851.

SIR: Referring to my respects of the 3d instant, I have now the honor to enclose for your examination and approval, copies of the treaties with the Clear Lake Indians, at Camp Lupi-yu-ma, on the 20th August, and with four tribes of the Russian River Indians, at Camp Fernando Felix, on the 22d idem; also to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 9th August, received at this camp late on the evening of the 3d instant. The remark to which you call my attention, in the copy of my letter to Dr. Wozencraft of the 4th June, was neither made nor submitted to give offence, but merely to account to *him* for my inability to supply him with funds which he had for some weeks expected.

My reference to the letter addressed to the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart was for the purpose of supplying some details which I had not time to repeat in my letter to your office, and which, if deemed important, might be extracted by his private secretary for your use. I did not, of course, contemplate the least impropriety in communicating any such matters to the official head of the whole Department of the Interior, of which yours is a constituent bureau; nevertheless I am obliged by the kindly reference made to the "office regulations" on the subject, which, at the time, had escaped my recollection. Having submitted numerous facts, suggestions, and speculations, touching the objects and prospects of our mission to California, in my letters from New York of the 9th and 11th of November; from Panama, December 6, 1850; from San Francisco, January 13, 1851; from Stockton, February 11, 1851, and from camp Gipson, March 24, 1851, the receipt of none of which has been acknowledged, I began to feel the burden of my responsibilities, and a natural desire to know if my course was approved or disapproved by your department. I thought my views were right, as I knew my designs and intentions were; but if they were not approved at home, I knew of a very short process by which I could relieve myself, as well as your office, of all embarrassment in the premises. Such public ser-

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vice as I have had assigned me here in California has long since demonstrated, at least to my own satisfaction, that the office is very far removed from a *sinecure*; and I have thought that my communications were, at least, deserving of an acknowledgment of their receipt. Since the receipt of your letter of May 22d, expressing your approval of our general course in treating with the "sui generis" tribes in California, I have felt relieved, and anxious to complete the work intrusted to me with all despatch and all fidelity. My habits, as an old merchant, lead me to answer all letters promptly, and to expect the same from others. But enough of this. We are still waiting the slow, cautious, and suspicious movements of the Klamath and Trinity Indians. To-day a delegation from the Hoo-pahs, who occupy the latter river, arrived, and report their "se-as-low," or head chief, with numerous "mow-im-mes," or under-chiefs and braves, as approaching in canoes, and will visit us to-morrow. As this tribe occupy the river valley, and control the fisheries (salmon and salmon-trout are taken at them in great abundance and of the finest quality) for some thirty miles, their attendance at the council is considered highly important and encouraging. They have, in all, twelve or thirteen rancherias, or villages, and their se-as-low gives law to the whole river and many small bands on the mountains. If the Cappels, Morias, and Scragoins, from below, arrive also to-morrow, as expected, I am now encouraged to hope that we shall have a general council, or pow-wow, on Monday, the 6th. If I can only satisfy the tribe living here, the Wech-pees, and those above named, and induce them to go willingly and heartily into a treaty, all will end well. Their influence will be controlling with all the other and smaller bands. Mr. Durkee, the gentleman to whom I referred in my letter of yesterday, is rendering me very great service in collecting and satisfying the Indians of our peaceful and honorable intentions. If I can effect a treaty here, its moral influence will extend to the ocean on the one hand, and to the headwaters of the Klamath on the other. In this mountainous region I fear I shall find great difficulty in finding sufficient farming land for a suitable reservation, so as to include the fish-dams and burying-grounds of the Indians, both of which are sacred and indispensable in their eyes, and from which they cannot be removed. The gold region commences on the Klamath, twelve or fifteen miles above our camp. In all our selections of land for the Indians we have aimed at giving them agricultural lands, outside of any gold field or auriferous district. Any different policy would insure endless encroachments on the part of the miners, and consequent difficulties between them and the Indians. Before we leave this camp I will have the honor to address you again, giving the results of our efforts. I am not very sanguine, though not without hope.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
REDICK McKEE.

CHARLES E. MIX, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Washington City.