

California 1854
J. Rutherford Worcester
Baltimore
30th April 1854.

Asks an interview with
Secretary, on the subject of
improving the condition
of the western Indians,
particularly in California.

Recd May 1, '54

Respectfully referred to
the Commissioner of Indian
affairs

A. A. White.
Acty. Secy.

Dept. of the Interior
May 12 1854

File.

1st May 1854

Baltimore Apr. 30th 1854

To the Honorable the
Secretary of the Interior of
the U.S. at his Depart-
ment Washington D.C.

Sir

I beg leave, most respect-
fully, to solicit the attention of the Hon^{ble} Secretary,
to a farther consideration, of the present and pros-
pective conditions, of the Indian population, of the
Pacific, particularly of California.

Having been several years in that country, and
a large portion of the time, surrounded, by these wayward
children of the forest, whose true situation, can be
known only, by mixing with them, and wit-
nessing their various conditions, in peace and
war—in plenty & famine, and all the various
changes, their peculiar and equivocal relations,
to the white population, and their precarious
modes of subsistence, subject them to

The plan, which I have in
contemplation, to suggest to the Government,
for bettering the condition of the Indians,
in California, I beg, respectfully, to bring to
the notice of the Hon^{ble} Secretary of the
Interior—but, as such suggestions might
be too voluminous, for a communication in
writing, and too barren of interest, shorn
of such illustrative explanations, as would
be necessary, to shew their importance, I would
most respectfully ask the Hon^{ble} Secretary,
if consonant with usage, and not in-
compatible with his views of the case,
that he might be favored with an interview,
at a convenient hour, on Monday next,
or any other day, when I could present
the subject more satisfactorily, and answer
such queries, as might arise, much better,
than it would be possible for me to do on paper.
The effort now, being carried on to domesticate
and imbue the Indian, with habits of in-
dustry & a proper respect for our Government
and people, are most humane and
praiseworthy—at the natural emanation
of a Christian nation; still, the Indian

is incredulous, vindictive & stubborn;
rendered more so, by the villainous treatment,
they have received, at the hands of the whites
from time to time; some having authority,
but, the most part, having none; and, for
the least resentment, on the part of the
untutored savages, for the most violent
and flagrant wrong, they have been slain
by hundreds, from time to time and
treated in such a manner as to re-
quire the greatest care, and consid-
erable time, to establish confidence, and
advantageous, friendly relations, with
a sufficient nucleus, of each Tribe, to be
able to control and govern the balances.

Trusting that the Honorable Secretary
may not regard my communication as ob-
trusive, (being myself for a long time, a resi-
dent of California, and personally known
to the Honble Mr. McQuinn & Genl. James A.
McDougal, to whom, I beg to refer, and,
that the request therein contained, may be favorably
entertained, of which I beg to be informed, by the
Honble Secretary. With every assurance
of distinguished consideration,

I have the honor to be

Your Obedient Servant

J. Rutherford Worster