
...they were bold, more warlike and better used to arms. The force allowed by the War Department to do the immense duty that should be done by the Pacific division, to keep these savage hordes in check and to protect and succor emigrants on the northern and southern routes, is so small and ill-conceived, that there are scarcely men enough at any time to mount guard at Headquarters. The post on the Colorado, one of the most important and most necessary in the country, has been left to be defended by nine men—nine men to stand before a thousand warriors that could at any time in six hours, notice be brought to attack them. It is really not at all surprising that the savages should have come to look upon this handful of men with such indifference as to regard it easy to blot them out. The small force at present in the country at other points may likewise be regarded as rather affording encouragement than offering a check to instant hostilities. For such a state of things...
men enough at any time to man our guard at Headquarters. The post on the Colorado, one of the most important and most available in the country, has been left to be defended by nine men—nine men to stand before a thousand warriors that could at any time in six hours notice be brought to attack them. It is really not at all surprising that the Indians should have come to look upon the small force of men with such indifference as to regard it easy to blot them out. The small force at present in the country at other points may likewise be regarded as rather affording inducement than offering a check to Indian hostilities. For such a state of things we regard the Secretary of War as deeply culpable. His dispositions in regard to California have been made in criminal indifference to the fate of our people, or in equally criminal ignorance of their necessities.