
No. 98.

SAN FRANCISCO, *October 14, 1853.*

MY DEAR SIR: Since the receipt of your note of the 27th September last, I have given the suggestions made by you a careful consideration; and I have also taken occasion to consult upon the matters suggested with several of our best-informed citizens from different portions of the State.

I have been for some time aware of the serious embarrassments you would have to encounter in executing the act of Congress; and I can think of no other plan than the one you suggest at all consistent with either the policy or duty of the government.

If the locations selected should prove the property of the government, no liability would be incurred; if they should prove private property, the government would be secured the privilege of acquiring them at a fair equivalent, if their acquisition should appear desirable. This would be infinitely better than a temporary location, subject to the chances of a forced removal, or an imposition upon the government by the demand of exorbitant terms.

Permit me to assure you that my knowledge of your familiarity with the business you have in hand, and of your entire devotion to the duties of your office and the public interests, command from me complete confidence in such policy as you may hereafter suggest with regard to our

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Indian affairs; and that I shall, with great pleasure, lend my aid to
carry out such course as you may indicate.

With great respect, your friend and servant,

J. A. McDOUGALL.

E. F. BEALE, Esq.,
Superintendent, &c.
