

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE

TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS

AT THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION

OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

DECEMBER 27, 1859.—Read. Motion to print submitted by Mr. BRIGHT.

JANUARY 5, 1860.—Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

JANUARY 19, 1860.—Report in favor of printing the usual number of the message with the accompanying documents submitted, considered and agreed to

VOLUME II.

WASHINGTON:
GEORGE W. BOWMAN, PRINTER.
1860.

V.

AFFAIRS IN DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO.

- No. 1. Colonel Bonneville to the general-in-chief, October 23, 1858.
- No. 2. Same to same, November 7, 1858, inclosing reports of Colonel Miles, October 17 ; October 23, with inclosures from Captain Hatch, Captain Brooks, Captain McLane, and Lieutenant Howland ; and letter to Colonel Miles, November 5.
- No. 3. Adjutant general to Colonel Bonneville, February 23, 1859.
- No. 4. Colonel Bonneville to the general-in-chief, November 14, 1858.
- No. 5. Same to same, November 24, 1858.
- No. 6. Same to same, November 28, 1858, inclosing letter of Mr. Collins, November 22.
- No. 7. Same to same, December 4, 1858, inclosing letter from Mr. Collins, November 30.
- No. 8. Same to same, December 12, 1858.
- No. 9. General Orders No. 11, department of New Mexico, December 25, 1858.
- No. 10. Colonel Bonneville to the general-in-chief, January 5, 1859, inclosing report of Captain McLane, September 2.
- No. 11. Same to same, January 8, 1859.
- No. 12. Same to same, January 23, 1859, inclosing letters of Major Backus, November 19, 1858, with inclosures from Captain Duncan and Lieutenant Cogswell ; and January 1, 1859.
- No. 13. Same to same, February 27, 1859, inclosing letter from Lieutenant Lazelle, February 18.
- No. 14. Same to same, March 5, 1859, inclosing report of Lieutenant Lord, February 17.
- No. 15. Same to same, March 31, 1859.
- No. 16. Same to same, April 30, 1859, inclosing letters to Major Shepherd, February 1, and commanding officer at Fort Defiance, April 20.
- No. 17. Same to same, July 10, 1859, inclosing letters of Captain Sykes, June 6, and Lieutenant Holt, July 2.
- No. 18. Same to same, July 15, 1859.
- No. 19. Same to same, July 17, 1859.
- No. 20. Same to same, August 6, 1859.
- No. 21. Same to same, same date.
- No. 22. Same to same, August 14, 1859, inclosing letters from Major Simonson, August 8, and to same, August 12.
- No. 23. Same to same, August 31, 1859, inclosing letters of Lieutenant Lazelle, July 15 ; Captain Walker, August 3 ; Colonel Reeve, August 3, with inclosure from Captain Ewell ; Major Shepherd, August 7 ; Captain Claiborne, August 9 ; Lieutenant Steen, August 10 ; and Captain Schroeder, August 19.
- No. 24. Same to same, September 25, inclosing letters to Major Simonson, August 7, August 12, August 14, and September 7.

- No. 25. Same to same, October 2, 1859, inclosing letters to Major Simonson, September 10; from the same, September 23; from same, with inclosure from Captain Walker, September 20; and to Major Shepherd, October 2.
- No. 26. Same to same, October 10, inclosing letter of Major Simonson, September 28, with inclosures from Captain Walker, September 20, and Major Shepherd, September 25.

1. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., October 23, 1858.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding of the army, that since my last communication, of the 17th instant, Major Backus' column has taken the field, and the Navajo war may be said fairly to have commenced. There has not been any engagement of importance. The Indians continue troublesome, having captured some stock, and in a night attack wounded Lieutenant Averell, regiment of mounted rifles, in the leg. The last information received from Colonel Miles was to the effect that Major Brooks was to take the field with a detachment. No report has been received from him, but rumor says that he has been successful.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,
*Assistant Adjutant General,
 Headquarters of the Army, New York city.*

NOTE.—Colonel Bonneville's communication of October 17, 1858, above referred to, was transmitted to Congress with the last annual report of the Secretary of War. See page 323, House document No. 2, 2d session 35th Congress.

2. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., November 7, 1858.

COLONEL: In continuation of my communication of the 23d of October, I have the honor to inclose, for the consideration of the general-in-chief, the following copies of reports received from Colonel Miles and his subordinates on the Navajo expedition, showing operations in that country up to date, viz:

- (A.) Report of Lieutenant Colonel Miles, 3d infantry.
 (B.) Report of Brevet Major Brooks, 3d infantry.

- (C.) Report of Captain McLean, R. M. R.
- (D.) Supplementary report of Captain Hatch, R. M. R.
- (E.) Report of Lieutenant Howland, R. M. R.
- (F.) Copy of my instructions to Lieutenant Colonel Miles on the above reports.

Major Backus' column is in the field since the 24th ultimo, but has not been heard from.

A large party of emigrants, who had taken Beale's route to California, were totally defeated, with the loss of all their stock, provisions, &c., by the Mohave Indians, at the crossing of the Colorado river, and must have starved had they not fortunately, on their return, met another party traveling about eight miles behind them. In a short time all were reduced to the most destitute and deplorable condition, having nothing to eat but the few work-oxen left, and hundreds of miles away from the settlements or assistance. They succeeded in informing Major Backus, then in command of the Albuquerque, of their situation, and he sent out a supply of commissary stores sufficient to bring them into the settlements. In consideration of their perfect helplessness—being amongst a people not able to appreciate their condition, and speaking a different language—I found it indispensably necessary to give them additional assistance, there being a large number of women and children left perfectly destitute.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,
A. A. G., Headquarters of the Army, New York city..

HEADQUARTERS NAVAJO EXPEDITION,
Fort Defiance, N. M., October 17, 1858.

SIR: This morning, at 7 a m., the post herd, with "I" company horses, passed out through Cañon Bonita, as usual, under a guard of fifteen mounted rifles and ten infantry, when it was suddenly attacked by about 300 mounted Navajos, concealed in ambush. The riflemen performed their duty admirably, and resisted with energy, under its commander, Sergeant Bernard W. Clark, of "I" company mounted rifles, all and more than could be expected. His conduct was as well conceived as honorably and bravely executed, and deserves my warmest thanks. He saved, except three, all his company horses and a part of the quartermaster's herds, all the sheep and cattle, but lost about 62 mules. He was admirably sustained by his men and the Zuñi Indians encamped near the camp of conflict. As soon as possible, Captain McLane, with about 12 men, were in the saddle, supported with promptness by Captain Lindsay, with his company "H," and Lieutenant Howland, with company "C" mounted riflemen, First Lieutenant G. L. Willard, in command of "K" company 8th infantry, and Lieutenant Hildt, in command of "C" company 3d infantry; but before the infantry got through the Cañon de Bonita, which was

led by Lieutenant Lane, in command of "F" company mounted rifles, on foot, the mounted force passed them and scoured the country for miles around, until the trail was so diminished by scattering it could not be followed.

In this sharp conflict private Michael Marrion, of "I" company mounted rifles, was killed; private Thomas Keating, of the same company, mortally wounded; private John G. Housanan severely wounded, and also private Felix O'Rourke dangerously wounded; and private Brown and Richard Hill, of the same company, slightly wounded.

A particular mention of the gallantry of private Alexander W. Brown, of "I" company mounted rifles, deserves notice. When private Marion was shot, two or three Indians endeavored to throw him on a horse. Brown rushed up, shot one dead, wounded another badly, drove off the party, picked up and secured the body of Marion, and triumphantly rode off the field to the post with him, under a cloud of arrows. His conduct and Sergeant Clark's I respectfully call to the attention of the commander of the department, and request they may receive his highest testimonial of approval.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. S. MILES,

Lieut. Col. 3d infantry, com'g Navajo expedition.

Lieutenant J. D. WILKINS,

A. A. A. G., Department of New Mexico, Santa Fé.

HEADQUARTERS NAVAJO EXPEDITION,
Fort Defiance, N. M., October 23, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to report the result of a five days' scout westward, passing Puebla Colorado, and examining the valleys beyond in a southwest direction. My reconnoissance of this section of country has been satisfactory, in making me acquainted with the favorite haunts of the enemy, the easiest and best route to Calavasha Sierra and Misa, where he grazes his stock, and for future operations, besides doing the enemy considerable injury and run him to the north out of these valleys, where it is probable Major Backus with his column, or my command, which will be put in motion in a few days in the direction of Tuni-Chey, may further chastise him.

I marched from this post on the 18th instant with "F," "I," and "H" companies of mounted rifles, 127 rank and file; "C" company 3d infantry and "K" company 8th infantry, 116 rank and file; 20 Mexican guides and spies, and 160 volunteer Zuñians, who profered their services for a small part of the ration (meat) and what they could capture. I took eight days' rations, all that I could with the few mules fit for service at the post.

My first day's march was west to the water hole on the Choquin road, 13½ miles. At 12 o'clock at night I sent the Zuñians to Puebla Colorado to attack and destroy all they could find. Early on the 19th I marched; when about half-way, Lieutenant Hildt found the dead

body of the soldier belonging to "C" company mounted rifles, (previously reported.) Captain McLean, on the rear guard, interred him. At 8 o'clock I reached Puebla Colorado, where I found the Zuñians encamped. They informed me, when about half-way, they were discovered by two Navajos, who fled; that they reached their present encampment after sunrise; saw no Indians or recent signs of them or their herds. I went into camp.

About 12 o'clock m. the Zuñians proposed to leave on a scout to the southwest, nor would they listen to any argument or remonstrance to remain and march at night. When *ready* they *demand*ed of me two companies to accompany them; this I refused, as I wanted all of my command to attack Mannellita's stronghold on the next morning. The Zuñians left in anger, and I was glad to get rid of them, for I soon discovered I could make no use of them, acting with my troops, as they would obey no orders, kept up night and by day by large fires, which could be seen for many miles around.

Soon after dawn on the 20th I marched west; when about five miles out, I was met by four or five Zuñians, who informed me they had captured one hundred head of horses. I turned southwest to Mannellita's village, and soon came up to the encampment of the Zuñians, having large fires and a smoke that could be seen for thirty miles. I continued the march for a few miles further, and encamped by the principal corn-fields, in a beautiful valley, with sufficiency of water and very good grass. The Zuñians soon came up. As a further trial of their usefulness, I proposed to them that I would send my three mounted companies in different directions if they would furnish forty warriors to accompany them. This they acceded to, and I accordingly ordered Captain Lindsay with his company "H," Captain Lucas, and five Mexicans, to march south and then turn west, if he found no fresh trails to follow; and if he did not unite with Captain McLane, who marched west with "I" company and five Mexicans, to return to the camp. My adjutant, Lieutenant Lane, in command of "F" company mounted rifles and five Mexicans, marched north, to turn west, if he found no trails, and unite with Captain McLane or return to camp.

Captain Lindsay, after marching south for twelve miles, came to a field of corn standing, but found no water; he then coursed west until he struck the valley of the encampment; he met with large trails of horses and sheep, but not recent; saw no Indians; marched, he supposes, thirty-five miles, and arrived at camp about 6½ p. m. Lieutenant Lane, after marching north for ten miles, came to a bluff overlooking the valley where Private Sweeney was wounded, (this connects our scout with the route of that from Cañon de Chelly;) found in the rocks a large pool of water; turned west, then south, and then east to the encampment without seeing an Indian or any flocks, although there was recent signs of both. He captured a colt; marched, he supposes, thirty miles, and arrived soon after Captain Lindsay.

Captain McLane marched west and northwest, as he made a daring, hazardous exploration with his few *reliable* force, and met the enemy. I directed him to make a report of his operations, which is herewith inclosed.

Captain McLane did not return until the afternoon of the 21st; his

men and horses were wearied and too tired to move camp, although I was desirous of doing so, as all the grass and fodder had been used.

On the morning of the 22d I marched early, intending to make a stretch northward towards Cañon de Chelly, but the Zuñians refused to let me have a guide, and intimated that they intended to go home. I marched on my back trail until I met the valley I intended taking, when it blew up so cold and cloudy, indicating a snow storm, that I was apprehensive if I could not have the sun to guide me, as I had no guide, I might get lost, and if caught in a snow storm would destroy my horses and mules. These considerations determined me to return to the fort immediately, as I could not possibly do anything more with three days' rations, and then two days' good marches from it. I accordingly changed my course east, arrived and passed Puebla Colorado, and got to the 13-mile water hole at 12 m. The clouds thickened and it commenced snowing; the men seemed desirous of marching on to keep warm, and I was apprehensive if I did not do so the mules and horses would perish. The order was given, and by — o'clock p. m. the command arrived at this post, having marched near thirty-five miles on this day.

Captain Lindsay and Lieutenant Lane both report the Zuñians as unreliable auxiliaries, and could not be depended on in battle. I left them at the encampment I marched from.

The horses captured were unbroken and useless for any government service. I left them and the cows and calves in possession of the Zuñians, as encouragement for further service (but not with me) and as remuneration for their services.

The result of the scout has been the capturing of one hundred horses, five head of cattle, the burning of Mannellita's many wigwams or half cabins, the killing of one Navajo, and the wounding of one. Our loss has been the wounding of two Zuñi Indians—one severely, the other slightly.

Permit me, before closing, to recommend to the favorable notice of the commander of the department the officers and soldiers of my command, for their untiring and indefatigable exertions, their great hardship in very inclement weather, and their almost unexampled march, performed with a zeal and the will of cheerfulness.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. S. MILES,

Lieut. Col. 3d infantry, com'g Navajo Expedition.

Lieutenant J. D. WILKINS,

Acting Asst. Adj. Gen., Department of New Mexico.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M.,

October 15, 1858.

SIR: My report of September 25 was written on the evening of my return to this post, after a march of fifty miles. It was hurriedly written, that it might accompany the papers forwarded the succeeding morning to the department headquarters, and accidental omissions

have caused misapprehensions at these headquarters with regard to my manner of conducting the expedition.

I beg leave therefore to submit the following supplementary report, and request that it may be filed with that of the 25th ultimo.

I was ordered to proceed with my command to *Laguna Negra*; after breaking up the ranches there, I was authorized to select such points in that vicinity for further operations as I might deem proper.

In order that a surprise might be effected, and a combined attack be made by both foot and mounted men, the march was made in the night. I arrived at Laguna Negra at daybreak, but found the ranches *deserted*, and evidence that the Indians and stock had left some days before. *This I neglected* to state in my report, and it has led to the belief at the department headquarters that the ranches I attacked were those at the laguna designated in the order.

Finding nothing could be done there, I was free to select my point of attack, and to make such disposition of my troops as the change of circumstances rendered necessary.

One of my guides, a Zuñi Indian, informed me that he could take me where there were Navajos, and pointed out to me the direction. The country was entirely without timber, slightly rolling, with a gradual ascent for about five miles. From the highest point the whole trail was distinctly visible to the laguna, where I then was, and when I afterwards reached the point I found the country still open for about five miles in advance.

It became my duty immediately to decide which course to pursue, either to march with the whole of my command, exposing it to the view of any straggling Indians for from three to four hours, and thus allow the Indians time to make their escape, or to push rapidly forward with my cavalry and surprise them before they sent their stock out to graze.

How could I hesitate? By dividing my command and making a rapid dash upon them I did them much harm, although it is true I was not able to follow up the advantage gained, but had I *not* divided my command they would in all probability have *entirely* escaped me.

I will here add that, had the whole of my command been with me, I would not have considered it prudent, with so small a force, to enter the mountain defile into which the enemy retreated. I consider that I was sent with a small force to harass and annoy the enemy, not to carry on a campaign.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant,

JNO. P. HATCH,

Brevet Captain U. S. A., 1st Lieut. R. M. R.

Lieut. W. B. LANE,

Adjutant Navajo Expedition.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *October 17, 1858.*

SIR: I have respectfully to report, that in accordance with Orders No. 15, headquarters Navajo expedition, and special instructions of

the 4th instant, I proceeded on that day with company G, 3d infantry, Lieutenant Walker; K, 8th infantry, Lieutenant Willard; A, R. M. R., Captain Elliott; and C, R. M. R., Lieutenant Howland; and Don Blas Lucero, with a number of guides and spies, to escort one public and several citizens' trains and the captured sheep in the direction of Albuquerque. Five miles from the garrison I met Lieutenant Hildt with company C, 3d infantry, that I turned back with me. On the 4th day out I met the two trains from Albuquerque, under escort of Lieutenant Shipley, with company E, 3d infantry. Here I sent Lieutenant Howland back to the post with his own and Lieutenant Hildt's companies with these trains, taking Lieutenant Shipley on with me. On arriving at or near the Cotton Wood, I sent the trains on with Captain Elliott to the head of the Gallo, having with him and Lieutenant Shipley and company, and his own company, and the guides and spies. With the two companies of infantry I went to the head spring of the Gallo, there to await Captain Elliott. From this point the scout began. Captain Elliott joined me on the 9th, with Don Blas Lucero and sixteen guides and spies, and I proceeded on the trail leading to Zuñi. This trail bearing too much to the south, on the 10th I took a more direct route for the valley south of Bacon Spring. About 12 o'clock we reached some water holes, around which were signs of Indian stock having grazed lately. I sent Don Blas to look at the country for a mile or two in front; he soon returned, not deeming it safe to go any further, as the signs increased very much. The whole command was then started, and after marching about one-half mile two Indians passed in front of us from our right to the left. Soon thereafter Indians began to pass from left to right, in parties of from four and five or more, until one hundred, according to our estimate, passed over and stopped, well mounted and with all the appearance of a war party. After thus displaying their numbers in part, one of their number came forward with a white flag, indicating a desire for a parley. After making a disposition of the command, deploying Lieutenant Willard's company to the left to cover that flank, Captain Elliott's company dismounting and deploying in the center, and Lieutenant Walker's company sent to the right ready for deployment, I went forward with Captain Lucero to answer the flag. An Indian that spoke Spanish accompanied the flag-bearer and asked: What are you doing in our country? Go back, we d'ont want to fight; we are on our route to join Sandoval's party. I asked where the murderer was in Chuser. I told them I had nothing more to say to them. When they retired, I directed a fire to be commenced at once, which was done by Captain Elliott's and Lieutenant Willard's companies, and by Lieutenant Walker as soon as deployed. Great confusion was produced in their midst, a number of horses ran off riderless, and the Indians dispersed as rapidly as possible; when we discovered that their number were greater than at first supposed, quite a number showing themselves to our right and front not before observed. The pursuit was continued for near a mile, as long as any were visible. On retracing our steps for a company ground, Lieutenant Willard was detached to the right (now left) and Lieutenant Walker to the left, (now right,) each with ten men, to drive off a few Indians that were hovering around us; considerable skirmishing was done by

these detachments, each knocking an Indian off his horse. On getting into camp some half dozen or more Indians assembled on a height out of shot and remained there until nightfall, occasionally firing a gun in our direction; after this nothing more was seen or heard of them.

On our side there are no casualties to report, and it is difficult to determine the loss of the enemy; they left two horses on the ground, dead or badly wounded. As many as seven Indians were seen knocked off their horses, and then taken off by their companions. Don Blas Lucero, who was an inactive spectator of the action, estimates their loss at not less than *twenty-five* killed or badly wounded. He formed this opinion after an examination of the ground where much blood was found, and because they made no attempt to molest us.

