
CAMP MAGRUDER, NEAR LOS ANGELES,
June 17, 1851.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your communication of this date, wherein, for reasons stated, you dispense with the further services of the escort under my command. The sentiments contained in the concluding portions of your letter, which I have shown to the officers with me, we trust we appreciate; and we cannot too sincerely thank you for their expression. All of us regard them as the evidence of that generous and noble character which we have learned to admire in you.

During nearly five months that we have been associated together in the public service, I have not failed to observe the stern integrity of your conduct, and the entire forgetfulness of self which has characterized your course.

You have labored to prevent war with the Indians with an intelligence and zeal which merit the approval of the country, and the remembrance of which must afford satisfaction to the succeeding years of your life.

It might have been anticipated that the hardships and deprivations to which we have been necessarily subjected in an uninhabited and inhospitable country for so long a time, would necessarily have developed occasional displays of temper and ill-feeling; but I remember no unpleasant emotion caused by yourself; and if I have ever offended you,

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I crave your forgiveness, notwithstanding your letter assures me I have it in advance.

In conclusion, my dear sir, allow me to express my sincere hopes for your continued prosperity and happiness, in which I am joined by all the gentlemen with me.

I am, sir, respectfully and truly, your friend and servant,

E. D. KEYES,

Capt. 3d Artillery, commanding escort.

Col. GEO. W. BARBOUR,
Indian Commissioner.