

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

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the drafts of Mr. Stewart, your predecessor in office, drawn in Nov. 1851, by A. Johnston, U. S. Indian Agent in California, to order of J. C. 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 Col. Fremont, had any reference to these transactions - and whether, if these drafts should now be presented to your

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 me to you of the 15th inst. in relation to the \$10,000 of bonds which you were good faith of the full amount of \$10,000, & in relation to their face, supposing that they were to be paid on presentation at the proper department. The enclosed covers that part of the letter which has been referred to the Finance Committee of the Senate, and being a series of one of the western states. Commercial papers, as has been suggested, that they should 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 any objection to my circulating any bills, or if not, what amount.

Also whether the bill passed at the late session of Congress for the relief of Col. Fremont, has any reference to these two sections, and whether if the draft should be presented to you

for payment thereon, if so, what amount, that you may

be prepared to pay thereon, if so, what amount, that you may

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be prepared to pay thereon, if so, what amount, that you may

be prepared to pay thereon, if so, what amount, that you may

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 ~~of~~ 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.]