

1850

Head Quarters, Pacific Division

San Francisco March 1. 53

E. S. Townsend

U. S. Genl.

J. M. Col. Lytton

Comd'g Fort Reading, Cal.

Relative to settlements
on public lands and
relations with Indians.

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Head Quarters Pacific Division

San Francisco, March 1, 1853.

Sir

Your two letters of February 11, have been received. The commanding General desires me to say that the one enquiring as to the right of sitting upon lands in California, neither granted nor ceded in any way, presents the question in so clear a manner that it will be referred to Washington for a decision. In the mean time the General directs that no obstacle be made to the occupancy of the country by citizens.

There are two points which may be borne in mind on this subject; one, that it may be claimed that California came into the Union, with the usages of the Spanish and Mexican governments in regard to (or disregard of) Indians;— the other, that under existing laws it requires an order from the President of the United States to remove by Military force intruders upon Indian lands.

I am Sir,

Very Respectfully

• You O.P. Sargent

E. S. Younger

Asst. Adjutant

Major W. G. Wright

U.S. Army

Company Fort Snelling

Minnesota