
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,
December 4, 1851.

SIR: I have not for some time past made my reports or transmitted my accounts to the department so promptly as is required by the law. This was not the result of negligence, or because I did not know that it was my duty to do so, but owing to other causes.

When the United States Indian commissioners determined to act separately, they made a temporary division of the State, for the purpose of concluding treaties with the balance of the Indians of California. That division included my entire agency of the "valley of San Joaquin." To the division for that purpose, of course I could not, nor did I, object, but rendered them all the aid in my power. Knowing that, under the laws, no one agency can conflict with another, or a sub-agency exist within the bounds of an agency, I looked upon the division as but temporary, and continued to exercise my duties as formerly. During the summer I was constantly riding over the reservations, endeavoring to regulate their internal affairs—talked with the Indians daily—was continually among them until they came to respect me as the "official;" and, in short, did the whole of the labor, and exercised all my powers to promote the interest of the Indians and the government, under the impression that I was acting within the limits designated in my instructions, which is "the valley of the San Joaquin." I believe I may say that the Indians under my charge are the only ones in California who have received personal attention, in the way of collecting them upon these reservations, and impressing them with the object of the government. They are certainly under better control and in much better condition than in any other agency within the bounds of the State.

It has been claimed by a gentleman *residing in this city* that I was acting within his agency—that the bounds affixed by the commissioners themselves, by which my territory was divided among them, had been recognised by the department. Under this state of things, I supposed that the department no longer required my services, and that I might receive such a notice. I therefore concluded, if that should be the

case, it might not be necessary for me to make a report or transmit my accounts, as I should, on such a notice, have returned to Washington and settled my accounts. Not finding any such notice from the department, and no one to take charge of the Indians of the San Joaquin valley, I continued to manage affairs there as formerly. On learning that the Indians below were restless and dissatisfied, in consequence of not receiving some subsistence, believing that I could prevent an outbreak and keep them quiet if I could furnish them some provisions, I came to this city to do so, if possible. On arriving in the city, I consulted Doctor Wozencraft in regard to the matter. He informed me that he could not raise any food for them. I then looked about, and found parties willing to furnish subsistence, and rely on the government for the pay hereafter, and contracted for beef and flour, as I before wrote you. That gentleman, then—residing in this city, out of any agency, two hundred miles from any considerable number of Indians—sets up a claim to control not only the entire valley of Sacramento, but the territory of my agency and that of Colonel Barbour, and expresses his surprise that I still continue to act in what he terms his agency. These conflicting claims are always calculated to do injury, and perhaps I should have resigned; but, on reflection, I thought it my duty to remain with the Indians until the department should signify to me that my services were no longer required. On this day he has notified me that he will assume as agent in my district. Instead of going into that region, or, what is more properly his agency, the valley of the Sacramento, immediately among the Indians, and attending to their wants, he leaves on Saturday, on a wild-goose chase of several hundred miles to the south. As I have said, that gentleman, who assumes to control so much, *resides in this city, two hundred miles* from any considerable number of Indians. He may live in this city, thus free from his charge, and fatten on the paid puffs of the press; but I fear government will find the Indians *under his charge* will not be so greatly benefited by it in the end.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

ADAM JOHNSTON.

Hon. A. H. H. STUART,
Washington City, D. C.
