

# San Joaquin Republican, Volume 4, Number 61, 15 March 1854 — A. Wrong that ilmU be Belrenei. [ARTICLE]

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## **A Wrong that should be Redressed.**

A federal appointment was probably never so grossly abused by the appointee as in the case of the late Indian Commissioners. Wozencraft & Co. In carrying out their unreasonable plans to establish the extensive reservations which last year gave rise to so much unpleasant comment, they perhaps unwittingly committed wrongs on private citizens of this district that can never be properly redressed. One of the most gross cases is that of Mr. Keeler, (of Keeler's ferry, on the Stanislaus) to which we some time ago called attention. He was well nigh ruined by the seizure of his property and the interruption of his business, by these commissioners. In a private letter to us, he thus states his case :

“On the 28th of May, 1851, a treaty was entered into between Wozencraft and the different Indian tribes living on the Stanislaus, in which a tract of land was ceded to the latter for their sole use and occupancy. I was residing within the bounds of said reserve, and had permanently located myself. On the 29th of May, an ‘order’ came, which reads as follows :”

1st. No person shall be permitted to trade with any of the Indians of the said reserve, without a license therefor from the lawful agent of the United States.

2d. Any person who shall attempt to reside on said reservation, or trade without such license, shall forfeit all merchandise found in his possession, and shall forfeit and pay, moreover, the sum of \$500. No person shall sell, exchange, or give any spirituous liquors or wine to an Indian, or shall attempt to introduce any on the reservation, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding \$300, and be imprisoned for the term of two years.

for the term of two years.  
Given under my hand, this 29th May, 1851.  
ADAM JOHNSTON,  
U. S. Indian Agent.

“ The foregoing order was placed on my door by Col. Johnston in person. This covered all my property and all kinds of business I was engaged in. Being desirous of complying as far as possible with the law, I gave up all my property and business, being assured that the government would remunerate me for all my losses. I agreed to leave the matter to an arbitration, and I was given bonds, payable on the 1st of March, 1852, upon the faith of the government, remunerating me for all my losses. As you are aware, the bonds were not paid, and notwithstanding I have appealed, from time to time, for relief, the case is neglected, and I can obtain no return for the losses I sustained by the official acts of the agents of the U. S. Government. ”

This was the way of the whigs in 1851. Mr. Keeler, together with twenty other gentlemen in this district, were grossly outraged. We may be permitted to call the particular attention of the representatives of the State of California to this matter, for it is a grievance worthy of especial sympathy.

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