On the 11th I proceeded through the valley lying south of Bacon Spring to the Albuquerque road, and after six days' marching, going through the valley of Chusea and around by Laguna Negra, I arrived at the post. In the valley southeast of Bacon Spring there were trails of much stock, sheep and horses, going to the northeast, across the Albuquerque road, in the direction of a place called by the Mexicans Agua Chicita. In the valley approaching Laguna Negra, Blas Lucero chased an Indian on horseback for several miles, severely wounding, but not capturing him. On leaving Laguna Negra, a few shots were fired towards the command, but not reaching it, from a height. Nothing else of importance occurred.

It gives me pleasure to bear testimony to the good conduct of the whole command; but especially to the admirable manner in which each of the company commanders brought their companies into action.

I cannot close this report without expressing the regret felt by every officer of the command that we were entirely without an efficient guide for the country passed over. One or two of the Mexicans knew some trails, but of these they were useless. Had we been possessed of a good knowledge of the country, I have no doubt we could have followed the Indians up with great success.

Very respectfully,

W. S. H. BROOKS,

Captain 3d infantry and brevet major, commanding.

Lieutenant W. B. LANE,

Adjutant Navajo Expedition.

Respectfully referred to the commander of the department, in the hope that he will give to Major Brooks and his command a favorable notice.

D. S. MILES,

Lieut. Colonel 3d infantry, commanding Navajo Expedition.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *October 22, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to report for the information of the colonel commanding the Navajo expedition, that pursuant to his verbal instructions I left his camp at 10 o'clock a. m. on the morning of the

20th instant with 35 mounted men of my company, 5 Mexicans of Captain Blas Lucero's company of spies and guides, and 40 Zuñi Indians. After a march of two hours, we discovered many fresh trails leading to the south; following these trails briskly for an hour and a half, we overtook a mounted Indian driving five head of cattle, which I captured; the Indian, however, made good his escape by taking to the hills, which were thickly covered with trees. At this point of my march, we came on a trail of a large herd of sheep, from appearances I judged, as I afterwards found to be the case, only some five or six hours ahead of me. I immediately determined to pursue them. After a very rapid and severe gallop of seven hours, we overtook about 150 goats, which proved to be the rear of the flock that we were following; they had just reached the top of the Calavaser mountains. It was then night, (7½ o'clock p. m.) After a search of about an hour, we found some 250 more sheep and goats. We had succeeded in reaching the mountain top with great difficulty; of the 40 Indians and 5 Mexicans who left camp with me on the scout, only 8 *Indians* were able to keep up with me in the pursuit; the others with the five Mexicans gave out, and encamped some 10 or 12 miles from the mountains. My force was so small, the unmistakable signs of many flocks having been driven over the trail which I was then on during the day, and of Indians being in my immediate vicinity—the character of the country around me being such as to invite an attack, with a certainty of all the advantages being against me, and the little doubts I entertained but that the Indians would do so if I remained there long enough for them to collect, determined me upon retracing my steps without further delay, and join that night those of my command who had failed to keep up with me in the pursuit of the herd. Accordingly, I commenced the movements for the descent of the mountain. I had hardly turned the head of my command for the purpose of descending the hill when a brisk fire was opened upon the Zuñi Indians to my rear, who were driving the sheep and goats we had captured; two Zuñi Indians were wounded, and one of their horses killed during this fire. The Indians report to me that they killed *one* Navajo and wounded another. Immediately countermarching my company, on hearing the firing, and though seeing no Indians, I opened a fire to the rear, my right and left, which had the effect of frightening off the attacking party. The sheep, with the Zuñi Indians, were then placed in front, and my company commenced the descent, keeping up the fire to the rear, which enabled me to get my whole command down without further loss or injury to them. On reaching the foot of the hill though, I am grieved to say, that I found the Zuñi Indians in a state of alarm not easily described; they had abandoned the sheep in passing through some woods which covered the lower part of the ridge they were descending, and nothing that I could do would induce them to return for them; while hesitating as to what I should do, the Navajos opened a fire upon my column from the point where the sheep were abandoned; although I deemed it imprudent to risk my men by themselves in a place where the chances were so greatly against them, I could not give up the few goats I had taken without making one effort to recover them. Selecting Corporal Lonris, of my company, for this hazardous

duty, I directed him, with seven men, to proceed to the point where I thought it most likely the sheep would be found. In a few moments he returned, having been unable to find any traces of them. I then retraced my steps to where, after fourteen consecutive hours in the saddle with the men of my company, we found the Indians and Mexicans who had been unable to keep up with us, in camp, awaiting my return.

As my men and animals had been without water (excepting that which the men had carried in their canteens) from the time we left camp the day before, and there being none where we were, I made an early start on the morning of the 21st, and reached your camp at one o'clock p. m. During the twenty-seven hours I was absent, my men were *twenty-one* hours in the saddle, and I think must have marched between eighty and ninety miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. McLANE,

Captain R. M. R., commanding company I.

Lieutenant W. B. LANE,

Adjutant Navajo Expedition.

“Respectfully referred to the favorable notice of the commander of the department. Captain McLane, in abandoning the goats (useless to government) to save his command, meets my approval:

“D. S. MILES,

“Lieut. Col. 3d infantry, commanding Navajo Expedition.”

CAMP AT FORT DEFIANCE, N. M.,

October 24, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the information of Colonel Miles, commanding Navajo expedition:

Agreeable to orders received from the colonel commanding, I started from camp at this post yesterday at noon, with Captain Blas Lucero's company of guides and spies (40 men) and non-commissioned officers, and 20 men of company “C,” regiment of mounted riflemen, marched on the Zuñi road to the first spring in the Anearillo. Halted an hour there, left the road, and went on to Colites mountain to a place where it was supposed there was a small rancho. Found it deserted, went a mile further, and camped about 7 o'clock, p. m. At 4 o'clock next morning, raised camp, and kept a southwest direction; guides and spies leading when we were near to another spot where there were supposed to be Indians. The whole command was halted, and Blas Lucero and one of his guides went ahead, about 100 yards, and discovered the smoke of the Indian camp. The whole command then moved rapidly up and captured 20 Indians, four men, the rest (16) women and children. The surprise was arranged so well by Blas Lucero that the Indians did not have time to use their arms; also captured 10 horses and 20 goats and sheep. The Indians were all turned over to the guard at this post this afternoon soon after my arrival here.

Captain Blas Lucero's party deserve much credit for the manner in which they performed their part. Distance marched about 50 miles.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. HOWLAND,
1st Lieut. R. M. R., *com'g company C.*

Lieut. W. B. LANE,
Adj't Navajo Expedition, Fort Defiance, N. M.

I respectfully refer this report to the favorable consideration of the commander of the department, and recommend to his notice the zeal and daring gallantry of Lieutenant Howland and his small force.

My report, accompanying this, will show the importance of this capture, and which I confidently believe will lead to the peaceful conclusion of this war.

D. S. MILES,
Lieut. Col. 3d inf., comd'g Navajo Expedition.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, November 5, 1858.

COLONEL: Your communications of the 14th, 17th, 23d, and 25th ultimo, inclosing reports of Major Brooks, Captain McLane, Captain Hatch, and Lieutenant Howland, were duly received and submitted to the commanding officer of the department, who directs me to inform you that, although the loss of 60 animals from the post is an occurrence seriously to be regretted, yet he is gratified to commend the gallant resistance made by the guard; also the exertions made by the detachments under Major Brooks and Captain McLane. The capture of the twenty Indians, including the chief, Terribio, by Lieutenant Howland, and his small command, merit his particular approval.

He further desires me to state in reference to Brevet Captain Hatch, that it was not his intention to reflect upon that officer's conduct, but merely to assert a military principle. Captain Hatch's additional report has been filed in this office, and a copy forwarded to the headquarters of the army.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,
1st Lieut. 3d infantry, A. A. A. G.

Lieut. Col. D. S. MILES,
3d inf. com'g Navajo Exp'n, Fort Defiance, N. M.

3. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Bonneville.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 23, 1859.

COLONEL: The Secretary of War approves the issues of subsistence stores made by yourself and Major Backus to a party of destitute

emigrants who had been defeated with the loss of their property by the Mohave Indians, at the crossing of the Colorado river, reported in your letter of November 7, 1858, to the assistant adjutant general, at the headquarters of the army.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Col. B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
3d inf., com'g Dep't New Mexico, Santa Fé, N. M.

4. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., November 14, 1858.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general-in-chief, that the columns of Colonel Miles and Major Backus formed a junction on the 2d instant at Tuni-chey. From that point, Colonel Miles, passing through Pass Washington of the Zuñi mountains, would follow up their western base, whilst Major Backus would take the eastern side; the columns, then uniting, would proceed westwardly, passing north of the Cañon de Chelly, towards the pueblas of Moquis. This movement, besides giving greater security to our north-western settlements, will force the Navajo tribe in one body to the west and south, enabling the troops to confine their operations to one direction, in lieu of all the points of the compass as heretofore. Colonel Miles has now with him in the Navajo country, including spies and guides, an aggregate of over one thousand men, beside the column now in reserve at Albuquerque and Las Lunas, a force supposed to be sufficient for all purposes. No doubt these Indians are willing to make peace, but it is doubtful if it would be permanent, and for this reason it is thought better to continue operations until they shall feel more sensibly the effect of their bad conduct.

This war does not increase the expense of the department further than the pay of the spies and guides. The corn is furnished to the public animals, cavalry, horses, &c., at the prices it can be purchased in the settlements, and transported in public teams.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
*Assistant Adjutant General,
 Headquarters of the Army, New York city.*

5. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, November 24, 1858.

COLONEL: The following copy of a letter addressed from these headquarters to Lieutenant Colonel Miles, 3d infantry, commanding Navajo

expedition, is respectfully furnished for the information of the general-in-chief:

“HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
“*Santa Fé, November 21, 1858.*”

“COLONEL: Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, has just called on me on the subject of the Navajo war. We have agreed that should the Navajo Indians evince a sincere desire for peace, and agree to commit no more depredations on the settlements, receiving and following with earnestness such advice as may be given them from time to time by the authorized officers and agents of the government, you are authorized, in connection with Mr. Yost, Indian agent, to have a deputation of fifteen or twenty chiefs escorted to Albuquerque to meet Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, and myself.

“You are not, however, on any consideration, until further orders, to deem this sufficient cause for the cessation of hostilities, but on the contrary you will continue to press most vigorously the campaign against them.

“I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
“B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
“*Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.*”

“Lieut. Col. D. S. MILES, *3d infantry,*
“*commanding Navajo Expedition, Fort Defiance, N. M.*”

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General,
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

6. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., November 28, 1858.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, that since my communication of the 14th instant nothing of importance has transpired in the department. The troops in the Navajo country are on the expedition spoken of in my last, but have not been heard from. I inclose you communications, marked “A” and “B,” showing the progress of affairs in regard to the war.

Rumor has also reached these headquarters that the Comanches still threaten to be troublesome on our eastern frontier. A party is out in that direction to ascertain their disposition. Lieutenant Lee, 3d infantry, who has just crossed the plains, reports the Kioways and other Indians there to be on the most friendly terms.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
Ass't Adj't Gen., New York city, N. Y.

INDIAN SUPERINTENDENCY,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, November 22, 1858.

SIR: Since writing my letter of the 20th instant, day before yesterday, I met Colonel Bonneville, and in a conversation with him we agreed that it would be improper should you meet the Navajo chiefs to say more than to agree to bring down to Albuquerque a deputation of fifteen or twenty of their chiefs and principal men to meet Colonel Bonneville and myself at that point. It is not intended, should they agree to come down, that it shall suspend hostilities, unless they offer such terms as will be acceptable to the colonel and myself. Should they do this orders will be immediately sent out from Albuquerque for the cessation of hostilities. Colonel Bonneville has written to Colonel Miles to the same effect, and instructed him to furnish an escort to come down with you and the Indians.

This arrangement is of course intended to supersede all intention on your part to meet the Indians, as proposed in your letter of the 6th instant, except so far as may be necessary to arrange with them to come to Albuquerque as proposed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. COLLINS,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, New Mexico.

S. M. YOST, Esq.,
Navajo Agent, Fort Defiance, New Mexico.

Official copy for Colonel Bonneville, commanding department of New Mexico.

J. L. COLLINS,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, New Mexico.

SANTA FE, *November 24, 1858.*

7. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., December 4, 1858.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, that an armistice for thirty days has been granted the Navajo Indians by Colonel Miles on certain conditions, which were to form the basis of a treaty of peace with them. Governor Rencher, Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, and myself, had a consultation on these conditions, and concluded that they did not exactly embody the wants of the Territory, and we accordingly drew up a paper in lieu of it, (copy inclosed marked A,) which has been forwarded to Colonel Miles as the basis of peace. Colonel Collins and myself have agreed to meet the Indians on the 25th instant at Fort Defiance.

I am very desirous to see peace with these Indians, but at the same time it should be of such a character as to give security on the frontier

adjoining them, and the lieutenant general may be assured I will do everything in my power to accomplish it.

The Indians on the north and south are all quiet. At Auton Chico there appears to be some anxiety in regard to a mail party that left for Neosho, but I am in hopes it is without foundation. No report has been received from the party sent by Colonel Loring to the Canadian. Mr. Beale's party left Fort Smith for Albuquerque on the 31st of October. These two parties pass through the country east of Auton Chico, and must give me some positive information concerning that frontier.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Colonel I. THOMAS, *Assist. Adj't Gen.*

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

SANTA FÉ, NEW MEXICO,

November 30, 1858.

While the armistice concluded at Fort Defiance with the Navajo Indians is recognized and confirmed, yet the following terms are held to be indispensable in the conclusion of a definite peace with that tribe.

1st. A longitudinal line shall be designated as the eastern limits of the Navajo tribe, beyond which they shall not be permitted to graze or plant, nor in any other manner occupy. The precise location of this line is reserved for the present, and until the meeting of the United States agents or authorities with the Indians for a final adjustment; but it is not contemplated to fix it further west than the parallel of Fort Defiance.

2d. Indemnification for depredations inflicted upon the property of the citizens, settlers, or Pueblo Indians since the 15th day of August last, shall be fully and amply made, either by the return of the property stolen, or its equivalent in sheep, horses, or other property.

3d. As a guarantee for the future good conduct of the Navajos, it is understood that the whole tribe are to be held responsible for any depredation perpetrated by any one of the tribe, and if prompt satisfaction is not rendered for such depredations, then the authorities and troops of the United States will proceed to make reprisals from the stock and flocks of the tribe at large as shall suffice to indemnify the sufferers.

4th. All prisoners, Mexican or Pueblo captives included, in possession of the Navajos, who desire their release, are to be delivered up to the United States, for the purpose of being set at liberty or restored to their friends. On the other hand, Navajo prisoners in the hands of the United States will be returned to their tribe.

5th. It being represented by the Navajos tribe that the member of their nation who assassinated the negro boy of Major Brooks at Fort Defiance has fled beyond the limits and reach of the Navajo nation, so that his surrender is out of their power, therefore the demand of

his rendition heretofore made is waived, but it is to be fully understood and stipulated by the Navajos, that they are never hereafter to allow that member of their tribe to come or remain within their limits, or in any manner to extend to him their protection; and if he shall be hereafter permitted to come or remain within their country or protection, such permission or toleration is to be regarded as a breach of this adjustment, and an act of war against the United States.

6th. It is not to be understood that in any degree the United States, by these conditions, or any other it may exact, foregoes the right to dispatch military expeditions through the Navajo country, or to establish new military posts or defenses, or Indian agencies, with farming, grazing, or other necessary grounds reserved for the use of the same.

7th. For the purpose of providing hereafter for the friendly adjustment of any question which may arise between the United States and the Navajos, it is urgently recommended that the tribe constitute some central authority or head chief, empowered to act for the tribe.

8th. Sandoval and his people, in consideration of his and their past fidelity and good conduct, will be permitted to occupy the country they now occupy, notwithstanding the terms of the first of these articles, until otherwise provided in future, but in all other respects they are to be considered as part and parcel of the Navajo nation.

Other stipulations than the above may be insisted upon, but are not at present contemplated; and it is the determination of the commander of the department that none of the troops will be withdrawn from the Navajo country, until each and every one of the conditions of peace are fully complied with; and, even thereafter, to leave at Fort Defiance an ample force to enforce a strict compliance with all the terms of this settlement, and more particularly to capture or destroy all stock or flocks of the Navajos, and the crops found east of the boundary line indicated in the first article.

J. L. COLLINS,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, New Mexico.
B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

8. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, December 12, 1858.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, that I will proceed, on the 14th instant, to Fort Defiance, and hope to make a happy termination of the difficulty with the Navajos. Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, will accompany me. I think it probable I may be absent for a month.

I have directed Lieutenant Wilkins, acting assistant adjutant general, to give you weekly advices of the state of the department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant General,*
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

9. HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Fort Defiance, December 25, 1858.

[General Orders, No. 11.]

I. The colonel commanding the department announces with pleasure to the troops that by an engagement this day entered into between Colonel James L. Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, and certain chiefs and headmen of the Navajo nation, the war with the Navajos is brought to a close. To Lieutenant Colonel D. S. Miles, 3d infantry, the commander of the expedition, are due the thanks of the department commander for his activity in prosecuting the war and his strenuous exertions in bringing it to a successful close.

II. To the officers and troops, collectively, who have served in this campaign, much praise is due for the energy and perseverance exhibited by them, under trying and adverse circumstances. Major E. Backus, commanding the second column; Major T. H. Holmes, commanding 8th infantry battalion; and Major C. F. Ruff, commanding mounted rifles, have each rendered good service, and are entitled to my thanks.

III. On account of the scarcity of forage, the mounted troops will move in advance. Major Ruff, with Captain Elliott's company "A," mounted rifles, and companies "K" and "B," 8th infantry, Lieutenants Willard and Cooke commanding, is assigned to Fort Stanton.

IV. Major T. H. Holmes, 8th infantry, with company "I," same regiment, Lieutenant Lazelle commanding, will proceed to Fort Bliss, Texas.

V. Captains Lindsay and Morris, mounted rifles, with their companies, "H" and "G," are assigned to Fort Union.

VI. Companies "F" and "C," mounted rifles, commanded by Brevet Captain Granger and Lieutenant Howland, will, on Tuesday, the 28th instant, escort the department commander, Colonel Bonneville, Lieutenant Colonel Miles, 3d infantry, and Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, to Albuquerque. These companies will then proceed to Fort Craig, when Captain Granger will report for duty to Major Simonson. Lieutenant Howland will proceed to Fort Fillmore, stopping at Fort Thorn to collect his company property.

VII. The detachment of company "I," 3d infantry, now at Fort Craig, will join the headquarters of said company at Las Lunas, New Mexico.

