

California Supy 1196

O. M. Hozercraft

Washington Jan 24. 1853

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True copies of letters by  
him to Sup<sup>t</sup>, Beale & gone  
to Dep<sup>t</sup> - which correspon-  
dence he finds was not  
forwarded by the Sup<sup>t</sup>.

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Recd - 26 Jan 53

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Washington D.C.  
January 24 1853

Sir

On examination of the file of Correspondence in the Indian Bureau, I find an omission in the Correspondence from myself.

It would appear that Superintendent Beale has failed to forward the same, with the exception of one letter, which singular to say was written by me at His instance and by His dictation.

Enclosed please find true copies of Correspondence with Superintendent Beale, and likewise an communication addressed to your self, which was placed in the Superintendent's hands for transcription to you.

The Correspondence will now be complete and conform to the requirement of the Call made by the Senate.

Thos. Luke Lee  
Comptroller of  
the Office  
Washington

Very Respectfully  
your Obedt. Servt.  
G. M. Rossmore

San Francisco September 9<sup>th</sup> 1850

Sir

In conformity with your request I hasten to place before you, a brief Synopsis of the State of Affairs, as they now exist within My District, - like also within the Southern District, which fell under My Supervision by request of the agent who formerly had charge of said district, - an emergency however occurred subsequently which rendered it imperative on me to visit, and act in said District,

Since My last report to the Department, dated June 23 1850, there has been no material change or event, in the above mentioned districts of much moment, with the exception of an occurrence of rather an alarming nature, - one which was well calculated to induce the Indians to break their fealty,

It was in consequence of having a number of their People killed by a party of Whites,

This occurred within the Reservation on the Kym River in the early part of July, and as they (the Indians) appeared to be ignorant of a cause sufficient to incite, and bring down on them, such summary punishment, it was well calculated to produce serious results, which in all probability - ~~it~~ would have occurred had not Genl. Ditchcock taken

active Measures to prevent it,

Immediately on learning that there was a probability of such a design against the Indians I hastened up, with a hope of being able to prevent it, but unfortunately the fatal act was consummated before my arrival, so happy were they indeed, that the Indians themselves were unapprised of the fate that awaited them.

Most all the Indian Men were absent at the time, at work some distance from home,

After informing myself of the particulars, I deemed it due to the Executive of the State to inform him of the fact, as the probability was, it might terminate in a war, The following is a copy

Kings River July 13<sup>th</sup> 1852

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir

I deem it proper to inform you of a serious occurrence, which has lately transpired on Kings River, where a Party of Men are charged with having made an attack on some Indians living within a Reservation set apart for their occupancy, and having killed some several of them,

The facts of the transaction as stated to me are of such an aggravated nature, that I deem it my duty to take cognizance of it, as the only means of preserving the peaceful relationship established, and now existing, between the Indians & the Whites

and I cherish the hope, that the Executive of  
The State will deem it of sufficient importance,  
to join with me in maintaining the Supremacy of  
the Law, as the only sure means of preventing the  
recurrence of similar outrages, and preventing  
a war,

Please address me at San Francisco, where  
I expect to be on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst

Hon<sup>ble</sup> J. Bigler  
Governor of the  
State of California.

Very Respectfully  
Yours W. M. W.  
W. M. W. W. W.  
J. J. J. J. J.

I regret to say that I have not received  
an answer to the above communication, and  
am thus left in doubt, whether or no the Governor  
deems the subject of sufficient importance to claim  
his attention,

I returned to San Francisco, with a view of  
having warrants issued for the accused parties, and  
then bring them to trial before the Federal Court,  
but I am sorry to say that I have been appointed  
by the U. S. District Attorney, after giving the sub-  
ject that attention which its importance demanded  
informed me, that he was not aware of the existence  
of any law that would apply in the case, the Feder-  
al Court having no jurisdiction in cases where life was taken

The Gentleman who commanded the party in this unfortunate affair, was some afterwar elected Courts Justice, consequently I did not think it worth while to prosecute him in his own County,

Thus I have I been disappointed in my endeavors to settle this difficulty in a manner, which would justify me in the belief that it would be satisfactory and final, - Reluctantly have I been compelled to leave this unfortunate affair to time and the fate, which appear to hang over the red Man, hattering on his entire destruction,

The Indians in the mean time, became uneasy, and shewing evidence of a turbulent spirit, They determined to hold a grand Council. The licensed trader, (Majr Savage) being apprized of the fact, encouraged it, with a hope of being able to satisfy them of our good intention towards them, and thus if possible to appease their grief and anger,

Several Companies of Soldiers were ordered to be on the ground; Provisions were ordered to be furnished them, when they should assemble in Council, and thus display to them the power to punish, and at the same time, the humanity to befriend them,

The Council terminated satisfactory to both parties, with the exception of a very unfortunate event,

which occurred immediately preceding the opening  
in Council, - Capt. Savage, who at the time, was  
on his way to attend the Council, met with a  
violent and untimely death, by the hand of  
the Pasts, who on a former occasion had killed  
the Indians,

