

Washington, D.C., Sept. 16, 1853.
Dear Sir,

I have the honor to receive from you a copy of Drafts issued by Mr. Stuart, your predecessor in office, in the month of Nov. 1851, by A. Johnston, U. S. Indian Agent in California, to aid of Cal. Fremont, & endorsed by him. The party holding said Drafts has others of the same kind, & about the same date, to the amount of \$15,000, & I understand that he received them in good faith, at the full amount represented upon their face, supposing that they would be paid on presentation at the proper Department. He subsequently learned that payment of similar Drafts had been refused, on the ground that there were no appropriations to cover them - and being a resident of one of the western States, & unacquainted with Commercial usages, he has suffered these Drafts to remain in his hands up to the present time without presentation or protest.

Will you be good enough to inform me, in reply to this, whether the Government has ever repudiated any similar Drafts, or refused payment thereon, & if so, upon what grounds. - also, whether the bill passed at the late session of Congress for the relief of Cal. Fremont, had any reference to these transactions - and whether, if these Drafts should now be presented to you.

Department, & funds genuine, they would be recog-
nized & paid. If not, whether they are likely to be
so recognized or paid at any future time.

Very respectfully,
D. S. Williams

John D. Williams

Mr. Robert McClelland,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

The enclosed is a copy of a letter from the
California State Bank, dated at San Francisco
the 15th inst., in which it is stated that the
said bank has in its possession a number of
certificates of deposit for the sum of \$10,000
each, issued by the California State Bank
in 1851, and that the said certificates are
now in the hands of the California State Bank
and are being offered for sale to the public
at a price of 75 cents per \$1,000. The said
certificates are now in the hands of the
California State Bank and are being offered
for sale to the public at a price of 75 cents
per \$1,000. The said certificates are now
in the hands of the California State Bank
and are being offered for sale to the public
at a price of 75 cents per \$1,000.

Will you be good enough to inform
me in reply to this letter whether the Government
will purchase any of the said certificates
if they are offered for sale to the public
at a price of 75 cents per \$1,000. I am,
Dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
D. S. Williams

Copy.

1— Exchange for
\$1000.—

San Francisco, Nov. 11, 1852.

Three days after sight of the
first (second unpaid) pay to the order of
John Charles Fremont One Thousand Dollars,
(Value received, and charge the same to account
of ~~John C. Fremont~~ Adams Johnston,
U. S. Indian Agent,
Valley of San Joaquin.

To Hon. Alex. H. H. Stuart,
Sec. Interior,
Washington, D.C.

(over)

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes and scribbles covering the bottom half of the page.]