

San Joaquin Republican, Volume 4, Number 166, 19 July 1854 — The Full. [ARTICLE]

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The Facts.

We present to our readers neither imagination nor conjecture, but the facts concerning the removal of Lieut. Beale, by the President, from the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the State of California. Lieut. Beale asked the Government to appropriate \$500,000 for the expenses of his department. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, at Washington, for some reason, cut down the estimate to \$200,000, and asked Congress for an appropriation for this sum. Mr. Sebastian, a Senator from Arkansas, moved an amendment to the Appropriation bill, based on the Commissioner's estimate, to cut down the appropriation from \$200,000 to \$125,000. During the debate upon this motion, it appeared that there were at least \$180,000 in the hands of Lieut. Beale unaccounted for to the department. And while the general sense of the Senate was, manifestly, not to regard him as a defaulter and criminal, but rather to hope that his failure to account arose from *neglect* or perhaps accident, yet nevertheless, the Senators evinced a determination not to entrust him with any more money until the matter should be satisfactorily explained. And so much anxiety did the Senate show on the subject, that the appropriation of \$200,000 was saved by a single vote; there being 18 votes against 19, to strike out the appropriation of \$200,000 and insert \$125,000. But still, so anxious were Senators upon this subject, and so in doubt in consequence of the fault, neglect or misfortune of Lieut. Beale, that Mr. Stuart, a democrat, moved the following resolution, and Mr. Pratt, a distinguished whig Senator from Maryland,

moved to amend by inserting the word "present," as follows :

Mr. Stuart—I move to amend the amendment as amended, by adding to it the following proviso :

Provided, That no portion of this amount shall be paid over to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs until he shall account satisfactorily for the amount already drawn by him out of the former appropriation ; and that hereafter no more than \$20,000 shall be drawn by the said superintendent, or be in his hands unexpended, at one and the same time.

Mr. Pratt—If the Senator will insert the word "present" before "superintendent," I think there will be no objection to the amendment.

The amendment of Mr. Stuart, as amended by Mr. Pratt, passed. It then became an imperative duty of the President to remove Lieut. Beale ; he had no choice. The entire business of the Indian department in California would have been instantly clogged, if he had not done so. And it would have been *optionary* with Lieut. Beale, how long it should remain so. He might forever refuse to account. It may take him months to prepare his accounts and submit them to the government. And when submitted he may claim the whole balance, unaccounted for, as due to himself ; and the government, thereupon, may not think him entitled to a cent of it. Then the account would have to be settled by litigation ; and so, not only a year, but *years* might intervene before any Indian appropriation could be expended in California. We do not say that any of these things would, in fact, occur ; we certainly hope they would not. But they serve to show how the whole appropriation for Indian affairs, in California, would have been at the will, and dependent not only on the honesty but the *judgment* of Lieut. Beale, of his own rights, in the matter of the settlement of his own account, if the President had not removed him from office. We then repeat, that his removal became not only highly proper, but absolutely necessary on the part of the President. He

would have been derelict to his most obvious duty, and would have inflicted a great outrage upon California if he had not done so. In reply to the conjectures and imaginations, as to the improper conduct, in fact the conspiracy charged upon Senators Gwin and Weller in this way, we took occasion to say we then knew nothing about the *facts*, but that doubtless when they became known, they would be satisfactory to the country. These *facts* are now known, and we may triumphantly ask if they are not perfectly satisfactory, not only to the mind and judgment, but also to the imaginations and conjectures of every man in the State?

The Sierra Nevada arrived yesterday morning at San Francisco from San Juan.

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