Secretary of War,

California, March 25th, 1854.

Encl. for information. Copy of what made by Lieut. J. C. Battery dr. Infantry, camp Fort Jones, California, concerning Indian affairs near his post, and concerning death of chief "Coke" and the murder of the Shasta chief "Bill" by the whites.

P.S. Aug. 3rd, 54.

Report to the Secretary of War, 1854. The request that he send copy of letter from the information has been sent to the Secretary of War.

July 30th, 1854.

Washington, July 25, 1854.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, for your information a copy of a report made by Lieut. J. B. Bonneyerette, 11th Infantry, Commanding Fort Jones, California, concerning Indian affairs in the neighborhood of his post, and announcing the death of Tspaha Tsy the Rogue River Chief, and the murder of the Shasta Chief “Bill” by the Whites.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Pepper Davis
Secretary of War

Mr. R. M. Bellard, Secretary of the Interior
Sir,

I have the honor to report that about the 12th inst. I was informed by one of the Indian encampments near this place, that an outrage had been attempted on a white woman living between Yreka and the Klamath River, during the absence of her husband, by an Indian called "Joe" of the Shasta tribe, and that the Indian had been prevented from accomplishing his purpose by the resistance of the woman and by the arrival of some white men on their near approach he fled. I immediately sent Lieut. Ford to inform the chief of the Shasta, "Bill," that I required the unconditional surrender of the Indian "Joe" that he might be punished.

Lieut. Ford went with the Indian Agent Mr. Birdston to the chief and made my demand known to him. Bill made an effort to obtain a promise that Joe should not be hung and at the same time equipped himself as being angry that the offense had been committed. I had now been directed Lieut. Ford to require an unconditional surrender of the Indian, for two reasons because I wished to test the protestations of friendship I had received from these Indians, and because I intended, as I did, to hand the offender over to be tried by civil authority. I could not assign for his being only punished, strictly according to law. After some hesitation, Bill promised that the offender should be delivered to me at the fort within two days. Three days having elapsed and having heard nothing of Bill, I went to the fort with all of the force at my disposal for the purpose of compelling the surrender.
If you on reaching Lynden my camp was visited by two of the principal Indians of the Siletz valley band, who represented themselves as very anxious that you should be given up, and endeavored to obtain a promise from me that he should not be hung. This promise I refused to give for the reasons already stated, but agreed that in case the offender was surrendered before I reached the Klamath River I would return to Fort Jones, satisfied; but if I was forced to cut the tree to get him, I told them that I should hold the tribe responsible for his misconduct and that I should engage the services of a large band of De Chutes (Oregon) Indians to aid me in catching and punishing them.

Early the next day I resumed my march without holding any further communication with the Indians although inclined to do so; but before having marched ten miles, I was overtaken by an old Indian,formerly chief of the Shastas and other Indians, all mounted. The old chief was very anxious that I should go with him to see that the woman had not been hurt, and it was with some difficulty that I could make him understand that the intention was almost as culpable whether successful or not. Indeed the Indian could not see why I spoke of the offence as being of such magnitude, when their squaws are constantly running down, sometimes by men on horses, and raped.

Having ascertained where I intended camping that night, getting me to promise that I could and then his return the next day, the old man with the other Indians pushed on for the camp of the Shastas, in the mountains, promising to make it that you should be given up the next day.
I encamped then at the willow spring, within a few miles of the Klamath, on the night of the 17th inst., and purposed remaining at this point un­til the evening of the next day, in order to give Bill every chance of remaining at peace with us; but just at daybreak a messenger from Cottonwood arrived with the information that at noon that day, a pack train had been attacked on the Siskiyou Mountain by Indians, and one of two men with the train killed the other barely escaping.

