

IV.

REPORTS FROM THE PACIFIC DIVISION—CALIFORNIA AND OREGON.

*October 28, 1851.*—General Hitchcock reports that the Indians who have committed depredations south of the Gila, lived habitually south of that river until the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

*August 31, 1852.*—The same reports Indian hostilities suppressed for the present, but, unless provision be made by law to define and protect their rights, disorder must ensue. The whites now commit aggressions and demand military protection against retaliation on the part of the Indians.

*October 29, 1852.*—The same reports that the Yuma Indians have agreed to a peace, and the troubles in the southern district are quieted; remarks respecting the navigation of the Colorado, above the junction of the Gila, which may prove to be the best route to the Great Salt Lake.

HEADQUARTERS, PACIFIC DIVISION,  
*Benicia, October 28, 1851.*

SIR: I have just had an interview with Colonel Harasthy, a member of the legislature of California, from San Diego, who mentioned, in answer to many inquiries addressed to him, that the Indians who have committed depredations in Mexico along or south of the Gila, from a point above some two hundred miles from its mouth, though now many of them ranging in the country north of the Gila, habitually lived south of the river until the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Colonel Harasthy passed through that country in 1849, and spoke as if he knew the facts he represented, and he gave the information simply as truth, and without any view to its effect upon Mexican claims for depredations committed by those Indians.

If Colonel Harasthy be correct as to his facts, the Indians in question, so far from being regarded as depredating in Mexico from the United States, are, on the contrary, intruders in the United States from Mexico; and I have thought proper to communicate the statement for such use as the department may think proper.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HITCHCOCK,

*Col. 2d Infantry, Brev. Brig. General.*

Hon. C. M. CONRAD,  
*Secretary of War.*