California 473

J. Hatherford Worsters
Baltimore
30 Apr. 1854.

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

Pet. May 2, 54

Respectfully referred to
the Commissioner of Indian
affairs.

A. B. White.
Acting Adjutant.
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 Department, near Washington D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following considerations of the present and prospective 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 unfortunate children of the forest, their true situations can be known only by mixing with them, and witnessing their various conditions, in peace and war, in plenty and famine, and all the various changes their peculiar and equivocal relations to the white population, and their precarious model of existence, subject them to the fate which I laid in contemplation, to suggest to the Government, for altering the condition of the Indians in California. I have most respectfully, to bring to the notice of the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, and as soon as suggested, I might be too voluminous for a communication in writing, and too barren of interest, from want of illustrative explanation, as would be necessitating to show their importance. I would most respectfully ask the Hon. Secretary if contradictory with usage, and not inconsistent with his view of the case, I 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 I would be able to do, myself. The effect now, being carried on to domestic and immense the Indian, with habits of industry and a proper respect for our Government and people, are most humane and jurisprudence, at the natural emanation of a Christian nation; still, the Indian
ed incredulon, vindictive & stubbornly rendered more so by the villainous treatment they have received, at the hands of the whites, from time to time; some having purposely, but the most part, having not, and in the least resentment on the part of the indocile savage, for the most vital and flagrant wrong, they have been slain by hundreds from time to time and treated in such a manner as to require the greatest care and considerable time to establish confidence, and advantageous friendly relations with a sufficient nucleus, of each tribe, to be able to control and govern the balance. Trusting that the Honorable Secretary may not misunderstand my communications as obdurate (being myself for a long time a resident of California, being personally known to the Honble. M. C. Living & Gen. James A. McClellan, to whom? I beg to refer and that the request, there contained, may be favorably entertained of which I beg to be informed. By the Honble. Secretary. With every assurance of distinguished consideration have the honor to be Your obedient servant,

J. Rutherford Wister.