The Siskiyou Range being the country through which the Rogue River Chief known as "Hipka Ykee" and his band roamed. I at once concluded that it was he who had attacked the train; and this being a law at the interest of almost all of the citizens of this section of the country, I wished to follow him up as rapidly as possible with the hope of being able to catch and punish the Indians engaged in the murder. My promise to the Shasta Indians to wait their arrival at my camp, with the necessary preparations for quick movement prevented me from leaving until mid-day, when the Shasta not having arrived we started for the Siskiyou, leaving one pack animal unloaded and every man carrying one blanket with ten days rations of bread and salt, that night we reached nearly the top of the mountain. From Willow Spring I sent Edek Hord back to Hipka to inform him to join us, the chief of the Dechutes of my being called off in an other direction, and early on the morning of the 18th he overtook me at the point where the murder had been committed, accompanied by some thirty eight of the Dechutes well mounted and armed to aid in the capture of Hipka. These Indians han
made a long march, contrary to my wish, I was forced to remain that day on the mountain with them, that their horses might rest and graze.

At daylight on the 19th taking the raid of Apthoe we started across the mountain and needed more than twenty-five miles, mostly over a very rough country, the De Shutes being well-manned and riding anywhere, with practiced eye detected signs of the retreating Indians, when but few whites could have detected any indication that they had passed. By the sign, the De Shutes thought that Indian force engaged in the murder.

Late in the afternoon we reached a point where the signs indicated that the Indian had recently encamped, and halting, there were sent out, who on their return reported that two Indians had gone off to the northward; up a valley with the mule taken from the train, while the other four, with soon horses, stolen from some driven two nights before, had gone in the direction of the river on the Klamath, and that one Indian, after had been traced, going up the valley, quite recently, after the Indians with the mule. This Indian they believed to be one of some adjacent tribe, who having come to visit the camp at which we were halted and finding it deserted was returning to his home. The direction taken by the Indian with the horse, inducing me to believe that the murder had been participated in by that to Indian, I determined to pursue them and to inflict some punishment. Following their trail, at nightfall we encamped, and at daylight next morning moved on toward the camp about 10 miles. The De Shutes stout discovered the Shasta camp and bringing back the information, we pursued ahead.
with the expectation of engaging them before they could gain their strongholds.

On reaching the brink of a tall bluff opposite to an olive on the tip of which the Shasta camp was, we were hailed by an American, who called out that Capt. Goodall was with the Shasta and wished to see me, supposing that he was there to inform me that the Indian "Joe" had been given up and that he knew nothing of my having tracked the murderer of the Parker to this camp. I told Capt. Goodall to come over to me, when I expected that on hearing the fact I had to communicate, he with the three men with him would join one in an attack on the Shasta. However, on reaching me, he informed me that Yphaka had come into the Shasta camp about two hours before and had reported after telling them of the murder he had just committed that they should join him in waging war on the whites and that instead of agreeing to this, the Shasta had killed Yphaka, his son, and his companion, the fourth Indian with him escaping, and being doubtless the Indian white foot track the De Shutes had seen the evening before. Capt. Goodall further stated that these Indians were very anxious to remain at peace, that the Indian Joe had been brought in, about two hours after I had left my camp at the Willow Spring, where I had promised to wait, and had then gone out to Yphaka, where he remained two days, when he had returned with him to the Shasta camp. He immediately on killing Yphaka, two Shasta Indians had brought his scalp with that of his son to him in Yphaka, soliciting his interference to prevent my attacking them when Yph
That trail should have led me to their camp, when by authority of the Indian Agent, he had come out sending my company and the Dechutes Indians to find a camp—accompanied by Lieut. Hord, Capt. Goodall, the chief Lem-tsi, and one or two others. I passed over to the Kasta Camp, where I was received by the Indians with every demonstration of confidence and friendship. After expressing my approbation of their course in killing Zephe, I demanded that the horses taken from him and the boy for should be given up to me, to which they gave prompt assent, and Capt. Goodall volunteered to bring 'em in with him the next day, which under the circumstances I agreed to. Having talked with them for some time, assuring them of my friendship so long as they behaved and advising them to come in and learn to work, I told them to catch up the horses taken from Zephe, and I wished to take them with me, this was done at once, and after all their request giving them a paper, requesting that they might not be molested by the whites, I mounted and rejoined my company in camp, from which we moved on that night to the Hamath, and on the next day camping beyond Gyeck. I rode into town for the purpose of making some arrangement with Mr. Peckrough as to the disposition of the Indian boys, when he should be brought in by Capt. Goodall. On reaching Mr. Peckrough's room I found Capt. Goodall had just arrived there and to my astonishment and regret he had neglected to bring for.