VIII. Captain Schreoder, with his company, "D," 3d infantry, and Lieutenant Cogswell, with company "E," 8th infantry, will proceed with Don José Valdez, his spies and guides, to Santa Fé. Don Valdez will turn in his arms and equipments, and, with his spies and guides,

will be discharged from the service of the United States. The Utah Indians, spies, and guides will accompany Captain Schreoder to Santa Fé, turn in their arms and equipments, and, being discharged, will return to their own country. Captain Schreoder will return with his company "D" to Cantonment Burgwin. Captain Duncan, with his company "E," mounted rifles, is assigned to Cantonment Burgwin. Don Blas Lucero, with his spies and guides, will proceed to Albuquerque, turn in his arms and equipments to Major D. H. Rucker, assistant quartermaster, and will be discharged from the service of the United States. The thanks of the department commander are due to Don José Maria Valdez and Don Blas Lucero, their spies and guides, as well as the Utah Indians, serving as spies and guides, for their zeal and activity during the period of hostilities.

IX. Brevet Captain Hatch, with company "I," mounted rifles, will proceed to Fort Craig and report to Major Simonson for duty.

X. As heretofore indicated, Major Electus Backus, 3d infantry, is assigned to the command of Fort Defiance, and is charged with the execution of this order. He may detain a portion of the foot troops until the arrival of the next train of which he can avail himself, or transportation, to Albuquerque. He will receive special instructions in reference to the execution of the agreement made with the Navajo Indians this day.

XI. Captain Van Bokkelen, assistant quartermaster, will turn over to each company commander, as far as practicable, the same mules, saddles, and pack equipments as were turned in by them to the quartermaster's department. These animals and equipments are designed to go with each company to its post. Major Backus will indicate to each detachment the day of its departure and the amount of subsistence to be carried hence.

XII. Lieutenant M. L. Davis, 3d infantry, on being relieved at Cantonment Burgwin, will join his company at Albuquerque.

XIII. Lieutenant Colonel Grayson, chief of the subsistence department, has amply provided, under adverse circumstances, for every want of the troops. The medical department, under Surgeon Sloan, has been administered in a manner equally satisfactory. The untiring and successful efforts of Major Rucker to supply this army in the field, is worthy of all praise. He was most ably and efficiently supported by his chief, Major Donaldson, who, from his headquarters at Santa Fé, administered to the wants of his extensive department in a most satisfactory manner.

XIV. Captain Trevitt's company "F," Captain Syke's company "K," Captain Ward's company "E," commanded by Lieutenant Shipley, and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Chandler's company "I," 3d infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Whistler, have been most actively employed on escort duty in the enemy's country. I take much pleasure in acknowledging the arduous service they have rendered.

XV. Assistant Surgeon J. T. Ghiselin, medical department, will return with Major Ruff's command to Fort Stanton.

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

10. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fe, January 5, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose for the information of the general-in-chief, "report of Captain McLane, regiment of mounted riflemen of September 2, 1858," deeming it called for by general orders headquarters of the army, 1858. This report was found on file in the office, having been received and placed there by my predecessor.

The report of Major Backus's column would have been forwarded, but I am awaiting a map to accompany it, which he has promised me in a few days.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant General,*
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

FORT DEFIANCE, NEW MEXICO,
September 2, 1858.

COLONEL: You having arrived at this post, I would respectfully make the following report of my march from Albuquerque here.

I left Albuquerque on the evening of August 25, having under my command twelve men of company I, regiment mounted rifles, and the company spies and guides commanded by Captain Blas Lucero.

I arrived at Bacon Spring the evening of August 28, not finding there any express from Major Brooks and seeing many signs of Indians having passed down the country, I concluded he had struck the blow at the Navajo Indians which he intimated to me he would strike, on or about the 25th. I, therefore, determined that if the following day I did not meet an express from Fort Defiance, I would attack any armed party of Indians I might meet.

On my arrival at Bear Spring I saw a large number of Indians and some forty or fifty animals on the left, and at some distance from the road. Despatching some eight or ten men after the horses, and taking with me four riflemen and Captain Lacero with twenty-two (22) men of his party. I moved towards the Indians, and was received by them with a discharge of arrows and fire arms. I immediately attacked the Indians who numbered about 300. They fled towards the woods, firing upon me during their retreat. I dismounted the rifles and such Mexicans as I could make understand me, and pressed them vigorously; they retreated taking shelter behind trees and rocks. The action continued for about fifteen minutes, when receiving a rifle ball in my right side which for the time completely disabled me, I directed the pursuit to cease.

Having been unable to review the field myself, I report from authority I deem most reliable, that eight or ten Indians were killed, a number of their horses were destroyed, their blankets and cooking

utensils captured, numerous bows and arrows with quivers were picked up by my men, and four men and twenty-four horses taken.

The conduct of the riflemen with me, more particularly Brown and Griffin, both for coolness, daring, and execution, is worthy of the highest commendation.

To Captain Lucero and his company I feel under great obligation, their promptness and gallantry was that belonging to veterans. The high reputation already obtained by the captain was more than sustained on this occasion.

I would be doing injustice to a gallant gentleman, did I not mention the admirable conduct of Mr. Yost, the agent for the Navajos, when prevented from his position from taking an active part in the affair remained by my side a cool and calm spectator of the (to him) unusual scene passing before him; of which, I suppose, he has already made a detailed account to his chief.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GEORGE McLANE,
Captain regiment of mounted rifles.
 Lieutenant Colonel DIXON S. MILES,
Commanding the troops in Navajo country, New Mexico.

11. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, January 8, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report for the information of the general-in-chief, that I have just returned from Fort Defiance, where Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, and myself, met the Indians in council. A treaty was concluded, a copy of which I inclose. I hold twenty-one Navajos, prisoners taken during the war, as hostages. I have withdrawn the troops, as you have already been advised by my general order, transmitted by the acting assistant adjutant general. Although I believe the Indians sincere in their desire for peace, I have deemed it prudent to keep four infantry companies at Fort Defiance, supported by two infantry companies at Los Lunas, one at Albuquerque, two companies of mounted riflemen at Fort Craig, and an additional company at Cantonment Burgwin. I have placed Major Backus in command at Fort Defiance. The above disposition of troops will not only give that judicious officer all the support necessary, but will serve to quiet the uneasy feeling and excitement on the frontier, consequent upon the late military operations in its vicinity.

Fort Defiance is located in an elevated valley of the Rocky mountain range. Pursuing Indians amongst the mountain tops in the severity of winter, and escorting the supplies to such inhospitable regions, through the enemy's country, are arduous duties, and when performed with the cheerfulness and zeal which has characterised both officers and men in this campaign, they deserve commendation. Supplying forage alone to an average of fifteen hundred animals, in the field and en route to it, imposed a heavy task on the depot at Albuquerque, and

I am glad to say it was satisfactorily performed without the necessity of relying upon or falling into the hands of speculators.

In bringing together the troops and resources from the distant limits of the department, my staff have been prompt, and gave me valuable assistance. Everything has been done to insure efficiency and strict economy.

Major Cary H. Fry, pay department, made punctual payment to the troops in the field.

I feel it my duty to add that my regimental adjutant, Lieutenant John D. Wilkins, suddenly called upon to perform the duties of assistant adjutant general to the department when the war had just commenced, had, in addition to his own appropriate duties, those of the pay, subsistence, and quartermaster department crowded at his one desk, all of which were discharged with an ability and fidelity to be commended until their proper chiefs arrived at their stations, when I received their valuable assistance already noticed. Not having an ordnance officer at these headquarters, I felt the absolute necessity of one, and assigned Lieutenant Roger Jones to that duty, who afforded me great satisfaction.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant General,*
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

12. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fe, N. M., January 23, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose, for the information of the general-in-chief, the reports of Major Backus, 3d infantry, Captain Duncan, regiment mounted rifles, and Lieutenant Cogswell, 8th infantry, received at these headquarters November 27, 1858.

These reports have been delayed on account of a map now in the course of preparation, but, as it is not yet finished, I have thought it advisable to send them without it. They include all the operations of the second column, and complete the correspondence of the war.

This column has performed all that was anticipated of it, protecting the northwestern frontier; entering the country of the Navajos, through the formidable band of Kay-a-tana, one of the most hostile chiefs; forcing the Navajos from their hiding places westwards; and no doubt exercised great influence in bringing about the armistice which caused its withdrawal from the field while in successful operation.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant General,*
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *November 19, 1858.*

SIR: In obedience to department orders, No. 91, current series, and of the verbal instructions of Colonel Miles, November 3, 1858, received at Junicha, I have the honor to submit the following report:

On the 4th of November, 1858, I marched from Junicha, in command of the second column Navajo expedition, composed of two companies of mounted rifles, commanded by Captain Duncan; four companies of infantry, commanded by Captain Schroeder, 3d infantry; fifty-five spies and guides, commanded by Captain Valdez, of New Mexico, and twenty-two Utah Indians, acting also as spies and guides. Our first point of action was the Paso Blanco, about twenty miles northwest from our camp, on the Junicha. We encamped at Cave spring on the night of the 4th, and found two good corn-fields near by, enough to supply our animals with fodder. At the suggestion of Captain Valdez, I detached at night ten of his men, and six Utah Indians to intercept the enemy then watching our movements. At 3 p. m. on the 5th, we arrived at Peña Blanco in time to witness a spirited chase of the Navajos by the spies and Utes in advance. Two Navajos were killed, and one escaped. We found corn again for our horses and mules at this place. Peña Blanco is at the commencement of Paso Blanco, and is evidently an old and favorite resort of Navajos. Cayatano mountain lies north of Peña Blanco, about two miles, and is considered as one of the Navajo strongholds, it was necessary to clear it. I detached Lieutenant Cogswell, 8th infantry in command of eighty foot men of all the corps present to ascend the mountain, and clear it of the enemy, while the main body would move forward northwardly to a point known as Red Rock. Lieutenants Cook of the 8th infantry, and Enos of the mounted rifles, commanded the men of their respective corps on this detail. The order was handsomely executed, and at 7 p. m., a single fire from a pinnacle of the mountain, advised me that "all was well" in that quarter. A few moments later the Utahs arrived at my camp with one hundred goats and five horses; they reported some skirmishing with the troops, but did not wait for the result. At 10 a. m. the next morning, (November 7th,) Lieutenant Gogswell arrived with his command. He had ascended the mountain, destroyed many lodges, wounded three Indians, captured one hundred goats, killed two horses, and captured eight. More than all, he had discovered the strength of the enemy's position, and from the top of Cayatano he could look down upon their country as upon a map, and could see that with less than three bodies of troops, the Indians could not be captured or compelled to fight at that place. They had their stock in a cañon north of Cayatano, and this cañon led into Paso Blanco on the south, and to a large plain on the north, which lies between Cayatano and the Carisso mountains, bordering on the San Juan river. The Indians held their stock at a point from which they could flee north to Carisso, south to Chéllé, through Paso Blanco, or east to Peña Blanco, where they had houses and fields of corn. When Lieutenant Gogswell descended the mountain on the north slope, a part of the Indians rushed back with their stock towards Chéllé, through Paso Blanco, which is represented as almost impassable for pack mules, even without oppo-

sition from an enemy. Another portion passed off westwardly, and was subsequently pursued by us. Cayatano was covered with snow, and the troops without baggage, suffered from cold and the fatigue of ascending and descending a ragged mountain, which is estimated at 4,000 feet above the plain on which it rests. The mesa is not as large as it had been represented to me. It is about three miles long and one broad, and has several janks of water upon its surface. The inclosed report and map by Lieutenant Gogswell, marked "A," contains valuable information, and is creditable to every officer and soldier employed on the scout. On the 7th we did not move camp from Red Rock on the Cyote, as the scouting party required rest. On the 8th we marched nearly due west, ten miles to a stream, called Pajaritta, a tributary of the Junicha, running east. I detached Captain Duncan with about fifty men and horses to pursue a trail of sheep towards the west end of Carisso mountains, and Lieutenant Lazelle with the same number of infantry troops, and without an animal to pack or ride, went directly north, over some exceedingly rough country to ascertain whether any considerable quantity of sheep, horses, or families had gone towards the San Juan. I accompanied this latter party, and found the southern slope of Carisso densely covered with pine, pinon, and cedar, and filled with springs and rivulets. We found two trails of small parties having a few sheep or goats, and some twenty or thirty horses, going northwest. We descended into a deep cañon, probably 1,000 feet, with a fine stream of water, frozen in most places, and having threaded this cañon about two miles, we emerged into the plain, near an isolated peak of trap rock, and returned to camp. It was truly a hard days' work, as we had ascended and descended cliffs and cañons, impassable to animals, where I required the assistance of soldiers to enable me to progress. From an elevated point I had traced the valley of the Junicha and Chaco to San Juan, and I could clearly see its channel, not the water, for twenty or thirty miles. The Platéro mountains and others on its northern bank were covered with snow, as well as Cayatano and Carisso.

On the same day Captain Duncan pursued a more westerly course, followed a trail several miles, and returned through a deep cañon, some five miles in length, where he found much difficulty in preventing injury to his horses and men. His animals were much jaded by hard roads and bad fare, and required rest. The streams we had crossed all tended towards the Chaco, or Junicha, as well as the Pajaritto, on which we were encamped. It was now evident that the flocks and herds had gone west. Captain Valdez applied on the 7th for permission to pursue a trail towards Carisso, with his spies and the Utah Indians. I readily complied, and he departed leaving his packs with the column. At Red Rock, on the 7th, he had captured one Navajo horse and killed two. They were of no value to us, as they were broken down. At 8 p. m. on the 8th, Captain Valdez returned to camp with 33 horses, 178 goats, and 22 sheep; he had killed one Indian near Red Rock, soon after leaving our camp, and wounded (probably killed) one at the Carisso mountains, where he captured the animals. This was a handsome operation on the part of Captain Valdez, his spies, and the Utahs. Captain Valdez is an active and zealous officer,

and performs his duties to my entire satisfaction. He has good men and they are well mounted. No injury was inflicted upon any man under the command of Captain Valdez. On the 9th a party of Utahs (volunteers) left us; on the 8th they had found a large trail of Utahs going north, with a drove of horses, probably, captured from the Navajos, and soon after they found the trail of the Navajos in pursuit, and then the marks of a severe conflict. Three horses were dead on the field, and the ground was marked for the space of a mile with trails of the masses as they had charged and resisted each other. The Utahs concluded, from the evidence remaining, that their friends had succeeded in securing the cavilliard of horses and had taken them home. On the 9th we marched about ten or twelve miles and encamped near the foot of the Carisso mountains, at a place called "Las Gigantes." Red sandstone in almost every conceivable form marks this place and the valley through which we have passed. On the 10th we ascended Cedar creek through a narrow and wild cañon; oak, pine, pinon, and cedar covered the line of our march for five or six miles, as we rapidly ascended the mountain; at about 9 a. m. we reached the crest and had a magnificent view of the country towards Chéllé and the Calabasa mountains. We descended, probably, a thousand feet in two miles, and struck a creek flowing into the San Juan, of which I could obtain no name, but called it Gothic creek, from the immense masses of red sandstone mesas, which in form strikingly resemble the Gothic style of architecture. We encamped on the creek where trails of sheep were quite fresh, going west. We captured two Navajo horses on the march to-day.

On the 11th we reached the Ojo del Casa a tributary of Gothic creek. Our course for the last three days has been northwest. At Ojo del Casa the sign of sheep and horses was quite fresh, and I detached Captain Duncan, with Captain Morris and their best horses and men, to pursue the trail and if possible to capture the animals and punish the enemy. Captain Valdez with spies and Utes accompanied him. He followed the trail until the moon went down, about 10 p. m., and started again at dawn on the 12th, going west towards Calabasa mountains. By 12 o'clock it was evident he could not overtake the Indians in less than two days, and his horses were incompetent to the task. He accordingly returned to the Arroyo de Chéllé, which he had crossed, and joined me on the 13th at Ojo de la Puerte, in the Arroyo de Chéllé.

On the 12th I marched southwest to the Arroyo de Chéllé, about fourteen miles; I found little or no grass, and bad water, colored red by the soil through which it percolates.

On 13th, I intended to wait for Captain Duncan, but was compelled to move camp five miles for grass and water, our animals were starving. We ascended the broad arrayo five miles to Ojo de la Puerte, and found clear water with very little grass. Captain Duncan joined us here at 2 p.m. The Arroyo de Chéllé is the valley of the Rio de Chéllé below the cañon. It is from one to three miles broad, has fair sandy soil, which yields small crops by irrigation. Tracks of sheep, horses, cows, Indians, &c., mark the whole valley. Irrigating ditches are yet plainly marked, and the storks of old corn are occasionally met with, but no cultivation has taken place this year. Our course had now

changed to south-east, and we followed up the valley for three days. On the 14th, we passed the *Ventana*, a mass of red sandstone, on an elevated mesa, having a large round opening through it from east to west; it is a notable land-mark. On the 15th, we passed Carisso creek and Agua Grande. We had now left the Arroyo de Chéllé about ten or twelve miles below the cañon, and were on its north east bank. We encamped at an Indian village which had been occupied by Herero, a Navajo chief. Here are remnants of a flourishing village, two old pueblos are in the vicinity. The Utahs killed a Navajo to-day and his horse. One poor horse was captured. One of Captain Morris's horses was captured near our camp by a Navajo at dawn this morning; he had drawn up his picket pin and was at the time astray. The Indian was fired at, but was not killed. This was the only horse captured from us by Navajos during the march. The grass was bad at this camp, and the horses are nearly famished. On the 16th, we marched to Sienege Avanico, during the day, and on the night previous smokes were made by Navajos to indicate a disposition to talk. I sent an interpreter to inquire their wants. They replied peace, and said they would come to my camp when I halted. Six Indians went to Lieutenant Lazelle, commanding rear guard, and wanted to talk; he advised them to see me in camp. They carried a white flag. Captain Valdez was next to the rear guard. Indians were on both sides of the road, and even the Utahs were in conversation with them. The column had nearly passed a narrow defile, when a party of Navajos in ambush fired upon Captain Valdez, killed his horse, and wounded him severely in the forehead; he was prostrated with his horse to the earth, but instantly rolled over and returned the shot. The Indians fled, but were fired at by fifteen or twenty of the spies and guides. No Indians came to my camp on this night, but extra precautions were taken to prevent treachery and surprise. As we left camp in the morning, several Indians came up and said they were the men who raised the white flag, but were not the Indians who fired at Captain Valdez. The party who fired had followed Captain Valdez for many days to obtain revenge for the two Indians killed by him at Pena Blanco. They said "peace is made, and Colonel Miles has gone back to Cañon Bonito." On the same day, we reached Black Lake, at 3 p. m., and found good wood, water and fodder for our animals. On the 18th, we reached this post, and completed the duties assigned us by Colonel Bonneville and yourself. Near Black Lake we captured two horses, and several Navajos appeared on the mesa east of us, in a peaceful attitude. Hoping for a favorably result, I directed that they should not be disturbed, and trust I was right in so doing.