This was a sad Calamity: The cutting off  
from life and usefulness, a human being, is  
deplorable under all circumstances, But, the  
same so, when it falls on one like Capt. Savage,  
a Man of enterprising energy, and a will to  
direct it aright, through, and by which the  
Sed gained a singular influence over the  
Indians, - Indeed his controlling power was  
almost absolute - and so far as we could  
judge, that influence was directed to the  
amelioration of their unfortunate Condition,

They received his loss most, tho it will be felt  
at large, for he was a benefactor in his limited  
sphere. His place will long remain unoccupied,

Apprehensions, were, and still are entertained  
- ed, that the Indians who were under his imm-  
- ediate control would go to the Mountains, and  
there remain, as far as possible from the Whites  
as fear and hatred can impell them,

They indeed have gone <sup>in</sup> to the Mountains,  
but, promise to return soon, -

We will hope for the fulfillment of the promise,  
but in the mean time propose using such means  
as may be within our ability to further the realisa-  
tion; otherwise we may anticipate the beginning  
of the end, a war, terminating with their exter-  
mination.

These same bands of Indians were in open  
hostility with the Whites, on our arrival in the Coun-  
try, in the winter of 1850. They were brought  
in, and the war thus terminated by pacific meas-  
ures. Should they commence again, we question  
very much the efficacy of the same measures  
and have reason to doubt the practicability of  
Coercive Measures.

These same Indians, have furnished  
conclusive proof of a fact, which was before  
but problematical and very doubtful, (ie)  
whether or no, they could be made to support  
themselves by cultivating the soil, - whether  
they could be induced to get their bread in  
fulfillment of the Divine Command, - by the  
sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy food,

The result has been as cheering to the Philanthro-  
-pists, as it must be to the Christian, and  
we may express our surprise, that it is not equally  
so with those claiming to be political economists  
- who predict the speedy extinction of the Indians, in  
consequence of their close proximity to the Whites,

And are active, in working out its fulfillment

It is evident, that the time is now near at hand, when the entire family of Man must fulfill the omniscient Command, This world is now, an industrial world, and the aboriginals of this Continent can not long remain an exception,

Their boundaries are now being circumscribed by the family of Joseph, They will now some have to call for the ~~abundant~~ gifts of a bountiful Providence otherwise, than by casting their valuables into the stream, and offering them up thro' the Sacrificial fire, with a hope, and belief, that they will thereby propitiate the good Spirit, and they then will receive the bountiful gifts with which I satisfy the wants of Nature,

They will some have to come down from the enjoyment of these vague, and poetical notions to the plain, unsophisticated, matter of fact reality of tilling the soil, and this, as has been done in this particular locality by raising an abundance of produce, and we do not see why this should be an exception. Do all the balance, I will presume that when like measures are taken with the rest, it will

be found that they all can be made to produce from the soil an ample support,

The Philanthropist and the Christian may rejoice, and the Political economist might as well join in the Chorus, for he will find out in time, that it will cost more to kill them, than it will to let them live, —

I feel the liveliest pleasure, — probably not unmixed with some selfish gratulation, — in reporting to you, that there has been no serious infraction of treaty stipulations, by any of the numerous tribes with whom I have treated, and when it is borne in mind, that I have treated with several of one hundred bands of Indians, — since our separation at a joint board, — a greater portion of the number now in open hostility with the Whites, and but few, if any of them were restrained from practicing that which is a virtue of necessity with them, since, and owing to the encroachments of the Whites

I may be allowed to indulge in those feelings which I am, that much good has been done in saving life and treasure, as well as alleviating the wants and sufferings of a race, who have just claims on our sympathy, and the more so, by reflection on the fact, that it has been done at so small a cost, inasmuch it has been measurably effected by making the simple promise, that it was the intention of the Great Father (the President) to intend

and assist them to live like the Whites, and that Land would be set apart for them, which they could call their home, and live by industry in peace.

This simple promise was found sufficient in most instances to secure the above mentioned happy result, the exceptions however were such as the diet of humanity would prompt, without reference to a particular policy, those Indians who were suffering for the want of food, (being denied access to their former stores) were supplied with a limited amount of food, in some of the Reservations it was found necessary to furnish a liberal amount, in others none at all.

I am sorry to say that I deemed it expedient, through economical ~~motives~~, prudential motives, to limit them to the smallest amount practicable with safety, and, as it was rather a difficult matter, to determine the point between economy and safety, (having no precedents to guide me in this new field of physical philosophy) I, it would appear, permitted <sup>the</sup> miserly economy to overcome the just one, the consequence was, receipts became unprofitable, and indeed three Indians who were about to starve, to recur to their old time harmful custom, this of course is to be expected, and it is the part of wisdom to make arrangements by which they may support themselves,