He gave several reasons for his omission, but deeming none of them sufficient, I spoke very plainly to him of his violation of a voluntary promise and
told him that having started out to get Joe, I was determined to have him, even though I was compelled to retreat my steps. Capt. Goodall, who had omitted to bring the Indian in with him, not thinking of the importance attaching to his voluntary surrender, admitted his error and told me that he would start back that night and get him.

The Indian Agent having given to Capt. Goodall a note authorising him to bring in Joe, he started the same night with the Chief Bill, who was in Yuba, for the Shasta Camp, and I returned with my command to Fort Jones.

Capt. Goodall knewing that both the Indian Agent and myself desired the Shasta Indian to come into Scott Valley, determined without my knowledge to endeavor to induce the whole band to come in at once, and on his way to their camp unguardedly stated such to be his intention, in conversation with several white men. Having reached the Shasta Camp, the band readily agreed to accompany him to Fort Jones, and on the morning of the 24th, they all started, the Indian numbering, men, women, and children, some thirty, reaching the Ilamaddi River in the afternoon of this day, they camped to one hundred yards above the ferry, where the Chief Bill with five of his own men wished to cross the river for the purpose of fishing, left their men in camp and went with Capt. Goodall to the ferry; on arriving opposite the ferry they saw four white men with the De Shute Chief, and to the latter of whom had that same day promised me solemnly not to molest the Shasta, advancing to the water's edge on the opposite shore, with rifles. Capt. Goodall at once seeing that the Indian
une to be attacked, told them to run, and called to
the whites not to fire, that he was acting by authority.
Five of the Indians with him ran, the chief Till
being lame was unable to do so, they were all four
into, both by the whites on the opposite side of the
river and by others on the same side with the
Indians, in fact they were completely surrounded
by whites and the De chutes who had been hired
to engage in this villainous affair.

The chief Till was severely wounded at
the first fire, two other Indians were killed and
two others escaped very badly wounded—a white
man named Mr. Stewart went up to Till for the
purpose of scalping him, while yet alive, but Till
struggling with him, got his knife away, when this
man after having beat him about the head with
his pistol, shot him several times after which he
was killed by a man named Blackey. I under-

stand, when not yet dead he was thrown into the
Klamath River. Most of the Indians having escaped
into the adjacent chappareal, where they became
the whites began a search for them, during which
an Indian from behind his bush, fortunately shot
and killed a white man named Mr. Haney.

The De chute Indians who had not done
much toward killing the Shasta, plundered their
camp, taking four children, ten or twen horses
and several guns, and one of them, I am in-
formed, at the instigation of the man Blackey in-
decently mutilated one of the murdered Shastas
and afterwards the Band started with their plun-
der for Rogue River.

Before dark of the same evening, the
Shastas who had escaped came opposite the Klam
house and called the letterwood men cowardly, dared them out to fight; an invitation which these men declined, preferring the shelter of a heavy log house on which the Indians fired repeatedly, for more than an hour.

Sap, goodbye came on to that point at once and informed me of this cowardly and brutal murder on the part of the whites. When mounting his men on mules, with Lieut. Hood I started for Letterwood for the purpose of obtaining such information as might enable me to bring the whites to punishment, and by sending Lieut. Hood on to Fort Union to rescue the children I put on by the De Shutes that they might be returned to the Shatast. I ascertained the particulars of this murder to be as already stated, but could obtain no information as to the names of more than three white men engaged in it, these were Preckley, Mr. Stewart, and C. W. George.