In conclusion I will add, we marched from Albuquerque on the 19th of October, left San Isidio October 24, arrived at Junicha November 2, 163 miles from Albuquerque; thence *via* Chéllé to Fort Defiance is 186 miles; total 349 miles, performed in the enemy's country in thirty days. Four Indians were killed, four or more wounded; 35 Navajo horses were captured and 10 were shot; 278 goats and 22 sheep were captured; and our only loss by the enemy was one horse captured and one officer (Captain Valdez) wounded. I was exceedingly fortunate in having under my command very discreet and energetic officers. Major

Ruff, who commanded the rifles, was relieved, at Junicha, by Colonel Miles, and transferred to the first column. I regretted the necessity of parting with him, yet his successor, Captain Duncan, was energetic and zealous, and merits my commendation. He was well supported by Captain Morris of his own regiment. Captain Schroeder commanded the infantry, and performed every duty assigned him to my entire satisfaction. Each and every officer and soldier seemed zealous in the discharge of his arduous duties, and only regretted that the timidity of the enemy gave him no opportunity to render to his country such service as is expected from faithful soldiers in the hour of danger.,

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
E. BACKUS, *Major 3d infantry.*

Lieut. W. B. LANE, *Reg't mounted rifles,*
Adjutant Navajo expedition, Fort Defiance, N. M.

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to the commander of the department for his favorable commendation of Major Backus and his gallant officers, in their great exertions, through much exposure, to conquer the enemy.

D. S. MILES,
Lieut. Col. 3d infantry, commanding.

CAMP NEAR JEMEZ, NEW MEXICO,
October 21, 1858.

SIR: On the night of the 17th instant a party of five Navajo Indians came within 200 yards of this camp, broke into the corral of Don Francisco Sandoval, and stole one horse, six donkeys, and seven head of cattle. The matter being reported to me between eight and nine o'clock the following morning, I immediately started a detachment of ten men of company "E," mounted rifles, under Sergeant John Duffin, with six men of Captain Valdez's company of spies and guides as trailers. The party was also accompanied by Don F. Sandoval and his son.

After following the trail some 18 or 20 miles in a westerly direction, two of the donkeys were found dead, having been butchered, and the choice portions taken for food. Following on the trail with great rapidity, Sergeant Duffin succeeded just before sunset in overtaking the Indians with their booty, attacked them and killed one, after a chase of four or five miles. All of the cattle and four donkeys were also recovered and brought back. The Indians were overtaken about fifty miles, and in nearly a due west course, from this camp, the trail of pursuit crossing the headwaters of the Rio Puerco. It is proper to state that the fence was broken down, and the animals stolen out within fifteen yards of where the Utah Indians were sleeping; and that three Utahs, who volunteered to go with the pursuing party, were worse

than useless, as they deserted and come back to the camp after going only a few miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS DUNCAN,
Captain mounted rifles.

Major E. BACKUS, *3d infantry,*
Commanding Jemez, N. M.

This letter should have been sent from Jemez.

E. BACKUS,
Major commanding late second column.

FORT DEFIANCE, *November 21, 1858.*

CAMP AT RIO PAZARITO, N. M.,
November 8, 1858.

MAJOR: In compliance with Special Orders No. 6, headquarters second column, Piña Blanco, November 5, 1858, I beg leave to make the following report:

On the 6th instant, at 7 p. m., I left the camp at Piña Blanco with a command of 80 (eighty) men, composed of 40 infantry, 15 mounted riflemen, 15 spies and guides, our ten Utah Indians, with orders to ascend the Sierra Cayatano, and clear it of the enemy, if any should be there. Lieutenant Cooke, of the 8th infantry, had command of the infantry; and Lieutenant Enos, of the mounted rifles, had command of the riflemen, and of the spies and guides.

About three miles north of west of the camp we climbed the cliffs that form the border of the mountainous country between the camp and the Sierra. About a mile further on, the Utahs discovered two of the enemies' spies, a mile or thereabouts to our right. I found it impossible to cut them off.

After a toilsome march of three hours we entered a deep and narrow valley on the east side of the Sierra, in which we found the trail leading up the mountain. At the commencement of the ascent the Utahs found a horse which they shot, not being able to take him along. At 11 o'clock a. m., we reached the top of the mountain. After a short halt, I sent ten men to the summit of a high hill on the mesa to reconnoitre, and then deployed the riflemen and half the Indians on the right, and the volunteers and remaining Indians on the left flank as skirmishers, and marched across the mesa.

I found numerous tracks of Indians, horses, and sheep on the mesa, but they were from three to four days old. Only one Indian, with a horse, was seen; the Indian was fired upon, and was reported to me as wounded. The horse was captured, and not being able to take him with me, I ordered him to be shot.

On our arrival at the west side of the mesa, we discovered in the deep valley that skirts the mountain several lodges, a number of Indians, and a flock of sheep and goats; but, before a point could be found at which a descent was possible, there being a perpendicular wall on that side of the mesa of over seven hundred feet, the Indians had time to

remove their families, and a portion of their flocks. A party that I had sent to discover a place at which the command could descend, reported they had found one practicable; but, after descending about two hundred feet, I found myself and command on the edge of an immense precipice, and I was compelled to return, the men assisting each other up the solid rock with their muskets. If a foot had slipped in clambering up the whole distance, the man would have fallen to the bottom of the precipice.

In the meantime the Utahs had found a practicable point, and had descended in advance of the command, and captured one hundred goats and five horses, which they immediately took into your camp, without waiting my arrival.

In approaching the lodges two Indians were fired upon, and both were reported to me as dangerously wounded. The horse, bridle, saddle, and provisions of one of them were taken. I ordered the horses to be destroyed, and then encamped on the high ridge that runs parallel to west side of the mountain.

On the morning of the 7th three horses were captured near my camp; and on the same morning I broke up my camp, and reached the camp of the second column, in the Cayote, about 11 a. m. During the morning I became satisfied that the Indians, with their moveable property, had fled from the Sierra Cayatano, and gone in the direction of the Carissa mountains.

Lieutenants Cooke and Enos are officers of intelligence and energy, and I am much indebted to both for the zeal and activity they displayed during the expedition. The men endured all the fatigue of this toilsome march cheerfully.

The mesa of Cayatano is about four thousand feet above the surrounding plain, and is about four miles long, and one in breadth. It can only be ascended with horses at one point, and at that point it is very rugged. On foot it can be ascended at three points; but two of the three are very difficult. There are several natural tanks on the mesa that afford a large supply of water; and about a mile from the summit there is a spring of fresh water on the horse trail. Several valleys intersect the mesa, and furnish excellent grazing for large herds, and sufficient timber for the wants of the Indians. This mesa, and the deep cañons that surround it, are evidently favorite resorts of the Navajos; twenty determinate men can defend the pass by which I ascended against any force which could be brought to bear against them; and hence, I am led to believe that the Indians had no idea that we would ascend the mesa, or they would have fought us there. Herewith inclosed a topographical sketch, drawn by Lieutenant Cooke, 8th infantry.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. COGSWELL,
First Lieutenant 8th infantry.

Major E. BACKUS, *3d infantry,*
Commanding second column.

OJO DEL PUERTE, NAVAJO EXPEDITION,
November 13, 1858.

MAJOR: In obedience to your order of the 11th instant, I left Ojo del Casa at 4 o'clock, p. m., of that day, with 25 men of my own company; 25 of company G mounted rifles, under Captain R. M. Morris; 40 spies and guides, under Captain Valdez; and 10 Utah Indians. The trail upon which we have been traveling for some days continued in almost a due west course. I followed it until about 11 o'clock the evening of my departure from your camp, making, as we estimated, twenty miles, and after crossing the creek which passes through the Cañon de Chéllé, encamped in a handsome bottom, with plenty of water and grass, called Suneya Bonita. Early on the following morning the march was resumed and continued about 14 miles. Several Indians were seen during the day, but all of them managed to keep at a respectful distance. Having marched this far, and the trail not appearing to be any fresher than when I left you, and our horses being greatly exhausted, it was evident that the enemy could not be overtaken in anything like the time to which I was limited, if at all. I therefore returned to Suneya Bonita, where we encamped last night. To-day, after crossing over rocky hills for two or three miles, we struck the Arroyo of Chéllé, and continued up it to this camp, our course being a little south of east, and the distance traveled about 15 miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. DUNCAN,

Captain rifles, commanding detachment.

Major E. BACKUS, *3d infantry,*

Commanding second column Navajo expedition.

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant Lane, adjutant of Navajo expedition, with my report of November 19, 1858.

E. BACKUS,

Major commanding.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *January 1, 1859.*

SIR: I beg leave to offer a few amendments to my report of the operations of the second column, made to Lieutenant Lane adjutant to the Navajo expedition, on the 19th of November, 1858. I omitted to mention that First Lieutenant Milton Cogswell, of the 8th infantry, as my quartermaster and commissary of subsistence, had preceded me to San Isidio, near Jumus, and had made the most ample arrangements to meet every want of my command. As my adjutant, he promptly and cheerfully executed every duty assigned him. At Peña Blanco, on the 5th of November, he solicited the command of a detachment about to ascend Cayatano mountain, without transportation, and with the prospect of a toilsome march and much opposition when he should reached its snow-covered summit. As he commanded a company, in addition to his staff duties, I did not feel at liberty to deny his request.

On the contrary, I cheerfully gave him the command. The result is already reported; it was entirely successful. I have just learned from Arinijo, a Navajo chief, that two Indians were killed on the north slope of Cayatano mountain; Lieutenant Cogswell had reported three wounded. The Indians represent the injuries they received from our operations in that neighborhood as far greater than we had any reason to suppose. Dr. Anderson, of the medical department, I am happy to say, had but little to do. We had but one man wounded, (Captain Valdez,) and but few sick; yet the doctor was always in the right place, and ever ready to meet such exigencies as were liable to occur from hour to hour. Not a ball or an arrow was ever fired into any of our camps from the day we left San Isidio until we arrived at Fort Defiance. I was somewhat surprised at this, as I had been informed that a tent could scarcely be raised at night without bearing the marks of balls and arrows in the morning. I relied upon pickets placed far out from the camp, at selected points, and always posted after dark. They never failed to effect the purposes designed.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. BACKUS,

Major 3d infantry, late commander second column.

First Lieut. J. D. WILKINS, *3d infantry,*
Acting Assistant Adjutant General,
Department of New Mexico.

13. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., February 27, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report for the information of the general-in-chief, that I have just returned from an inspection tour of the depot at Albuquerque, and the posts of Albuquerque, Las Lunas, and Fort Craig, having in company Major Donaldson, chief quartermaster of the department, and was gratified to find their condition satisfactory.

On my return I found a report of a scout, made by Lieutenant Lazelle, 8th infantry, against the Mescalero Apaches, in which that gallant and intelligent officer overtook the enemy, and after a sharp conflict was obliged to withdraw, being severely wounded himself, and having three of his men killed and six wounded. Although this attack appears to have been unsuccessful, it is gratifying to observe it was conducted with vigor and daring on the part of the commander and his small force.

A copy of the report, inclosed, and marked "A," will give you the details. This small band of Indians, numbering about one hundred, have been more or less troublesome since the organization of the department, and I have now determined to punish them.

The health of Major Backus, 3d infantry, having been impaired at Fort Defiance, at his request, I directed him to proceed to the milder

climate of Albuquerque, where he would be free from the cares of command. This will account for the presence of two field officers at Albuquerque, whilst the important post of Fort Defiance is under the command of Brevet Major Shepherd, 3d infantry.

It having been reported to Major Backus, then in command of Fort Defiance, that outrages had been committed on American citizens at the pueblo of Zuñi, that officer at once dispatched Major Shepherd, with an officer and forty-eight men, to inquire into the circumstances. The report was not entirely confirmed, but Major Shepherd brought two of the accused to Fort Defiance in irons. Major Backus having examined the case fully, discharged the Indians on the ground that they were sufficiently punished for an attempted outrage, induced by the persons who entered the complaint selling whisky to them.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, com'g department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant General,*
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

FORT BLISS, *Texas, February 18, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in compliance with verbal orders from the commanding officer of this post, I left here on the evening of the 31st ultimo, with thirty mounted men of company D, regiment mounted rifles, for the town of San Elizario, Texas, twenty-one miles distant, to follow a trail of beef cattle reported by the inhabitants of that place as having been stolen some days previously. I was joined on the following morning by a small number of citizens, a guide, and an interpreter. At an early hour we took up the trail. As the cattle had been gone three days it was considered more proper that we should prepare for a long pursuit rather than a short and exhausting one, and our marches, as far as practicable, were conducted with this end in view. The trail ran in a westerly direction for about thirty miles, then turning south and southwest, over rough mountainous country, for about twenty miles more, finally assumed a general northeast direction, and towards the southern point of the Cornude mountains; this branch of the trail was followed about thirty miles, over a rough limestone country; it was very circuitous, and frequently became so obscure as to render our progress slow. It finally led us to a point of rocks, where the Indians, on their way to the settlements, had left some of their number to collect water in skins for whatever stock they might bring on their return. We were unable to get more than a swallow for the men, and, to procure water, I was compelled temporarily to abandon the trail to preserve my animals, and arrived at Cottonwood spring, a point ten miles to the west of it, about eleven o'clock on the third day, having marched about eighty-five miles without water. We resumed the trail the following day, its general course being northeast and towards the Sacramento mountains, and finally arrived at a small spring about fifteen miles distant from the above-

mentioned mountains, having marched from the Cottonwood springs a distance of seventy miles, fifty-five of which we were without water. At this spring it was evident that the Indians had remained sometime, and had been joined by others. They had also taken the same means here as at the point of rocks first mentioned to supply their animals (stolen and others) with water, and to prevent pursuit, as the amount which it afforded at any one time was extremely limited. From this point the trail inclined rapidly towards the Sacramento mountains, and in the direction of Dog cañon, where we arrived about noon on the seventh day of our march from San Elizario, and thirty-five miles distant from the last mentioned spring. We followed the trail about two miles and a half into the cañon by a narrow winding path, which skirts the bases of high and almost inaccessible mountains, whose slopes traverse each other, perfectly obscuring our view for a distance of more than one hundred yards at a time; at frequent intervals it crossed a watery and rocky ravine, and its whole nature was such as to prevent more than one person passing at a time. It finally opens into a broad space surrounded by high and apparently inaccessible mountains. This space is interspersed with deep rocky ravines and steep hills, of various heights, with ragged stony sides; some of them are partially covered with a dwarfish growth of scrubby evergreens. As we neared this open space in the cañon our spies in advance reported that we had been discovered, and that the Indians were coming down to us. On arriving at a little plateau in the opening the Indians, numbering about thirty warriors, armed, painted, and stripped, raised a white flag and insisted upon a talk, asking what we wanted, &c. Without displaying a flag we replied to their questions, that we had come there for our cattle; they said that none were there, and that none had been there. We told them that we had followed the trail there, and asked them to explain it. They replied, after *consultation with each other*, that three bad men had driven oxen into their cañon, and had killed two there, but that they had quarreled with them and made them drive the other two cattle off; that their chief would be down soon to talk with me. I assured them that I had not come to talk, but to follow the trail even if it led through their camp, and that if they were friends we should not quarrel, but that we must see where it terminated. We then moved on for about half a mile, the Indians constantly retreating from point to point, yet hovering on our flanks and in front of us. At the top of a rugged hill they made a stand, and said that we must advance no further or they would fire. I replied that I should return it if they did, but that we must go on. We accordingly moved on until we had arrived within one hundred yards of their camp; they here came to a determined halt, and insisted that we should advance no further. They now declared that all of the beeves had been killed, and that there was no longer a trail. I said that I must see the place where they had been killed, and evidence of it, and should then be satisfied. Upon this they sent one of their number to show us the spot, and there, laid upon the ground drying, were eleven perfectly green beef hides and two mule hides. The offal and refuse of the cattle were strewn about, and everything indicated that they had been recently slain. The stock was indentified by Mr.

Garcia, the most important as well as the most intelligent of the Mexicans with me, as that which had been stolen. A large number of temporary and very recently erected lodges, constructed of boughs and leaves, in this immediate vicinity, were, in addition, quite proof enough that more than three Indians had been engaged in the transaction. Their women and children had been removed from their camp, and nothing could be found in it. It was after some moments of reflection that I decided that we would not then attack them, as the head and flanks of our column, then in single file, were perfectly surrounded by them, while they were effectually sheltered by the rocks, and possessed many natural advantages of position. I deemed it would be then at too great a sacrifice, and resolved to await a more favorable opportunity. I accordingly retraced my steps out of the cañon, and fixed my camp for the night about two miles from its mouth.

As additional proof that the Indians inhabiting this cañon had been directly or indirectly concerned in the theft, the foot-prints of eight had been followed from San Elizario, and they had received an accession to their numbers at two points on our route; at one of these, near the base of the Sacramento mountains, and fifteen miles distant from Dog cañon, the party had killed and eaten a beef, and here there was abundant proof that a large number of Indians had assisted at the feast. The number of cattle taken from San Elizario was fourteen, besides several mules, the remains of three of these we found on our route, (including that first mentioned,) the number of those remaining corresponded exactly with those killed in the cañon. A full consideration of these circumstances confirmed me in determining to attack these Indians, although their pretended relations with the government were then of a peaceful character. Taking twenty-two men, and leaving the balance as a guard for the animals, we moved stealthily up the cañon during the night, and before dawn had surrounded the spot where we supposed the camp of the Indians to be; at the earliest light we were ready to attack it, but the Indians, apprised of our approach, had fled to a point about three quarters of a mile further up the cañon; we pushed on rapidly in pursuit, finally overtaking and attacking them on a comb-like ridge of rocks of considerable height where they had made a stand. We were not long in driving them from this position, however, to one still further beyond it; this was a steep and rugged elevation which completely commanded every eminence about it; it was comparatively level, and gradually rising, sloped back, joining the high mountains which surrounded the whole open space; upon this was already a large collection of Indians, and their number was rapidly increasing. We attempted to gain its summit by advancing as skirmishers, and had nearly done so when about twenty Indians made a charge upon the center of our line, advancing very closely; for a moment considerable confusion prevailed, a steady fire, however, from the men who remained in their places soon checked the advance of the Indians, but they however were supported by others in their rear, and by considerable parties who were extending themselves to every available point on our flanks; we maintained our position for a considerable time, frequently advance-

ing, when the Indians invariably gave way, but only to take up positions perhaps still more advantageous on our flanks or in rear of us. It soon became evident that it was only a question of time with them; they outnumbered us nearly three to one. As several of our men were badly wounded and disabled, our ammunition had been greatly reduced, leaving about a dozen rounds per man; under these circumstances I could not but think it advisable to return, however mortifying and disagreeable it appeared. We slowly retreated towards the neck of the cañon, taking our wounded with us. One of these, private Newman, required the continual services of four men to carry him, having a fractured thigh, so that our fighting party was now greatly reduced; the Indians followed at a short distance, continually endeavoring to completely surround us, advancing closely upon our flanks; we had gone scarcely half a mile when private Ogden, carrying the wounded man, was shot dead, and before we reached the neck of the cañon we were so unfortunate as to lose two men of our number, (private Stamper having been shot through the body, and private Newman, the wounded man, in the head,) besides having several more wounded, among them myself. After getting into the gorge of the cañon we easily kept the Indians in check; they could not well advance upon us except from the front, as the steep mountain sides were almost impassable in a traverse direction even to them, and they had not time to gain the summit. We were closely followed, however, even to the mouth of the cañon, where, arriving upon a comparatively open plain, the Indians declined to come further.

I immediately sent an express to Fort Fillmore, and at about 11 o'clock on the same day followed in that direction, being desirous of getting as far on as possible, while our wounded men were able to travel, in case accident should occur to our expressmen. Upon the evening of the next day we were met by every desirable assistance at San Augustine Springs through the kindness of Brevet Major Gordon, 3d infantry, commanding Fort Fillmore, who promptly sent us every available aid.

