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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 3, Number 375, 3 June 1852 — Indian Affairs, Again. [ARTICLE]

Indian Affairs, Again.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 1, 1852.

Messrs. Editors: You have doubtless observed the late attacks and criticisms of your neighbors, the *Journal* and the *Times and Transcript*, upon the Administration at Washington, over the heads of the "U. S. Indian Commissioners in California," and the confidence with which they supposed they were backed up by the recent speeches of the Hon. Messrs. McCorkle and Gwin, in Congress. Awaiting here, the action of Congress to provide the means to prosecute my mission among the Northern tribes, and having "time enough and to spare," I have occasionally employed my "old grey goose quill" in attempting to parry their unfair attacks, while, at the same time, I aimed at throwing facts before the country, and keeping myself, at all events, *rectus in curia*, touching the crimes and misdemeanors so lavishly charged upon "the Commissioners." How far I may have succeeded, is, of course, a question for others to decide. So far as I have had any controversy with the *Journal*, its editors have acted fairly and honorably, and published promptly what I have written. As to the *other* organ of "the unterrified" in your city, I cannot say so much. That paper, on the 21st ult., published a garbled extract from the correspondence of the *St. Louis Republican*, which they endorsed as a perfect *poser* in the way of sustaining their charges and arguments, but wound up by the following polite invitation:

"As the Indian Agents are all 'writers for the press,' however, they can place their own acts before the public to suit themselves."

Being heartily tired of this "guerilla warfare," I concluded to hold up, and leave the field of glory to the self-applauding editors:

"In arguing, too, the Parson owned his skill,
For e'en though vanquished, he could argue still."

But the editors were not content to rest upon their laurels. On the 25th they returned to the charge with renewed vigor, backed by the knock-em-down-authority of that great gun, the Hon. Senator Doctor Gwin, and in an article of nearly a column, lard-

tor Crwin, and in an article of nearly a column, larded with

“Words of learned length, and thundering sound,” as they thought, completely demolished all my works and defences.

Being neither among “the missing, sick, wounded, or drunk,” I seized my valiant old quill again, and on the 26th, addressed them a respectful note in reply, which, in all fairness, should have been spread before their readers on Wednesday or Thursday of last week. But the heroes gave way. Recollecting that “discretion is the better part of valor,” they *fizzled* out, on Monday, the following excuse:

THE INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.—We have received a communication from one of the U. S. Indian Commissioners, but decline giving it publicity in our columns. We have heretofore given those gentlemen a chance to be heard through the Times and Transcript, but we cannot consent to continue these publications *ad infinitum*, particularly when they are designed to defame prominent Democrats and ourselves. The fact that drafts to a large amount have gone forward to Washington, is in our opinion too well established to admit of any doubt. We are so well satisfied of the fact, that we shall not encumber our columns with further controversies.

Now, for leaders of the host to show the white feather—afraid to let their readers “weigh and inwardly digest” both sides of an important discussion—upon such a frivolous plea, is downright injustice to the rank and file; and I therefore beg the favor of your giving my note an insertion for the especial benefit of your Democratic friends, of whom I know you have many, afraid neither of paper bullets, fun or frolick. Your compliance with this request will also oblige

Your most obt. svt.,
R. MCKEE.