Mr. Atwood accompanied me and made every effort to obtain information for the purpose of bringing the murderers to trial. We should have obtained warrants for the three men named and Judge Potter of the District Court, who took as much interest in the matter, would have caused a grand jury to be summoned that they might be indicted; had Mr. Atwood and myself not been perfect strangers, we would have continued in this action; but as the nature would only result in the death of the guilty parties, the greater number of the populace widely regretting not that they have among them such splendid 'roundhead's, but that hence the assassination of the Shatast was attempted, it had not been completely successful.
The Shakers vowed vengeance against all the white, and I feared that innocent persons living on farms within their reach, might be made to suffer for the acts of those who sought immunity from retribution in the time of Catskill.

I however sought the Indians whom I have had encamped here during the winter and explaining the whole matter to them and telling them that I had sent to rescue the stolen children and that I would make every effort to have the guilty whites punished.

I directed them to see the Shakers and to tell them that the elders and many white citizens were friendly to them, that if I had known they were coming I should have been at the camp with a party of soldiers to protect them, and that I wished them to retaliate only on those men who actually participated in the murder of their chief, that if they killed me other whites I should have nothing to say.

From this act of treachery, I feared that any influence I might have with these Indians, any confidence which my treatment of them might have inspired, was all lost; but much to my suprise and gratification on night before last, just after my return from Catskill, two of the Shakers, one a boy, brother to the murdered chief, came into Dutch and sent word to Mr. Rutherford and myself that they wished to talk with us.

Yesterday morning early they came to Mr. Rutherford's room and we had a long talk with them. They stated that they knew the men who had attacked them, that they were
satisfied that all the white were not teachable and finally promised to endeavour to induce the remainder of the band to come to that place.

Mr. Pittgruille fed them, made them some presents and took them under his protection as soon as he saw there were white men who would make these two unarmed Indians, if they could do so, with safety. The Shasta are to send me word if they will come here and in case they wish to do so, I shall have a party of soldiers to protect them on their way, as I should have done before had I known that they intended coming in.

Capt. Gordon deserves the highest praise for his constant and humane efforts in behalf of these Indians, by which he has lost much time and money and has moreover rendered himself disagreeably unpopular with the vagabond class of the community. It was unfortunate that he attempted to bring the Indians in just when he did or that intending to do so, he should have arrested his purpose to whites on the road but he had not arrived at the same just opinion of the character of many of the mining population as that which had already forced itself on me some months since when with the same object in view I took care to have a party of soldiers at the ferry.

Mr. Geiger, myself leaving for the Atlantic States on one of the steamers leaving San Francisco on the 15th of June, and I would respectfully suggest that if possible, he be arrested in San Francisco to be tried there before the U.S. Court, I shall endeavor to send an affidavit with reference to his participation in the murder by the next ex-

prep. This is the course proposed to be pursued by
The Postoffice with reference to the other men engaged in the matter, as soon as he can get their names.

I would respectfully call the attention of the commanding General to the fact that these Indians when attacked held a paper from me, intended to guarantee their safety, while Mr. Fordell was acting with the written authority of the Indian Agent, and I hope by that the most serious measures may be taken against the murderers.

In conclusion, I feel called on to express my admiration of the firmness and energy of Mr. Postoffice, the Indian Agent, with reference to this murder and to express a hope the he may be promptly supported by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, in his efforts to bring the murderer to justice.

With reference to the first portion of this communication, the pursuit of "Teptha Toyce" over a rough mountainous country making long and fatiguing marches, the energy and zeal of Capt. Thompson, Lt. Hunt and Cmdr. and of the men of Company "E" 4th Infantry is gratefully reported for the information of the Commanding General.

I am sir,

(Signed) J. E. Bronnycastle