There is but little doubt but that during the night of our entrance into the cañon the Indians received a considerable accession to their strength, as their number much exceeded that of the previous day, and could not have been less than between fifty and sixty. They were quite prepared for us, as their being armed, painted, and stripped for fight. I regret exceedingly to state my unusually severe loss, having had three killed and seven wounded.

The former are—

Private John F. Ogden, company D, regiment of mounted rifles.

Private William R. Stamper, company D, regiment of mounted rifles.

Private Patrick Newman, company D, regiment of mounted rifles.

The latter are—

Second Lieutenant Henry M. Lazelle, 8th infantry, severely.

Private James Golden, company D, regiment of mounted rifles, severely.

Private Lawrence Bourke, company D, regiment of mounted rifles, severely.

Private George Harrington, company D, regiment of mounted rifles, slightly.

Private Jesse A. Reese, company D, regiment of mounted rifles, slightly.

Private James Atcheson, company D, regiment of mounted rifles, slightly.

Private William W. Allen, company D, regiment of mounted rifles, slightly.

The loss of the Indians was, I am fully confident, much greater, as there are known to have been nine killed and a larger number wounded.

The noble and soldierly conduct of Sergeant John Delany and Corporal Gerald Russell of company D, regiment of mounted rifles, cannot be to highly praised. During the period of the fight, more than two hours, their efficient aid was continually felt, and they constantly endeavored, by their example and cheerful words, to encourage the men. The former of these non-commissioned officers, with eight men, became by an accident at one time separated from the remainder of the party, but fought his way out, against the greatest odds, and joined us. I would also speak in the highest terms of the coolness and bravery of Privates McCollurm, Corr, Keiss, Bourke, and Harrington. I desire also to particularly mention our brave and intelligent guide, Mr. Garera, whose conduct was highly creditable and praiseworthy.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. LAZELLE,
2d Lieutenant 8th infantry.

Second Lieutenant WM. H. JACKSON,
Reg. of mounted rifles, Post Adjt., Fort Bliss, Texas.

[Indorsement.]

This report is thoroughly approved, with the remark that Lieutenant Lazelle continued in the active discharge of his duty, after being shot through the lungs, until he had entirely extricated his command from the cañon and from danger.

TH. H. HOLMES,
Major 8th infantry.

14. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., March 5, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, a copy of the report of Lieutenant Lord, 1st dragoons, who pursued a party of Papagos Indians, marauding in our settlements, into the State of Sonora. Although it is a grave and serious matter to enter a foreign state with

a body of troops, yet, under the circumstances, I have approved Lieutenant Lord's course.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d infantry, commanding.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General,
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

FORT BUCHANAN, N. M., *February 17, 1859.*

CAPTAIN: In accordance with your orders, I started from this post on the morning of the 14th, with a command of twenty-five men, in pursuit of a band of Indians, who proved to be the Papagos, formerly of Santa Rosa, a town in Sonora, but who have for some time past been living near Tubac and Tucson in our Territory. These Indians, according to the testimony of Mr. Hoit, one of our citizens, had taken by force, in broad daylight, and before his face, three of his (Mr. Hoit's) horses from his ranch, situated about twenty-five miles from this post, on the Santa Cruz river. I tracked these horses along the south bank of the river about six miles, when they crossed over to the north bank and joined the herd of Indian horses; after which I was not able to distinguish their tracks from those of the Indian horses, none of them being shod. Following their trail some twenty or twenty-five miles, I found the Indians, with their herd of horses, had crossed the line into Sonora. I did not, however, hesitate to pursue this band of robbers, who have been living upon the charities of our people, and making our small settlements their homes, merely for self-protection from our more warlike but not more thriving neighbors, the Apaches.

If our people living on this frontier are to be subjected to the deprivations of these lawless bands of Indians and the no less lawless Mexicans who frequent the vicinity of the line, and they are all to go unpunished because they have escaped to a country which at present has no laws, and if she had, has no power to enforce them, then there is not nor can there be any protection for life or property in this Territory. For these reasons I determined to pursue and, if possible, chastise this band of marauders wherever I could overtake them. After a rapid pursuit I found the Indians encamped at a Mexican town, Santa Cruz, about eight miles from the line, which claims to be a military post. Before entering the town I sent my interpreter and asked permission of the commandants and also of the alcalde to enter the town and to be allowed to apprehend the horse thieves, both of which requests were granted. I went into the town, and while talking with my interpreter one of the Mexican officials said to him, "I am sorry you have come; I want to buy American horses; but they are *your own* people, of course, who take them;" at the same time saying, in a sneering way, "You cannot take them, (the Indians,) they are too strong."

After I had entered the town the alcalde came to me, saying that I had permission from the commandant to take as many of the Indians

and their horses as I wished. Arriving at the Indian camp, I did not find the horses of Mr. Hoit; he, however, recognized some of the Indians as having been at his house. It appears that before reaching this place they had separated the stolen horses from their own, and driven them off in another direction. During the night march I had missed the point of separation.

I secured three of the principal men of the band of Indians, which numbers about 100 men, women, and children, and five of the best horses from their herd of 76 animals. When the Mexicans saw I had secured the Indians and their horses, two began to object to my taking them away, saying, these are not the thieves; they have not the horses, &c.; and in a few minutes the commandant sent me an order to leave the place, and not to take the Indians. I replied to this order: "I will take them whether I have permission or not." Nor did I leave the town until I had executed (according to my own interpretation) the orders with which I was intrusted. Before I left the long roll had been beaten, and their troops were parading under arms. The Indians confessed to me, (on the road,) when told by me that if they did not bring back the stolen horses I would hang them, that they had them in the mountains, and if I would not kill them they would return them. I brought three Indians and five horses as a pledge that the stolen horses would be returned.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. S. C. LORD,

Second Lieutenant 1st dragoons.

Captain R. S. EWELL,

1st dragoons U. S. A., commanding Fort Buchanan, N. M.

15. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., March 31, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general-in-chief, that since my last monthly report, of February 27, I have made every exertion to find out the exact bands of Indians engaged in the fight at Dog cañon. At the time the fight occurred three or four chiefs and their people were at Fort Stanton, and are thought to be entirely innocent of any complicity in the affair. The superintendent of Indian affairs is making diligent inquiries into the matter, and expects soon to find which bands or portions of bands were present in the fight. Captain Claiborne, regiment of mounted riflemen, informs me he hears from friendly Indians that the greater portion of the depredators have gone in the direction of Fort Davis, Texas, and that some have taken to the mountains west of Santa Barbara. It is known that quite a number of Mescalero Indians visit the agency at Santa Barbara, and the agent, satisfied that they did not participate in the act, continues to issue them rations. The Mescalero Indians are divided up into a number of small bands, entirely separate, and no doubt exists of their being greatly alarmed; and for this reason it will take time to

find out the evil-disposed ; but the moment I am satisfied I will take measures to punish them.

A few sheep belonging to residents of Los Lunas have been stolen by three or four Indians, supposed to be Navajos. I have since received information from the commanding officer of Fort Defiance that some sheep were delivered up at that post by the Navajos, said by them to have been stolen from the settlements. I am glad to see this evidence of sincerity on the part of the Navajos.

It is well to represent to the general-in-chief that there are no reservations laid off for the Indians in this Territory, and that almost every county has Indians in it. The more they dread punishment the more they become divided up and scatter to the mountains, roaming from one end to the other of the Territory. This state of things must continue, under the best possible management, until reservations are laid off and each particular tribe restricted to limits, where, under the care of their agents, they can be attended to and protected from improper trade and influences. There is no doubt that if these reserves were established, and the Indians properly restricted to them, that New Mexico would soon acquire a reputation as a stock raising country that few have imagined.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

16. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, April 30, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, that it is my intention to start on the 2d of May on a tour of inspection to Forts Buchanan, Bliss, and Stanton, a circuit of about twelve hundred miles, and expect to be absent about sixty days. Surgeon Sloan, Major Donaldson, and Lieutenant Jones, accompany me.

I perceive, from papers on file in this office, that a change in the position of Fort Buchanan is strongly recommended, and a removal was contemplated by my predecessor ; but before I make any recommendation I should like to examine for myself.

The Indians in the department appear to be quiet ; and I am happy to state that persons passing through the Navajo country report them as much more kindly and peaceably disposed than ever before. If there is any exception, it may be found in the Indians living north of Tucson ; and of this I will satisfy myself whilst there. I keep in reserve the garrisons of Craig, Fillmore, and Buchanan, so as to concentrate a column of three hundred men in that country should it be found necessary ; the best time for operating being after the rainy season in the month of August.

I have three detachments in the field at this time: One of fifty men from Cantonment Burgwin to visit Abiquin, where the Utah's frequent for the purpose of receiving presents from the sub-Indian agent. I have thought it advisable to show a force in that vicinity. Another detachment from Los Lunas has been directed to proceed up the river Puerco, a favorite rendezvous of the Navajos; and also to visit the settlements of Laguna, Cibollella, and Cuvero. A third detachment from Fort Craig is to visit Santa Barbara, the Rio Membres, and Copper mines, returning over the mountains to their station.

In case no outbreak occurs, I have made the following dispositions for the summer's work to be commenced during my absence: A detachment from Fort Garland to cross the mountains eastwardly to find a good road from that post to the great plains in the direction of the Arkansas. On their return from this, to explore towards Grand river, a branch of the Colorado.

I will start Lieutenant Davis, 3d infantry, about the 20th of May, with about twelve thousand rations, to establish a depot at Hatch's ranche, about ten miles east of Anton Chico, and to remain there until towards the last of August.

Captain Claiborne, regiment mounted rifles, with one hundred and twenty men, will start shortly after the 1st of June, from Fort Stanton, to look out a road from Fort Stanton, over the mountains, to the great plains, as far east as the Pecos river, examining up this river to Hatch's ranche, where he will be resupplied with provisions, continuing his exploration by the northern edge of the Llano Estacado to the Canadian, as far as Utah creek, returning by the Canadian and Conchos to the depot, where, as the Comanches trouble the settlers every summer, he will give protection until the middle of August, when he will return to his station.

Another detachment of two hundred men from Fort Union and Cantonment Burgwin is to rendezvous at Abiquin on the 15th of June, which is as early as the grass will be good. Captain Macomb, topographical engineers, is to accompany this detachment. His duty will be to examine for a wagon road from Abiquin to the mouth of the Tuni Chey, on the San Juan river, which is in close proximity to the largest and most fertile planting grounds of the Navajos. The command having escorted Captain Macomb on this duty, will continue its explorations to Fort Defiance. Another detachment of one hundred men, under Captain Sykes, from Los Lunas, will proceed to Fort Defiance, and on his way there visit Laguna Cuvero and Zuñi. These two detachments having arrived at Fort Defiance, will unite with the garrison, making a force of about six hundred and fifty men, under the command of Major Simonson or Shepherd. This force, divided into two or three columns, will continue slowly to explore the country to the northwest, west, and southwest, returning to their posts when the grass begins to fail. Captain Macomb will be thus enabled to furnish the department with exact information regarding the Navajo country; their bands, numbers, grazing grounds; in fact, everything that it may be necessary to know. All these expeditions are to move with pack mules.

The commission to run the boundary line between the United States

and Texas, escorted by one company of the 8th infantry, I have advised to come in to Hatch's ranche to refit, and Lieutenant Davis has been directed to supply their immediate necessities until they can make their wants known, and obtain supplies from the depot at Albuquerque. It is my intention to relieve the company acting as escort by the company of the 8th infantry, at Fort Marcy, at this point.

The Navajo nation has of late occupied so large a share of public attention, and so many contradictory accounts appear in the public journals, that I have believed it necessary to elaborate my report with every detail concerning this powerful and interesting people. General Cowart, the Navajo agent, has returned to the States. I regret his interest would not allow him to remain in the country, for he was rapidly acquiring the confidence of the Indians. In consequence of this, I have deemed it necessary to give particular instructions to the commanding officer at Fort Defiance, a copy of which marked "A," together with my first letter of instructions, marked "B," I have the honor to inclose.

During my absence I have directed Lieutenant Wilkins, acting assistant adjutant general, to forward all papers from these headquarters, and to advise you of any important matters.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,
Colonel 3d inf., comd'g Department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, February 1, 1859.

MAJOR: The department commander directs me to inform you, that Major Backus has been relieved from further duty at Fort Defiance, in consequence of ill health.

This leaves you in command of that important post, and under the present circumstances will demand your utmost care and vigilance. It is desirable in all your intercourse with the Navajo tribe to display firmness in all your acts, tempered by a parental and conciliatory deportment; you will acquire their perfect confidence, showing them that though you are determined to give full and ample protection to the settlements, you are equally solicitous for their happiness and prosperity.

You must bear in mind, that whilst there is an agent for the Navajos at your post, the Indians must look to him as their chief, to whom they must refer all their difficulties and apply in their wants. I desire your full and careful coöperation with that officer.

Under no circumstances will you commence offensive operations against these Indians without positive orders from these headquarters.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,
1st Lieut. 3d inf., Act. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

Brevet Major O. L. SHEPHERD,
U. S. Army, Fort Defiance, New Mexico.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, April 20, 1859.

SIR: The Navajo agents having successively left their stations at a period when our relations with the tribe are of a delicate and important character, the department commander feels it his duty to give you most specific instructions.

To the Indian department exclusively belongs all matters refering to former treaties and agreements, nor will you take charge of any duties in that department except through instructions from these headquarters. The usual course in matters of difficulty arising from condition of treaties, or of demands made upon the Indians, an agent being present, is for the Indian department to assemble them in council, either in mass, or by its chiefs and head men, and there submitting the subject to them. In case the tribe refuses to comply, and the interposition of the military becomes necessary, you will communicate the fact to these headquarters, when the necessary instructions will be given. Your particular attention is called to my letter of February 1, 1859. Your duty as commander of that post, is to afford full and ample protection to the settlements near you, and to all citizens passing through the country.

In the absence of any agent, should the Navajos commit any aggressive act, you will not consider it as an offense of the whole tribe, but at once march to the offending band, taking the head chief with you, and demand reparation; and, if it is refused, chastize the parties at fault on the spot. Should citizens following up stolen property, come to your post for redress and assistance, you will require of them affidavits of all the facts and circumstances of the case, as to the marks, numbers, and description of animals or other property stolen, if fully satisfied as to the justness of the complaint, you will, as above directed, demand immediate restitution of the property from the offenders; and failing to obtain it, you will chastise the aggressors. If unable to obtain the property stolen, seize, if possible, enough of their property to indemnify the complainants.

These instructions are to govern you in the absence of any authorized agent; should an agent be present, you are to be governed by my former instructions.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

1st Lieut. 3d Infantry, A. Assist. Adjt. Genl.

OFFICER COMMANDING *Fort Defiance, New Mexico.*

17. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Sante Fé, New Mexico, July 10, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, that I returned from a tour of inspection on the 3d instant, and found the current business of the

department accumulated to such a degree as to delay my report for a few days. During my absence the inclosed reports, marked A and B, were received.

A. A commendable affair of Sargeant Herron, of company K, 3d infantry; the perusal of which will no doubt give the general-in-chief as much pleasure as it afforded me.

B. Copy of a report of a successful pursuit of stolen mules, by Lieutenant Holt, 3d infantry.

I have also to report that a government surveyor has just returned from the Canadian river, where he had been surveying at a point one hundred miles east of the settlements, and reports that he and his party were captured by the Camanches and retained as prisoners for five hours. They appear to have left him his instruments, arms, and animals, and robbed him of his blankets and provisions. Captain Claiborne, regiment mounted rifles, who was at the time in the neighborhood with a hundred and twenty men, reports he has gone in pursuit. I have already directed reinforcements in that direction, and hope the Indians may receive the punishment they deserve.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

Asst. Adj. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

HEADQUARTERS LOS LUNAS, N. M., *June 6, 1859.*

SIR: On the 1st instant a party of five Navajo Indians ran off a herd of sheep, the property of Mr. Antonio José Luna.

These sheep were being grazed on the Puerco, about twenty miles from this post. I immediately mounted ten men on mules and sent them, under Sergeant Herron, of company K, in pursuit. Mr. Luna and his friends accompanied them. The Indians were overtaken near the Sierra of Zuñi, but instantly fled at the sight of their pursuers. They were encamped at the time and saw the troops advancing from afar. The herd was recovered and a bourro belonging to the Indians with it. Mr. Luna estimates his loss at about three hundred sheep, mostly from death during their drive. Two herders (Mexicans) were shot with arrows and badly wounded by the Indians when they drove off the stock. Sergeant Herron seems to have conducted the pursuit with vigor and activity; though badly mounted on indifferent mules, the estimated travel of one day was ninety miles; this through a dry, rocky, and mountainous region.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Captain 3d infantry, commanding post.

Lieut. JNO. D. WILKINS,

Act. Asst. Adj. Gen., Santa Fé, N. M.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., *July 2, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, on the 30th of May, 1859, I was ordered by the commanding officer of Fort Craig, New Mexico, Brevet Captain Jno. P. Hatch, regiment mounted rifles, to proceed without delay with a detachment from companies F and I, regiment mounted rifles, to a point on the Rio Grande river opposite the "Adobe wall," and pursue a party, supposed to be Indians, who had stolen mules belonging to a train from Sonora. On the morning of the 31st May I came upon a trail of mules, and, after following it through several cañons, I finally came upon the mules in the possession of three Mexicans and one Navajo Indian. I took the four men prisoners, and delivered them to the commanding officer at Fort Craig; and the mules, thirteen in number, were brought to the post and delivered to the owners.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. W. HOLT,

Second lieutenant, 3d infantry.

Lieut. JNO. D. WILKINS,

Act. Asst. Adj. Gen., Santa Fé, N. M.

18. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Sante Fé, July 15, 1859.

