Omniscience of the General Government.

Accustomed as we are, to turn with confidence to the general government, for that rigorous administration of its duties, which has heretofore characterized it with possessing a sort of supernatural power, we are at a loss to comprehend how far the policy adopted in regard to the Army, in California, has been founded in wisdom.

So strangely have Army matters been managed in California, as to excite surprise in any one who gave the subject a consideration, and now that the disastrous consequences of that management are experienced, we hear profuse murmur from every quarter.
murmurs from every quarter.

The troops now serving in California and Oregon, including the Rifle Regiment just returned to the States, arrived in the spring and summer of 1849, just after the mines were discovered and were fully known, and when laborers engaged therein were reaping their richest rewards. It is obvious that more virtues were necessary, than those inspired by a soldier's pay, to resist the extraordinary temptations to desertion, and retain the troops in effective condition for any emergency that might arise to require their services. Arrangements commensurate with, and adapted to the extraordinary state of affairs, were immediately demanded, and yet, up to this day, not one has been made upon this basis. Had it been intended to retain the troops upon the sea board, for the same object that
upon the sea board, for the same object that troops are kept upon the Atlantic board, to take care of forts and garrisons, while they obtain comfortable accommodations for the time they are held in readiness for an emergency that may arise from war, prudence would have suggested, that in order to avoid the enormous expenses incident to military movements and improvements, that the troops should have taken position in some immediate contiguity to their source of supplies, and availing themselves of such public quarters as with a little labor, bestowed by the soldiers themselves, would have rendered them comfortable, and thus secured their quiet sojourn here, with very little more expense than is incident to the support of troops elsewhere. And by the constant reduction of such donations that would

elsewhere. And by the constant reduction of of expenses, from the desertions that would have then, and have now, unavoidably taken place, the funds already disbursed in this country, would have been more than sufficient for the wants of our military service, while the troops, no one can doubt, would have been as effective, for any wants of California, as by the policy (to which we shall soon advert) that has been pursued. Supposing, however, the troops to have been sent to California with a view to any emergency that might arise, the suppression of riots, the enforcement of laws, and repelling outrages committed against the rights of our country or its citizens, the policy for the Army was plainly indicated by the circumstances of the country on its arrival. The alluring ac-
was plainly indicated by the circumstance of the country on its arrival. The alluring accounts from the golden regions had inspired every one with a mania to rush to them, farms and dwellings were everywhere deserted, the comforts of domestic tranquility relinquished before the prospect of sudden wealth, which drew rapidly together a heterogeneous association of men, dangerous within itself, from the want of legal organization, and liable to disturbances from the Indian tribes around them. Never was there a combination of circumstances in which the fostering care of the general government was more needed, or the strong arm of military authority, effectively applied, could have proved more advantageous. Order thus established would have given tone and direction to the public sentiment, from which
arm of military authority, effectually applied, could have proved more advantageous. Order thus established would have given tone and direction to the public sentiment, from which system might have arisen, instead of the shameful abortions from our attempts at social organization, and the undying malice of the Indian, who seeks to revenge his wrongs, would never have been aroused. Among the mining districts, therefore, were the troops alone needed, and, stationed at several posts along them, would have been useful to the State and to the general government. No desertions would have occurred, for there would be no place to escape to, since the stations would have been at the very points to which the deserter would naturally resort, and no motive to desert would have existed, since the supplies furnished by government would have given the soldier (with the leisure allowed him to work the mine), more advantages than a citizen, out of this service, would possess. The additional labor and expense of forwarding supplies so far
into the interior, would have been mostly overcome by the labor of soldiers, for, there being no deserters, (which we premise) there were an abundance of men for all purposes, as the troops came out with full companies. Instruction and discipline might have been efficient, and the spirit and pride of profession saved from entire destruction. Such, in our humble judgment, should have been the disposition of the troops on arriving in California, and whatever may appear the objections to it, it will be difficult to conceive of any, liable to work as great misfortunes as have resulted from the course adopted.

With characteristic wisdom, the first companies that arrived, were sent to San Diego, under the impression, that so far from the mines, the temptation to desertion would be removed. Distance lent enchantment to the view, and the desertions from this command were greater than from any other. Suddenly, however, (perhaps
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the Dragoons upon the Stanislaus, where they remained a few months, too distant from the miners to be of any service to them, in quelling the disturbances that broke out between the Americans and Sonorans, or repelling the attacks made by the Indians at the Marraposa mines, just as they were ordered to retire to winter quarters at Monterey. Two Companies of Infantry took post on Bear Creek, where they have since remained, suffering all the inconvenience of being remote from supplies, the want of comfortable quarters and temptation to desertion, and afflicted with diarrhoea, and scurvy, have even been impotent to meet emergencies arising around them, or contest with Genl’s Green and Winn the glories a grateful public will ever bestow for their illustrious services. An escort of several companies was furnished Capt. Warner, to explore the Sierra Nevada range for a Rail Road pass, and were marched, in the heat of summer, into the valley.
marched, in the heat of summer, into the valley of the Sacramento, where, after a long delay, contending with the innumerable embarrassments incident to military movements at that time, they started in so feeble condition as to be unable to accompany Capt. Warren, who moved forward with a few hired citizens, and was killed by the Indians in the mountains. The troops, struggling with their fate, moved on in rear till exhausted nature was obliged to yield—leaving many victims of disease to a nameless grave, they returned, officers and men, broken down in health and spirits, and pride of profession (the vital principle in military life) gone. The orders that now followed, just at the commencement of the rainy season, for the recovery of the remains of Capt. Warner, and the punishment of the Indians guilty of the murder, and the movement of the two Dragoon companies for this purpose, through incessant rains, and floundering in mud and water, as far

Rains, and floundering in mud and water, as far as "Camp Far West" and returning, closed the campaign of the summer of forty-nine.

Orders were early heralded for the operations of the coming season—three companies moved from this Post to the junction of the Gila and Colorado, one from San Francisco to Rancho Del Chino, Maj. Miller's command to the head waters of the San Joaquin River, and three companies upon an expedition to Clear Lake and the head waters of Pit River, to punish the Indians guilty of several murders upon the Lake and vicinity and the murder of Capt. Warner, and to recover the remains of Capt. Warner, and of some old traps left, through his own imprudence, by a certain Gen'l John Wilson, who came out as a protege of the government, at whose expense he came, but whose interests were no longer worthy of attention under a prospect of more profitable rewards from a devotion to his own.

The present summer has not been fruitful of military enterprises, except in escorting the Indian Commissioners through different portions of the country.

That these movements have been entirely
useless, we are by no means ready to assert, and we do most frankly and cordially declare our belief, that both officers and men, engaged in these movements, have done the utmost in their power for the public interests, but that the result has been commensurate with the expenditures, is, we regret to say, belied by the observations of every one. The attempt to establish the troops at the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, has, after an expenditure of over a hundred thousand dollars, been abandoned, and they are recalled to this point. The station at Rancho Del Chino has not the men and means to repel the Indian outrages in that portion of the country, and the State forces have been called out and stationed in that vicinity, under of Gen’l Bean, during the past summer. Such, too, has been the case in the valleys of the Salano, and though com-
too, has been the case in the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin, where, though government troops have been stationed, the mistaken policy of government has rendered them ineffective, and State troops have been called out. Without going into a minute detail of expenses, we venture the opinion, that not one of the numerous (and we might almost add, uncalled for) movements but has cost fifty or sixty thousand dollars, while the construction of Depots, Sub-Depots and other paraphernalia, not required by the troops nor the wants of the country, have involved an expenditure of several millions of dollars. We notice an estimate, in the Alta California, that the expenditures at Benicia had amounted to $700,000, but, we very much mistake, if not more than three times that amount has been expended there.

Another item of expense we may as well
Another item of expense we may as well contemplate, as Uncle Sam will sooner or later have to foot the bill, and that is the expense incurred by the State, in raising troops to render her citizens that protection that is due from the general government. These expenses have, to a considerable extent, been extravagantly and imprudently incurred, but will serve to illustrate the penny-wise and pound-foolish effects of the inattention of the general government to its obligations here, while its policy towards the Indian tribes has not been of that watchful and fostering care, that might have been rendered by the actual presence of government troops among them, and which was justly due to an unfortunate race, who, for the most part, have been provoked to acts of vengeance—indeed, because they know no distinction among pale faces—by outrages committed by nefarious and lawless men.
by nefarious and lawless men.

To the neglect of many details, consistent with the principles of economy and utility above mentioned, we conclude our present summary, by the mention of the light Artillery company, sent to this country with a battery of Field pieces, and mounted and equipped at great expense, and thus fitted to play its share in California service—ineffective for sea-coast defence, and impracticable in Indian warfare.

In short, whether blindly or designedly, the policy of the government in regard to the Army in Cal’a has been subversive of useful results—men who still remain, and officers, are broken down in spirit, and pride of profession gone, while the profuse extravagance has impoverished the Treasury, offended Congress, and left the Army bankrupt, without the means of securing the necessaries of life. The four companies at this place are all living in tents, and no preparations making to shelter them from the inclemencies of the approaching winter, nor is there a cent of money available to secure the means for these preparations.