I have the honor to report for the information of the general-in-chief that, as I already have advised you, I expected to leave on a tour of inspection, which I did on the morning of the 2d of May, in company with Major Donaldson, assistant quartermaster, Surgeon Sloan, medical department, and Lieutenant R. Jones, acting ordnance officer, Colonel Grayson being too sick to accompany me was left behind, and Lieutenant Wilkins, acting assistant adjutant general, was left in charge of the current duties of the office. In our route we visited the operations of the Artesian well expedition under Captain Pope, at Galisteo, the depot at Albuquerque, the companies at Los Lunas, and Fort Craig, and reached Fort Thorn on the 12th of May. We found the public property from that post had all been moved to Fort Filmore; we found four men still there moving the window casings, &c. The hospital building, in complete order, had been left in charge of a Mr. Barnes, on condition of his preserving the property, &c., also a store-room for parties passing and repassing, in case it should be wanted. Here we received a letter from Doctor Steck, Indian agent for the Apaches, requesting me to appoint a rendezvous, and agreed to wait a day for him at the Mimbres. Next morning we proceeded to Mule spring, and then turning south twelve miles came to a quagmire called Cook spring, and near it a small rivulet, both sinking in two hundred yards. Here we struck one of the stations of the overland mail route, a little hut with four men; we found these stations on the whole route at from eighteen to twenty miles apart with four men each. We con-

tinued our journey through a pass in the mountains and came to the Mimbres valley, camping on the Mimbres river, about two miles above the overland mail station, where we had appointed to meet Doctor Steck; here we rested all the next day, and in the evening Doctor Steck arrived. The next day proceeded to another quagmire called Cow spring, and, as it a station of the overland mail, we continued on about six miles, turning to the northwest, and went up a cañon into the Burro or second range of mountains about nine miles, and encamped at a cienaga or wet meadow of about ten acres where we found water and grass for our animals. Not wishing to take the back trail the next morning, I sent the guide to the west and southwest to see if he could not find an outlet to take us on to the main route, in which he succeeded. The next morning we took this cut-off and came again to the main route on the western slope of the Burro mountains; our road lay west over a valley about forty miles wide towards Stein's peak, which appeared in the distance. As we descended into this valley or pleya the mirage presented to our view lakes, harbors, bridges, ships, and all manner of water scenes changing continually as we approached. On the lower level, for twenty miles, the dust was so light and impalpable that it arose at the slightest cause, even the movement of a single man could be seen at two or three miles, this, with the hot sun of that latitude, was suffocating. In this level we found two stations of the Overland Mail Company, the first drawing water from the station at Soldier's Farewell, and they at Soldier's Farewell from the cienaga, making a distance of thirty miles that they brought the water; the second station get theirs from a hole or spring about fourteen miles to the southwest. We reached Stein's Peak station a little before sunset, and the water was so scarce that we did not succeed in watering our animals until near two o'clock in the morning; here we found about fifty Indians, men, women, and children around the station, living apparently on the most friendly terms with the inmates. As a general rule, at all the stations of the Mail Company, I found the horses were turned out to graze without herders or a guard, and in case they estrayed the Indians were sent after to bring them in, receiving as a reward some corn; I had a talk with the Indians, who appeared to make very fair promises. On this day we met a pedestrian traveling the road, apparently in perfect confidence, with a pack on his back, and without any arms; shortly after a horseman with only a revolver. Next morning we continued our journey west up one of the cañons of Stein's peak or third range of mountains for several miles, and then turning to the south we entered a chasm in the mountains, appearing as if it were split in two to allow the road to pass; at the bottom of this we found an excellent road, scarcely broad enough for two wagons, winding around the jutting points of the precipitous elevated sides of the mountain. This let us out upon the western slope of the third range, the valley of San Simon, twenty miles wide, laying before us. At the river San Simon we found an overland mail station; no water nearer than twelve or fourteen miles. The bed of the San Simon was perfectly dry. The channel, over which there was a bridge, is about four feet wide by two feet deep. Here we found a Mr. Barnes, with a commercial train of eight wagons, who had left his wagons, and sent his oxen, almost famished for water, to the

cienaga at the head waters of the San Simon, about twelve or fourteen miles off, whilst he himself had gone to Stein's Peak station, to see if he could get water enough, to pass his train the next day through the country, and, mentioned as the result of his observation, that he could probably get one half the train through at a time; this Mr. Barnes has lived a long time in this country, and follows freighting as a business.

We continued on, and having passed the San Simon, encountered the same impalpable dust, spoken of before, for about twelve miles, and in a few miles further reached Aubrey's hole; we found some water in the holes in the cañons near by; whilst here the overland mail passed us. The next day we continued on through what is termed the Apache pass, a gap in the Chiricahua mountains, or fourth range, where we found an overland mail station, and learned from them that the only water they got was from the water holes in the mountains about three miles off. We continued on for five or six miles, and came to a hole in the rocks, where we found some water. As our animals had suffered for two or three days back, I determined to stop there to water and graze our animals, whilst I sent six miles in advance to examine and see if water could be found. We continued on the six miles and turned up towards the mountains, dug in the bed of one of the mountain torrents, and with difficulty got enough water to last us for the night. The next day we continued on twenty-four miles towards the Dragoon range of mountains, where there was an overland mail station, passed another station in the pleya, with mirage as before, but not so extensive, and arrived at Dragoon, or fifth range of mountains. Here we found an overland mail station, and one or two families of Indians living in the neighborhood; met a man with a go-cart, and some few things, trading with the Indians just returned from the Chiricahua mountains, unarmed, and said he wanted to accompany us, as, when he came out, he had met three hundred Indians in the Whetstone range of mountains, and was afraid to pass through, as they were a new Indian he had never seen before, which we agreed to. Sent our animals two or three miles up into the mountains where there was some water in holes. Next day we continued west for about four miles on the overland mail route, and then leaving it, turned southwest course on the Fort Buchanan road towards the San Pedro, a stream on the rapids, about ten feet wide, and a foot and a half deep in the middle. We then continued our course on to the pass in the Whetstone, or sixth range of mountains, where we reached about sunset. By digging in the sand and gravel we found water enough for the night. It is well to mention, that in almost every mountain we met, we could see by the fires and smokes that the Indians were there busy preparing their winter's food. Next day continued on to the southwest over rolling prairies, and on the 22d of May came to Fort Buchanan, on the southeast slope of the Santa Rita mountains; remained at Fort Buchanan four days inspecting the post and refitting. Here we sent our escort to Dragoon spring, with orders to wait for us and fill the vessels with water, that we might not be delayed. On the 27th, taking Colonel Reeves with us, we went down the valley of the Sonoita creek for a day and a half. The valley closes sometimes into cañons, rocky and precipitous, not thirty yards wide, at others forming open-

ings so as to give farms of a hundred acres. There are several farms in this valley. The Sonoita creek may be looked upon as a branch of the Santa Cruz river, although it sinks before reaching it. Having turned the southern point of the Santa Rita mountains, we entered the valley of the Santa Cruz river, which is a wide, pretty valley all the way down, and continued on as far as Tubac. Here the Mexicans had formed a garrison of one hundred and eighty men; and at Tucson, one hundred and sixty men. The public buildings at the former place have been taken possession of by the officers of the Sierra Colorado Company, and a town laid off. Those at Tucson are much in the same condition. These two places have such a reputation for unhealthiness, in addition to the objection of having troops stationed in towns, that I accordingly looked elsewhere. Here we met the officers of the Sierra Colorado Mining Company, who politely asked us to visit the mines at Arivaca, which we gladly accepted, as we desired to know what the resources of the country were. After visiting this mine we went to the mines of Sopora, then struck the Santa Cruz river at La Canoa, went down it passing Xavier, reached Tucson on the 21st of May. Xavier seems to be pueblo of Indians; it has an old church which is still the admiration of all who visit that part of the country. There is a point near here recommended as a site for a post, but represented to be of so sickly a character that it was not considered.

Tucson is a neat little town on the edge of a cienaga, or wet meadow, made by the sinking of the Santa Cruz river, and it was refreshing to see the green grass and cottonwood trees growing in this meadow after traveling through so arid and burnt up a region as we had passed over. Here we met the Indian agent, Mr. Walker, who appeared to be a man of intelligence and devoted to his duty. He represented his Indians, the Pimos, Pappagos, and others, as friendly and entirely under control. Next day, accompanied by the agent and one or two of the citizens, I went up to examine a site for a military post about northeast ten miles and at the southern base of the Tucson mountains, and returned in the evening to Tucson. Next morning we turned homeward, taking the overland mail route, passing to the north of the Santa Rita mountains, stopped at a cienaga about thirty miles from Tucson, at the head of creek that we saw running at the southern face of the same mountains, an overland mail station being about a mile beyond. Next day continued along the mail route to the San Pedro, passing the Whetstone range twenty-four miles, and went south up this river six miles and encamped. Continued our journey eastwardly along the mail route fifteen miles, and joined our escort and wagons at Dragoon pass, where we halted some time. Here we found water about three miles up the cañon in holes, some distance further up the creek than before. The escort, before our arrival, had fortunately filled our vessels with water, enabling us to continue our journey twelve miles into the pleya, where we encamped.

June 5.—Continued our journey east on the overland mail route, passing its stations and pleya's, as before mentioned, until our arrival at Cook's spring, on the 9th of June, where we nooned, and learned that Mr. Barnes, whom we met before freighting, had, on his return, between Stein's peak and the cienaga, in the Burro mountains, lost

twelve oxen out of his eight teams from the heat and want of water, and that at the mail station of Ojo de Vacca they had lost two horses, taken out of their corrol at night, supposed to be by Indians; and at Cook's spring the mail station had lost five or six animals, together with five or six animals of a detachment of soldiers from Fort Fillmore, all reported to have been stolen by the Indians. After halting, we proceeded on the mail route to Mesilla, and halted twenty-seven miles east of Cook's spring. Next day continued our route thirty-eight miles to Mesilla, on the Rio Grande, it being sixty-five miles from Cook's spring. At Mesilla we met the Hon. Mr. Phelps, Judge Hart, and Dr. Steck, the Indian agent. On the 11th of June, Saturday, proceeded four miles down the river, where we crossed; the river was high; traveled two miles down and arrived at Fort Fillmore on the 11th of June; remained on the 12th at this post.

June 13.—Moved down to Fort Bliss in company with Judge Hart. Remained at Fort Bliss the 14th, 15th, and 16th; during this time visited our consul, Mr. Diffendorfer, at El Paso, and on the 17th returned to Fort Fillmore. On the 19th started for Fort Stanton, going north through a pass in the Organus mountains, and encamped at San Augustine spring, at the eastern base. The spring is a small dripping from a bank of one of the mountain torrents, and wets the ground for about thirty yards, in which, by digging, a little water is obtained.

June 20.—Left San Augustine spring and reached San Nicholas, eighteen miles. This forms a very pretty little brook of fine water to the opening of the cañon, where it sinks. We left the road four miles to reach this water, and stopped to refresh our mules; afterwards continued on eastwardly twenty miles to the sand-hills, where, by digging, we found a little water impregnated with sulphur and salt. These sand-hills are remarkably white and extend for miles.

June 21.—Left sand-hills and proceeded eastwardly seventeen miles towards the Dog cañon, and as we approached the base of the mountains turned north to the Alamo Gordo; found a small spring running here which soon sinks in the prairie. This spot gives evidence of having been a planting ground for the Indians during a long period, and the cañon from which this spring has its source is the place where Lieutenant Lazelle had his first fight with the Apaches on the 8th of February.

Continued along the base of the mountains and in six miles passed the San Luz or Oja de la Luz. Here we found Indians that the superintendent of Indian affairs had located, and who were tilling the ground; they were encamped on a little creek that did not quite reach the road. Continued along the mountains about sixteen miles to the cienaga, several miles in extent, in which the river Tulerosa sinks. Here we found cottonwood, willow trees, and rushes. Not finding a place to encamp here, we continued four miles up the Tulerosa, over white sandstone hills, to a spot where we found good water and grass for the first time. The Tulerosa is a stout stream, runs rapidly, with a narrow and difficult valley to ascend. Mr. Carley, the superintendent and farmer instructing the Indians, encamped with us, and left us the next morning for Fort Stanton.

June 22.—Continued up the Tulerosa, crossed a bridge and a high

ridge and encamped on the Carisso. Passed a quartermaster's train bound for Fort Bliss. On the Tulerosa passed a settler's hut, his wife and children there, but the man out in the mountains cutting timber. We had a heavy rain during the night. Twenty-third left our camp, crossed the Ruidoso and up it, crossed it then to Eagle Pass, and reached Fort Stanton, on the Rio Bonito, at 11 a. m. Our route lay this day so as to turn the Sierra Blanco by the south and east; it first appeared to us north, enveloped in clouds. The afternoon of our arrival there was a violent hail storm at the post that lasted forty minutes—the hail almost as large as a hen's egg—which beat down the gardens and did much damage, and, as I afterwards learned, killed a great many sheep that they were herding in that country.

The scenery around this post is very imposing; the Sierra Blanco towering far above the others in the south, and the Sierra Capitan in the north. Twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth, and twenty-sixth, remained at Fort Stanton. In the meantime visited the settlements on the Bonito river. The Bonito river unites with the Ruidoso about twelve miles below and forms the river Hondo. Here we met Lieutenant Peck and ten men of Lieutenant Lazelle's command on the Pecos, en route to Fort Stanton, and was informed that Captain Stoneman and command had passed through the settlements.

June 27.—Left Fort Stanton for Santa Fé, and passed west of Capitan mountains to Patos creek, eighteen miles, where we watered and rested; these are a collection of small springs, running but a short distance and then sinking. Filling our water vessels we continued to the forks of the Anton Chico road, about eight miles; continued six miles further, and encamped without water.

June 28.—Proceeded to the Gallinos mountains. After searching for water several miles without success, continued on. Believing we could stay here all night we had encamped, but were obliged to start again at 6 p. m., and continued to the Huajez, twenty-seven miles, where we found a little water so putrid the animals would not drink it. At daylight continued our journey to the Puente de Agua, twelve miles, where we found a small brook dammed up, thus having traveled one hundred miles in forty-eight hours, with a little or no water. We remained here until 4 p. m., sending our animals four miles to graze. At 4 p. m., we went to Manzana and encamped; had a fine storm as we encamped. At Puente de Agua the people had abandoned their fields for want of water to irrigate.

June 30.—Major Donaldson wishing to go direct to Santa Fé we parted; Major Donaldson, Surgeon Sloan, and Lieutenant Jones, going by Torreón, Tegeique Chillili, Cibolo spring, and Galisteo, to Santa Fé. I turned off and encamped at the head of the cañon at Cedar springs; good grass; twenty-six miles.

July 1.—Continued through the cañon Carnwell, twenty-six miles, to Albuquerque. In this pass Captain Macomb, topographical engineers, has labored, and has made a very fine, substantial road out of an almost impassable one. On the 2d, left for Algodones, and reached Santa Fé on the 3d. It will be seen by the foregoing that Fort Buchanan lies west of six ranges of mountains, with pleyas or valleys lying between, of from twenty to forty miles wide. The mount-

ains break to allow the road to pass, and the road itself may be said to be a good road for its length. With very few exceptions the water is found in the elevated cañons of the mountains, and exceedingly scarce in the dry season, sometimes sinking in a few yards, and at others running in the valleys for some miles, as in the case of the Mimbres and Santa Cruz rivers. The San Pedro being the only permanent water course that does not sink. In consequence of the great scarcity of water, I look upon that country as inaccessible for the movement of troops, commercial trains, or for stock driving, until after the rains in the months of July and August.

The mountain ranges run north and south, with the exception of the White, Piñal, and Mount Graham, which, ranging east and west, throw their waters through the Rio Chiquis to Colorado; the Prieto or Salado and Gila westwardly, as tributaries to the River Colorado.

Mines.—As for the mineral region, the valley of the river Santa Cruz, from all I could learn, appears to be a net work of mineral veins. Silver mixed with copper, and silver mixed with lead, extending, as some suppose, much further west. The principal mines I saw were the Santa Rita and the Sierra Colorado; the latter we visited, and also the works at Arivaca, at the invitation of Mr. Lathrop, and the other officers of the company, who very politely showed us their works in operation, and some of their best specimens. The machinery is worked with mule-power; and, as far as the means of the company went, it was my opinion they were doing wonderfully well. It was the general impression that, if the proper machinery, worked by steam, was put up, that the mines would yield well. The greatest average claimed for the silver mixed with copper was two hundred dollars a ton, and for the silver mixed with lead fifty dollars.

In the incipient state of mining in that country there is no telling the number of men that will be employed, and the value of the mines that may be discovered. The laborers are all Mexicans from Sonora, and the supplies, except what few things are obtained from the sutler's store at Fort Buchanan, come from Sonora, and in general terms that part of the country may be said to be a dependency of Sonora, and must remain so until all the lands on the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers are brought into cultivation to the full extent of their waters.

Whilst at the Sierra Colorado mines Mr. Lathrop handed me the inclosed paper, marked "C," of Mr. Ehrenberg, indorsed by him. As I considered this a subject more for the consideration of the executive of the Territory and the superintendent of Indian affairs, I gave each of those gentlemen a copy.

Indians under Agent Walker.—From what I could see, and from conversation with the Indian agent, Mr. Walker, I am satisfied that all the Indians west of the meridian of Tucson are friendly, and have always been so; cultivating corn and beans in large quantities, and sold to such an extent this year that they left themselves destitute, and were obliged to go into the Whetstone range and dig mescal; these are the Indians Mr. Gay, the man with the go-cart, saw. East of that line they are all Apaches, of different names, and until the last two or three years, have always been at war; and, although they appear to be exceedingly friendly, it is almost impossible to say how long this

state of things may last. In case they should break out, the Overland Mail Company would require strong escorts to protect it through the cañons, and the settlements would be obliged to form themselves into villages to protect themselves. All these Indians live in the Chiricahua mountains, or north of the Gila, in the Piñal or White mountains; and, if it is the intention to develop the agricultural resources of the Santa Cruz and the San Pedro valleys, I would suggest garrisons be placed between those settlements and the Indians. One, for instance, of two companies at the Tucson mountains, and another of the same size on the San Pedro, on the mail route, or a few miles north of it.

The officers of Fort Buchanan recommend the post be moved to the San Pedro; but, in my opinion, their selection is too far north to be of value to the settlements of the San Pedro and the mail route. I inclose their recommendation, marked "A," which I have delayed until I could see for myself. If it should be decided to place four companies at one post, I would recommend the San Pedro; but, if it is to be of two companies only, I would recommend at the Tucson mountains, where it would give protection to the settlements already commenced.

Fort Buchanan.—Fort Buchanan I look upon as entirely out of position, it being southeast from Tucson forty-five miles in a direct line, thirty-five to forty miles from the mail route, and from eighty to one hundred and twenty miles from Tucson by the traveled road, and on the opposite side of the mountain. The post is built more like a village than a military post. It extends down the slope of a low ridge even into the valley. I inclose a report of Surgeon Sloan, marked "B," which will give you information as to the health of this post and other parts of the country. There are no store-houses, except temporary sheds covered with tarpaulins. The men's quarters are jacals, built of upright poles, daubed with mud, so that the post will have to be rebuilt, and it had better be put in the right place at once. In its present position, should a campaign be made against the Apaches it would be too far from the homes of the Indians for a depot; whereas, if the two posts I have recommended be established, they would furnish each a hundred men to campaign in the Indian country, which would be enough for all ordinary purposes; and would soon be surrounded by cultivators and farmers who would supply the post with corn, beef, and fodder. Should, however, a force of more than two hundred men be required, the post at San Pedro would answer as a depot for all the troops in the field. We have not the troops in the department to spare for these posts; and, if the companies detached to California could be recalled, they would, in addition to the force already there, give ample protection to that portion of the department.

Indians under Agent Steck.—In my two interviews with Doctor Steck, agent for the Apaches, he informed me that he had assembled the Indians on the Gila, near the old depôt of the Gila expedition, was living alone among them, and instructing them how to plant; that from their exertions and industry he had much to hope, and that, although there might be some few rogues among them, the mass of them were desirous of being at peace—so much so, that they would not allow him to travel about for hunting or other purposes without

sending two of their people with him, for fear some accident might happen and suspicion be thrown upon them. It is well to remark here, the name Apaches is a general one, and that Mogollon Apaches, Gila Apaches, Mimbres Apaches, Chiricahua Apaches, and Piñal Apaches, merely designate their locality. The Cayotereros, living in the White mountains, form an exception, as well as the Mescaleros Apaches, living east of the Rio Grande, so called from a plant they eat.

That the copper mines towards the head of the Mimbres were being worked, and employed one hundred and eighty men, and the proprietors were desirous of working four hundred; that the laborers, &c., were chiefly Mexicans from Chihuahua, and were viewed by the Indians as enemies of old standing, and that already one Indian had been killed, and a Mexican, by way of retaliation. He urged me to send an officer and twenty men to the mines to prevent further difficulties, which I did at once, from Fort Fillmore. The valley of the Mimbres is beginning to be settled, and we together believed that a post located on the southeast of the Burro mountains, eight or ten miles north of the overland mail station, (where there is plenty of wood and water,) overlooking the valley, would have a moral influence over the surrounding Indians, and would also cover the country laid open by the abandonment of Fort Thorn. Doctor Steck told me that since the Gila expedition the Apaches have left the Mogollon and Burro mountains, and that only a few remained in the Mimbres. Agreeing with the Doctor, I immediately ordered company "C," rifles, commanded by Lieutenant Howland, together with one hundred men under Major Gordon, to locate the company at that point. I gave directions, after performing this duty, Major Gordon and the hundred men should show his command to the Indians on the Gila and at the copper mines, and then return to his station. I believe, from the point of the Burro mountains, a good road to the Gila, and continuing north of the present road, will give a good road to the station at San Pedro, with an abundance of water for all traveling purposes. This point would also be in a proper location for a depôt in case of hostilities, and, united with the one recommended on the San Pedro, would be all that would be required. I have established this company in a permanent camp, subject to your approval, my design being to make it a two company post, by drawing another company from Fort Fillmore.

Fort Bliss.—At Fort Bliss, as the consul had written to me that the property of our citizens was endangered from the revolutionary movements in that country, I concluded, as the post was under the command of a lieutenant, that our interests there required an officer of higher grade. I directed Major Ruff to proceed there at once. Sickness in his family prevented his going, and I ordered Captain Elliot, with his company, to proceed there and relieve Captain Jones's company, then under the command of Lieutenant Jackson.

Upon my arrival at Fort Bliss I found Captain Elliot in command, and with him visited the American consul and Mexican authorities. I believe no cause exists for alarm. My instructions to Captain Elliot were to keep up friendly and social intercourse with the authorities on the other side, and, in case difficulties arose among the masses, that

they might, unless the difficulties were of a serious character, settle them in a quiet way, without recourse to formal official correspondence; that the authorities at Washington did not desire to be troubled with the petty squabbles occasionally occurring on the frontier.

Fort Stanton.—I found Fort Stanton very judiciously located, healthy, and with an abundance of wood, water, and grass a little distant; but that they can easily drive to. The settlements around the Fort were in a thriving condition, and increasing. From what I saw, I think there will be about twelve thousand bushels of corn raised, besides wheat and oats. In the mountains I saw large droves of sheep. I found Captain Claiborne absent with a command of one hundred and twenty men looking out a pass to the river Pecos, as I had before directed. I learned, whilst here, that Captain Stoneman, 2d cavalry, with troops, was in the neighborhood of the fort. What his object was, I do not know.

I am happy to say that I was pleased with the condition of the troops at the posts I visited, and the apparent care and economy with which the public property was managed.

I have commenced this report with a journal of my tour, in order that the general-in-chief may be able to form a correct opinion of everything pertaining to that country, and be able to judge my recommendations.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

Asst. Adjt. Genl., U. S. A., New York city.

19. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., July 17, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant-general commanding the army, that the superintendent of Indian affairs for the Territory desires to have a talk with the Comanches who lately interfered with the government surveyors on the Canadian river. For that object, he and myself will leave Santa Fé for the Canadian on the 18th instant, and may be absent twenty days. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, 1st cavalry, now on a tour of inspection of this department, will accompany us.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS, *Asst. Adjt. Genl.,*

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

20. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., August 6, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report to the general-in-chief that, in accordance with my intention as expressed in a former communication, I visited Utah creek, on the Canadian river, in company with Colonel Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs, for the purpose of having a talk with the Comanche Indians located on that frontier. Although advised of our approach and intentions, our exertions to meet them failed, they having fled to the northeast.

Justice to the Indian department, as well as myself, requires I should state that the surveyors have taken contracts and pushed their surveys one hundred miles east of our most advanced settlements, working right in the homes of the Indians. The Indians, thinking their country was about to be taken away from them, at once became alarmed, and surrounded one of these parties, detaining them a few hours as prisoners, as I have before reported. These Indians have been, for a long time, in the habit of trading on this frontier. The Mexicans have also been friendly with them, and it would be unfortunate to interrupt this intercourse without proper cause.

I found the country we passed over, and about which so much has been said, perfectly worthless, which was the opinion of all present.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Asst. Adj't. Gen.,*

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

21. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., August 6, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general-in-chief, that the commanding officer of Fort Buchanan reports some eighty head of animals, belonging to the Sonora Mining and Exploring Company, Arizona, were stolen by the Chiricahua Apaches. A command from the post was immediately sent in pursuit. Subsequent information has been received from the same source that fifty head of these animals were recovered by persons from the mines who were in pursuit, and that two Chiricahua Indians brought to the post eleven more, recovered by one of their chiefs. This chief, named Chess, states that, having heard of the robbery, he sent and recovered these animals. He says "they were stolen by a band of Chiricahuas, headed by a chief named Parte, and that they supposed when they

took them that they were in Sonora, and that the animals belonged to Mexicans."

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS, *Asst. Adjt. General,*

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

22. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,

Santa Fé, N. M., August 14, 1859.

COLONEL: As I informed the lieutenant general-in-chief in the spring, I have had a large force in the Navajo country, supporting the Indian department in their demands against these people, and at the same time making a reconnoissance of their country. The Indian department has large claims against these Indians for property said to have been stolen from Mexicans and others. As there appears to be a want of power in the chiefs of the nation to comply with the demands, I urged upon the superintendent the propriety of modifying his instructions to the agent so as to give the Indians more time, as I was satisfied that the majority of them were desirous of peace, and would not fight on any terms. I am gratified to find that he has somewhat modified his instructions.

Without attempting to pass any judgment on the character of the claims, I have determined to support the demands, as you will see by the inclosed instructions to the commanding officer at Fort Defiance, marked "A."

I also inclose a copy of Major Simonson's report, (marked "B,") which gives a complete understanding of the present state of affairs with the Navajos.

The views of the Indians in regard to their losses by robbery, &c., as therein represented, merit attention. The supplementary reports of Brevet Major Shepherd and Captain Walker I will transmit by next mail.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

Assistant Adjutant General,

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *August 8, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to forward reports of Brevet Major Shepherd and Captain Walker, commanders of columns of exploration in the Navajo country. These reports are very interesting, the explora-

tions having been made through a portion of the country heretofore unexamined by our troops. The officers and men deserve much credit for the manner in which this duty has been executed during a very inclement season.

Since my last report the conduct of the Indians has been pacific. Huero Miles and Larcillo Largo, notwithstanding their refusal to sign a paper reiterating the pledges made in the treaty of December last, have been actively engaged in bringing in stock as indemnity for property said to have been stolen by Navajos. In fact, all the wealthy and influential men of the nation are solicitous for peace, and are assisting in restoring the reputed stolen property.

Doubtless the present force in their country has done much towards bringing about the present state of feeling existing among them. The ladrones (or bad men, as they call them) are undoubtedly the thieves, and commit the depredations. These have nothing to lose, and if war were made upon them now, the innocent and those most active for the preservation of peace would be the sufferers.

It is an unquestionable fact that many horses and sheep have been stolen on the frontier and settlements by the Navajos, but there is reason to believe that the numbers are very greatly exaggerated, and it is very doubtful if a single murder has been committed by them since the peace of December last. They, on the contrary, assert that two of their people have been murdered; that many of their horses have been stolen; that they have never been offered restoration or remuneration for property or people, and they claim that their losses should be taken into account. Another complaint is that their agents (tatoes) are frequently changed before they can become acquainted with them; that from the death of Mr. Dodge to the arrival of Major Baker no agent apparently took any interest in their affairs. I would state that Major Baker has acquired their confidence, and is popular among them. They have evinced no hostility towards the troops, made no objections to explorations of their country, and have furnished guides and information when requested. At this moment they are endeavoring to procure contributions of sheep and horses, and say they will indemnify claimants for stolen property as far as they are able. Whatever the offenses of these people may have been heretofore, their present conduct will not justify hostilities against them. I have the concurrence of Major Baker (their agent) in this opinion.

Having reserved the hay ground from which we are now cutting and putting up hay, the grazing in the vicinity of the post has become very short, and unless recent rains bring forward the grass rapidly, I may be compelled to send the mounted troops to "Bear Spring" for grazing purposes. My instructions are to continue explorations until the 15th of September, if grass is sufficient, but do not authorize the return of the troops to their several posts at that or any other time. Should the department commander deem further operations unnecessary, an order for their return is requisite. Owing to the want of vegetables, scurvy is becoming prevalent, especially among the commands not belonging to this post.

Since my arrival, all animals at or in the vicinity of post have been put upon half-rations of corn. They receive none when on scouting

duties, but, even with this reduction, the quantity of corn on hand, including that received by Russel's train this morning, cannot last beyond the 1st of September.

I respectfully add that, in consideration of the above facts, together with the peaceful disposition of the Indians, the knowledge of the country obtained by the explorations, and the strength of the permanent garrison of this post, the expediency of the return of the troops to their respective stations is respectfully submitted and recommended.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. S. SIMONSON,

Major R. M. R., commanding troops in the Navajoe country.
 First Lieutenant J. D. WILKINS,
Acting Asst. Adjt. Gen., Dept. of New Mexico, Santa Fé.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé August 12, 1859.

MAJOR: The department commander directs me to inform you that the new agent for the Navajos, Mr. Kendrick, carries out further instructions from the superintendent of Indian affairs in regard to those Indians. Upon his application you will take possession of any Indians in flocks he may designate, and hold them subject to his orders. Should he require you to punish any one party of the Indians, you will do so; but this is not to be considered as a declaration of war against the whole nation, the department commander reserving to himself the right to declare a general war against the Navajos, after consultation with the superintendent of Indian affairs.

Should you, however, observe a general uprising among the Indians, you will immediately commence hostilities. Under such circumstances you cannot act too promptly.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d infantry, Acting Assist. Adjt. General.

Major J. S. SIMONSON, *R. M. R.,*
Commanding Fort Defiance, N. M.

23. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., August 31, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding the army, that during the past month the various reconnoitering and exploring parties ordered out by me have sent in their reports, copies of which I have the honor to inclose, as follows:

"A." Report and map of Lieutenant A. E. Steen, 3d infantry. This officer reports a practicable wagon road during the summer from Fort

Garland, through the mountains, direct to Bent's Fort, on the Arkansas river; also a road westwardly from the same post to the Rio Grande, and up that river to the San Juan mountains. The report contains interesting information.

"B." Report and map of Captain Claiborne, regiment of mounted rifles. Captain Claiborne reports a wagon road from Fort Stanton eastward to the Pecos and up the west bank of that stream, as impracticable.

You have already been informed that a command was ordered to Anton Chico, on account of a difficulty between the surveyors and Indians. After my return from the Canadian river, Captain Claiborne was ordered to his post, and Lieutenant Jackson, regiment of mounted rifles, was sent to explore a road from Anton Chico to the main road from Independence. He reports a good road can be made from the Rabbit Ear to Anton Chico. His report in detail has not yet been received.

"C." Report and map of Lieutenant Lazelle, 8th infantry. Lieutenant Lazelle commanding escort to boundary commission, reports a good wagon road, with abundance of water and grass, can be made from Anton Chico to Fort Lancaster, Texas, by following the east bank of the Pecos. This road will shorten the communication between Santa Fé, New Mexico, and that post, some two hundred miles.

"D." Report of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Reeves, 8th infantry, as to the state of the Indians in the vicinity of Fort Buchanan, with Captain Ewell's note inclosed.

"E." Reports and maps of Brevet Major O. L. Shepherd, 3d infantry, and Captain Walker, regiment mounted rifles, to accompany Major Simonson's report, already forwarded.

"F." Report and map of Captain H. B. Schroeder, 3d infantry, of a scout into the Navajo county.

Our relations with the Navajos are complicated, and caused me much solicitude. They are a numerous and self-sustaining people, having large flocks of sheep, and cultivating extensively. The power of the chiefs appears to be merely nominal, and the entire nation may be looked upon as a loose democracy, acknowledging no controlling power. The attempt to create a chief responsible for the acts of the whole nation, appears to have been a failure.

You will perceive by the reports that they are anxious for peace, and better disposed towards us than they have been for the last six years.

The thieves or ladrones of the nation are supposed not to exceed eighteen or twenty, but from some unaccountable reason are beyond the control of the remainder. Their manner of stealing appears to be by making a visit to the settlements, being apparently in social intercourse with the people, and suddenly disappearing with some of their property.

The Indian department are pressing large claims against the Navajos, some of which, the Indians say, are unjust, asserting that they have killed no one, but on the contrary some of their people have been killed, and property stolen, which they urge should be allowed as offsets for what their people have done.

I have, as you may have observed, a large command in that country,

patrolling it in all directions, with the view of obtaining a perfect knowledge of it, and of its resources, and also for the purpose of being present at all the councils, and supporting the agent in every possible manner.

Unfortunately in the last few months there has been a rapid succession of agents, and no one agent, however good he may have been, has remained long enough to acquire the confidence of the Indians, and it is to this that the present unsettled state of affairs may, in a great measure, be attributed.

It is hoped that the present incumbent may remain with them long enough to obtain a thorough knowledge of the nation, their habits and customs, and by a judicious course on his part I have no doubt of an early adjustment of all the present difficulties.

You will observe that I had determined not to make a general war on this tribe, until I could observe something perverse or hostile in the mass of the nation, believing as I do that a general war would result in converting at least ten thousand people, who are already endeavoring to sustain themselves by agriculture and stock raising, into robbers, who, concealing themselves in the mountains where there is no game, would be obliged to sustain themselves by stealing from the settlement, or be thrown upon the charity of the government.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding Department.

Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS,

Assistant Adjutant General,

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

CAMP NEAR HATCH'S RANCH, N. M.,

July 10, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of the arrival here of the command constituting the escort to the United States boundary commission on the 8th instant, having marched from the camp near the overland mail road, at Pope's wells, in 21 marching days, a measured distance of 279 miles. We could have marched much more rapidly; but the wagons of the commission were heavily laden, and all the animals were without corn.

The general health and condition of the men are excellent, and have been since the date of my last communication to your headquarters, there being at present but one marked case of scurvy among them. At the mouth of Bonito river Lieutenant L. Peck was given a sufficient escort to Fort Stanton to enable him to comply with his instructions from headquarters of the department. This detachment, consisting of 10 men, has not yet rejoined my command. I should be very glad to send to your headquarters a map of our route, but as yet I have not had sufficient time to complete it: one will be forwarded to you at the very first opportunity.

By exceedingly accurate surveys of the Pecos river during our march,

it is found that the general course is further to the west by from 5 to 30 miles than is commonly indicated on our maps, and much more direct, inasmuch as it was almost northwest from 32° to $32^{\circ} 30'$; thence almost north to $34^{\circ} 20'$; thence almost due northwest to our present position. The road made, or, rather, selected by us is a very well defined one, and was traveled over rapidly and readily, for the reason that no country presents for so long a distance fewer obstacles in an almost direct line, while the ground is exceedingly firm and smooth, particularly on the west bank, to the Bonito river. At the point of junction of the latter with the Pecos we passed to the east side by means of a flying bridge which I constructed, and by means of which successfully crossed in sixteen hours 22 wagons and 57,000 pounds of freight. The valley below this junction, on the side of our route, is a broad and beautiful one, and capable of very extensive cultivation, while on the opposite side the banks are rugged and in many places precipitous. This general sameness of features continues to the immediate vicinity of the Bonito, above which these opposite characteristics prevail to considerable extent; but, by a change of position, the valuable portion of the Pecos valley above that river being on the eastern side. At frequent intervals it expands into broad and very fertile bottom-lands, in many places heavily timbered with cottonwood. In my opinion our route is the best which can be selected for a road, avoiding, as it does, all very prominent natural obstacles. It would, however, in case of extensive travel, be necessary to construct a bridge across the Pecos, which could be very readily done at its point of junction with the Bonito, as its channel here narrows to about 20 yards, and the banks are quite high and very firm; the average depth of water about eight feet. The soft mud and quicksands of the Pecos would prevent a possibility of a practicable ford at but very few other points of our route along it, and these not less than 30 to 50 miles either above or below that above mentioned, whichever, when found, must prove at all seasons unsafe while the marshes in the vicinity of the mouth of the Bonito, and for 20 miles above it, will prevent both rivers being successfully turned at good fordable points.

The water of the Pecos loses almost entirely its disagreeable saline character above the salt marshes of the Bonito, not exceeding 25 miles above its mouth, and thence up to this point, does not differ except in its limestone solutions from that point of the Rio Grande.

I beg to call your attention to the very great economy of distance which would result from using this as a route to San Antonio from Santa Fé. The measured distance from this point to Fort Lancaster, Texas, by the Pecos road, is 445 miles, and to Santa Fé cannot be over 525 miles, while from Santa Fé to Fort Lancaster, by way of the Rio Grande, is not less than 720 miles—making a saving of more than 200 miles by the simple construction of a bridge over the Pecos, which can be done at very little expense. By this means a march shorter and quite as good, if not far better, route can be secured the whole distance; and, it may safely be added, that, by avoiding with a little care many

of the bends of the river made by us, necessary to a careful survey of it, the distance which we made would be lessened at least ten per cent.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

H. M. LAZELLE,

2d Lieut. 8th infantry, comd'g Boundary Commission Escort.

Lieutenant J. D. WILKINS, *1st Lieut. 3d infantry,*

Acting Asst. Adjt. Gen. Department of New Mexico.

CAMP LA HOYA, NEAR FORT DEFIANCE, N. M.,

August 3, 1859.

SIR: The column placed under my command by Orders No. 8, dated "headquarters Navajo command, Fort Defiance, New Mexico, July 14, 1859," marched from this camp on the morning of the 18th ultimo, and proceeding northward encamped on the 19th near the head of the Cañon de Chelly, about twenty-eight miles north of Fort Defiance. The common belief that it is in this cañon that the Navajos take refuge with their flocks and herds upon the first alarm of war, as well as the extraordinary accounts given of its natural features by the few whites that pretend to have explored it, rendered it highly desirable that this mysterious chasm should be thoroughly explored. That the anxiety of the Indians to maintain their important secret would cause them to resist any attempt on our part to explore the Chelly, although the received opinion did not seem probable.

At all events I had a force sufficiently strong to disregard such a consideration, and accordingly on the morning of the 20th, having secured the unwilling services of two or three of the principal men of the Navajos as guides and hostages, I set out for the cañon. The unwillingness of the Indians to guide us into it was very decided, arising, according to them, from the fact that the descent into the cañon in this direction or vicinity was impracticable for animals with packs, and that if we attempted it we would lose a large number, and might punish or blame them for our disaster. Whatever other cause there might have been for their unwillingness, it is certain that our first view into the cañon was far from being reassuring, and seemed to confirm the Indians' statement. While nothing could exceed the terrible grandeur of the view, nothing seemed more impracticable than the descent. The approach of the Chelly is over an undulating table land, unmarked by any peculiarity, with absolutely nothing to indicate the vicinity of one of the greatest natural phenomena until you are startled by finding yourself suddenly upon the brink of this fearful chasm, which seems to open under your very feet into the very bowels of the earth. The cañon is formed by the union of three small streams, the Estrella, or Cienega Negar, on the southeast, the Palo Negro, or more properly the Chelly on the east, and the Cienega Juanica on the northwest. The place of our descent is about half a mile below the mouth of the last, at a point where the precipice is somewhat broken, and the *debris*, consisting of immense boulders and disintegrated sandstone, give a sufficient slope to enable us to zigzag down the face of

the precipice, which at this point cannot be less than six or seven hundred feet high. The process was slow, and not unattended with danger to our pack animals, some of which, losing their balance, were toppled over by the weight of their packs, but the mules extreme tenacity of life saved us from loss, with the exception of one mule which had a leg broken by the fall, and had to be shot.

It was four hours before the last of our pack animals reached the bottom and our march resumed. From its head to its mouth the cañon runs nearly west, and its width is from two hundred to three hundred and fifty yards, seldom less than the one or greater than the other. As we proceeded down the cañon we found the bluffs to increase in height, being generally mural and perpendicular, and of about equal altitude on opposite sides; being composed of sandstone exclusively, in many places the elements have converted them into gigantic cathedrals, fortifications, castles, &c., or what the fancy might easily convert into such when seen at a distance. The soil of the cañon valley is extremely sandy, but supports a growth of underbrush, and is not without fertility, as numerous patches of corn, throughout the cañon, and an occasional one of wheat indicate. Copious rains having fallen during the last few days, we found running water through the entire length of the cañon, but during the dry season water is only found by digging in the dry and sandy bed of the aroyo, as the Indians informed us. The first side cañon entering the Chelly is from the south, and joins the Chelly ten or eleven miles from where we entered it, and is the same by which Colonel Miles entered the Chelly in November last, during the Navajo war. The Indians call it by a name which our Mexican interpreter said signifies *Alsada* or the Cañon of High Rock, from a lofty and spire-like pillar at its mouth, which, detached entirely from the neighboring precipice, and with a base of not more than one or two hundred feet, rises perpendicularly to the height of seven or eight hundred feet, and terminating in a sharp steeple-like point, near which, on a narrow ledge, grows a cedar tree. Nothing can exceed the grandeur of the scenery of this part of the cañon, where the precipices reach their greatest elevation, which is probably not far from one thousand feet; but having no means of accurate measurement this is conjectural.

Just before going into camp this evening, one mile below the mouth of Cañon *Alsada*, on the only spot of grass we had seen in the cañon, we were overtaken by a thunderstorm and a deluge of rain, but the temporary inconvenience caused by this was amply compensated for by the novel and beautiful sight of a waterfall of nearly a thousand feet in perpendicular height, from the table-land above to the bottom of the cañon. The volume of water was considerable, but after falling some hundreds of feet it was broken into a lace-like sheet of pure white, which swayed back and forth with the wind; a little further down, it became spray, and finally reached the bottom as fine mist. Resuming our march the next morning, we found the cañon and overhanging precipices presenting the same general features, but the line of mural precipices is more frequently broken by short lateral openings, but none of them exceeding a few hundred yards in length. The only exception to this is the entrance from the north of the Cañon del Trigo

or Wheat cañon, which joins the Chelly about three miles from the mouth of the latter. The Navajos say it rises in the Tunicha mountains to the northeast, and is inhabited and cultivated.

About a mile and a half above the mouth of the Trigo we stopped to examine the ruins of an ancient pueblo, built partly at the base of the cliff and partly on a ledge forty or fifty feet from the ground. The building on the ground seems to have been a large quadrangular structure, divided into numerous apartments, with doors, windows, and fireplaces not unlike those of civilized nations. At one end of the building and within the *enciente* is the *estufa* or place of sacred fire, similar in size and form to that at the ruined pueblo on the Picos river, twenty-five miles from Santa Fé. The buildings on the rocks are in an almost perfect state of preservation, even to the wooden supports of the doors and windows, and the whitewash on the interior walls which look new and fresh as if placed there within the year. This would seem to argue no great antiquity of origin, but their perfect state of preservation is owing to their being protected by the overhanging precipice in such a manner that rain has never reached them. I regretted exceedingly that we had no means of reaching these buildings, and of examining more closely these remains of an ancient, and perhaps extinct race. That the builders of these houses had made considerable progress in the civilized arts is apparent from the superior style of masonry and earthenware vessels, fragments of which we found about these ruins. The Navajos say that their ancestors found these ruins just as they now appear when they first came to this country; notwithstanding, it seems almost certain that the builders and inhabitants of these houses were the peaceful and unwarlike Moquis, whom the more warlike and numerous Navajos expelled to the country fifty miles to the southward, where they still live. The perfect identity in the style and situation of their buildings, the character of their masonry and pottery, and more than all, the universal *estufa*, found at these ruined pueblos and in the Moquis villages, leave no ground of doubt that the builders of these ancient pueblos and the Moqui Indians are one and the same race. That they were at one period the predominant race throughout New Mexico seems equally as certain, from the uniform character of the ruins on both sides of the Rio Grande. There are several other ruins of a similar character further down the cañon, but less extensive and in a less perfect state of preservation. A short distance below the ruined pueblo just spoken of, we observed an Indian ascending what appeared in the distance to be the face of a perpendicular bluff, but on a nearer approach we found the bluff slightly receding, and that there was a flight of steps cut in the solid rock from the bottom to the top, perhaps six or seven hundred feet high. Lower down we observed several other flights on each side of the cañon, all of which were probably the work of a more ancient race than the present inhabitants.

The bluffs which have all this day's march been growing gradually less imposingly lofty, below the Trigo, three and a half miles from the mouth of the Chelly, rapidly sink until they finally disappear entirely, and the undulating country beyond presents a barren and uninviting appearance, with ranges of mountains in the distance to the south,

west, and northeast. From our camp near the mouth of the Cañon Alsada to where the Rio Chelly frees itself from the cañon and turns due north, is about nine and a half miles; the portion of the cañon explored the day before, about twelve miles, making the distance traveled in the cañon the two days twenty-one and a half miles. I will here remark, that twelve days afterwards, when returning from the Rio San Juan to this camp, we encamped early in the afternoon on the Palo Negro or Chelly creek, the central or eastern branch of the Chelly, near where we had encamped on the 19th before descending into the Chelly. Thinking that possibly the Indians had taken me by the most difficult route in order to deter other parties of our troops from attempting, on any future occasion, to go into the cañon, I took a party of riflemen on foot and, accompanied by Lieutenant Du Bois, descended the cañon about three and a half miles, examining the mouth of the Cienega Negra or southeastern branch of the cañon, which enters about three miles below what might be termed the head of the Chelly, and then descended to near the mouth of the Cienega Juanica and within half a mile of the point where we entered the Chelly on the 20th, thus completing the reconnoissance of the heretofore mysterious cañon, which we find to be about twenty-four or twenty-five miles in length, and running nearly due west almost in a straight line. Although the head and mouth of the cañon had previously been fixed by astronomical observations, the exaggerated length given heretofore to it arose from an erroneous curve to the southward, as laid down on all the conjectural maps of the cañon.

There is, we found, no descent into the cañon by this last explored route that can at all be considered practicable for animals. In regard to the road by which we descended on the 20th, there is a trail on the opposite side of the cañon, and a little above where we entered it, leading to the table-land above, by which animals *without* packs might ascend or descend, but I doubt if they could do either with them. Our reconnoissance of the Chelly, I think, explodes the notion so long prevalent, that it could afford a refuge for the Navajos and their numerous flocks and herds for any length of time in a war with us. The destitution of pasturage in the cañon would of itself force them out. Besides, now that the Navajos are aware of our acquaintance with the Chelly, it is not probable that any number of them would rely upon it in time of war as a place of concealment and refuge. Should they do so, a column of mounted men in the cañon, supported, if thought necessary, by a flanking force of infantry on the table, the east of the mouth of the Trigo and on the north of the Chelly, would in two days time sweep the cañon from one end to the other. A thorough examination of the side of the cañons of the Chelly would have been desirable, particularly of the Trigo, of which nothing is known, but the several days necessary for this purpose, with my limited supply of provisions, might have prevented me from carrying out Major Simonson's instructions, to extend my explorations as far as the San Juan, and of visiting the various bands of Indians "on my route," and of noting their numbers, locations, herds of horses and cattle, flocks of sheep and goats, as well as their grazing grounds in summer and winter, watering places, and, in general, everything that might

become useful in case of war. On that account I determined to reach the Rio San Juan at the nearest point from the mouth of the Chelly cañon, and afterwards return to Fort Defiance across the Tunicha mountains, by a trail yet untraveled by our troops or exploring parties, which was described by my interpreter as being a good road and with an abundance of water and grass.

How I carried out this part of my instruction will probably be better shown by extracting from my journal the notes herewith subjoined:

July 22. Left camp at 7 o'clock this morning, and following the Rio Chelly, which after forcing itself from the cañon turns due north for six miles, we passed a succession of fields of growing corn, some of them containing from forty to sixty acres. This valley and the lower half of the cañon are probably the most populous portion of the Navajo country. They have but few horses or sheep, and consequently considered poor, living principally by agriculture. They seem very unwarlike and well disposed towards us, but upon them the chief burden of war with us would fall, for the destruction of their growing corn would reduce them to starvation and extreme misery, although their peaceful habits and remoteness from our settlements make it probable that they have been entirely guiltless of any offense. The last cultivated land we saw upon the Chelly is almost six miles from the mouth of the cañon, and the Indians informed us that there was no cultivation lower down, but that the country is grazed over a good deal in the fall, after the rains have brought up the gramma grass upon the plains.

Our guides say that our course to-day and to-morrow lays along the Rio Chelly, but owing to the recent heavy rains, to avoid the quicksands, it will be advisable to leave the river valley, and turn off to the right, across the mesa. While halting for noon, we had a heavy rain upon us, and upon resuming our march, found the road extremely heavy. Our course to-day has been north; camped near some dark blue clay mounds; rain water in arroyo; very little grass. Distance marched to-day, seventeen miles.

July 23.—Our course to-day, north. About six miles from camp passed a peculiar house-looking isolated red bluff, at the southwest corner of which there is an opening resembling a window. Ten miles from camp reached an arroyo generally dry, as the guides say, but now with running water. Here we crossed Major Backus' trail of last October. After following the arroyo about a mile, halted for noon, and resuming our march at 3 o'clock, followed down the arroyo a mile and a half, and within sight of the Rio Chelly. Five miles from the arroyo, passed to the right of an isolated rock called by the Mexicans "Piedra Rodia;" then, ascending a sharp hill, reached a spring in the hills a mile and a half beyond. We have had a very sandy country to pass over to-day, and the march has been very trying on our animals, particularly the pack mules. Day's march, eighteen miles.

July 24.—For a mile and a half after leaving camp, our road led due east to the top of a rocky ridge, where there is for a mile or more a natural pavement, and where we found pools of rain water. For four miles the trail is over a broken sandy mesa, to a rocky arroyo

with rain water in pools, where we nooned, after which we marched east of north five miles and half to an arroyo with rain water in holes. Grass, good. Day's march, twelve miles.

July 25.—Course from camp, northeast to the extreme western point of the mountains, seven miles to a wide plain, after which course turns more towards the north, say N. 20° E., and continues in that direction for eight miles to permanent running water and good grass. Day's march, fifteen miles.

July 26.—Course from camp north, three miles to a cottonwood grove called "Bosque Redendo," where there is permanent water and good grass. Seven miles over a rocky and hilly country to the Rio San Juan. Went up the river one mile and camped on tolerable grass. Day's march, eleven miles.

The San Juan, which I had before seen a clear and beautiful stream, is now so muddy that even the animals refuse to drink it. The guides say that the arroyos Tunicha and Colorado above, which usually send no water to the San Juan, swollen by the late heavy rains, are now running out into the river, and defiling its waters. By digging holes in the sand near the edge of the water, we procured pure water for drinking.

July 27.—Remained in camp on the river.

July 28.—Followed up the course of the river for ten miles, to the mouth of the arroyo Colorado, by a very hilly and bad road. Five miles below the mouth of the Colorado there is excellent grass in the river bottom. At the mouth of the arroyo Colorado we nooned, and afterwards turned up it, and, leaving the San Juan, followed it for nine miles due south, where we encamped; grass poor; water in holes, which the guides say is permanent. Day's march, 19 miles.

July 29.—After leaving camp traveled three miles due south, to a point from which the "Needles," or "Sierra Aguila," as it is variously called, bore due east and about three miles distant.

A little further on came to a cross trail coming from the direction of the "Needles," and into this turned, against the advice of our Indian guides, who insisted that the better road lay further east; but as I had to be constantly on my guard against their misrepresentations, made in order to take us by routes the least frequented by Indians and their herds, I did not follow their advice.

[My subsequent experience of the superiority of this route, and of its being the great thoroughfare of the Navajos from one side of the mountains to the other, convinced me that my suspicions had been well founded.]

Following this cross trail three miles up a sandy arroyo, course S. 25° W., we emerged upon a wide plain extending to the base of the mountains, which, at the point at which we are approaching it, bends towards the south, leaving this plain, called "Mesa Colorado," lying within the crescent. This extensive plain is an important grazing ground for sheep and horses in the fall of the year, after the rains have brought up the gramma grass. The grazing, even now, is tolerable, and in a few weeks will be excellent. Six miles across the mesa, crossing Major Backus' trail of October last, we encamped near some

red rocks, with rain water in arroyo. To the eastward of us is a peculiar pillar-like rock, standing isolated on the plain.

The guides report permanent water at several places near our camp, and, although the constant and heavy rains more than supplied all our wants, yet I have no doubt but that at all seasons a sufficient supply could be found between the mountains and the San Juan. The constant rain we have had, adding as it does so materially to the weight of the packs, together with the bad water and deep sandy roads, are telling on our mules, and two were so much exhausted on the road to-day that they could not be brought into camp, and were consequently shot by the rear guard. Day's march, 14 miles. Grass at camp good.

July 30.—Course to-day south 15° west, over a broken and hilly country, intersected by arroyos. Five miles from camp permanent water and Navajo cornfields, with quite a number of huts, but uninhabited. The people have left this side of the mountains, from fear of the Utahs, who, we were told, recently drove off a caballado of eighty horses from this neighborhood. Seven miles from camp commenced to ascend the mountains; half a mile up, an excellent spring; two miles to the summit, where there is another spring of ice-cold water. Half a mile further, on the top of the mountain, a small lake. The road up the mountain is steep, but infinitely superior to that by which Major Simonson's command crossed the mountains about a month ago. Besides, the mountains at this point seem to be of about half the elevation of that part crossed by Major S.'s command, and I am convinced, from the appearance of the road, that there is the main thoroughfare of the Navajos across the mountains, although they may be crossed at almost any point, if it were necessary.

From the lake we commenced gradually to descend by a good and much traveled trail which follows the course of the wooded ravine, with a stream of clear water running through it, and its volume constantly increased by springs breaking out along the sides of the mountains. From Washington's Pass to the Carizo range, the Tunicha mountains might be compared to an open hand, the fingers separated. The back of the hand, with knuckles vertical, would represent the northern slope, and the highest ridge, the fingers a series of lateral spurs running off towards the south and tapering down towards the plains; and the space between the fingers the wooded ravines and fertile and well watered valleys that abound through these mountains, which afford excellent summer pasturage for great numbers of horses and sheep. Nine miles from the top of the mountain we came to a large cienaga at "the Junta de los Arroyos." Here we encamped. Day's march, 20 miles.

July 31.—Course still down the arroyo Tusa, south 5° west, for six miles, when we emerged from the mountains and left the creek, turning south 15° east, around a peculiar pillar-like rock, which bears from our camp this evening, at Palo Negro, north 10° west.

Ten miles further (crossing the "Monton la Jara" and the "Cienaga Juanica") we reached our camp of the 19th, and encamped half a mile beyond, at a good spring, with tolerable grass, on the cienaga. Day's march, 16 miles.

[In these notes I have given the courses according to the true north, and not the *magnetic north*, the latter being about 10° eastward.]

August 1.—Reached the camp by way of “Cienaga Negra.” The country to the south of the Tunicha mountains is swarming with horses and sheep, driven in by their owners’ fears of the Utahs. In regard to cattle, very few of the Navajos have them; at least, I have seen none. Day’s march, 21 miles.

Before closing this report, I would remark that the Navajos everywhere evinced the most earnest desire for peace. I am not prepared to say what would be the better line of policy towards them; but there is no doubt that a war made upon them now by us would fall the heaviest upon the least guilty—would transform a nation which has already made considerable progress in civilized arts, into a race of beggars, vagabonds, and robbers. What consideration such views should have in the settlement of our difficulties with them—difficulties based upon exaggerated demands—which every animal in the Navajo country would scarcely be sufficient to satisfy—it is not for one to suggest; but before severe measures are resolved on, and a course of policy initiated that would entail poverty and wretchedness upon the entire tribe, it may be that some little forbearance might be the part of true wisdom.

Accompanying this will be found a topographical sketch of the route traveled over, by the column under my command, by Lieutenant Du Bois, which I have carefully examined, and find accurate in every respect.

Perfect accuracy, of course, is unattainable without the use of instruments for determining latitude and longitude which he did not possess.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. WALKER,

Capt. R. M. R., comd'g second col. Navajo com'd.

Lieut. J. H. EDSON, *R. M. R.,*

Acting Adjutant Navajo command.

FORT BUCHANAN, NEW MEXICO, *August 3, 1859.*

SIR: For the information of the colonel commanding the department, I have the honor to report that further depredations have been committed by the Chiricahua Apache Indians.

On the 31st ultimo a party of them went to Patigonia mine, being then on their way into Sonora on a marauding expedition. They were ordered away from the mine, upon which, and in some manner not clearly explained to my mind, some firing ensued, in which Mr. Freeman (one of the men engaged at the mine) was mortally wounded, and an Indian killed—as is supposed—the others carrying him off across a horse. If not killed he was at least badly wounded.

The Indians went on into Sonora, and could not, of course, be followed by us. Hearing that a party of Mexicans were after them, and that they would probably be soon driven back, I have sent in that direction a party of troops, hoping they may fall on them on their return. From the reports received from the mine, it is believed that

the Indians belong to the Chess band, as they told Mr. Freeman that they had been here "delivering up some mules," and that they were sent there to get some flour and tobacco as they went by. It is not at all probable that they went there with the intention of making any attack upon the people, and I am disposed to believe that the difficulty arose from the manner in which they were treated.

Mr. Freeman says one of the Indians fired on him with a revolver before he drew his from the holster. The affair occurred on Sunday morning, the 31st ultimo, about breakfast time, and Mr. Freeman died the same day.

These Indians are becoming bold and rebellious from their successful depredations, and should be chastised. As I stated in my communication of the 18th ultimo, I cannot attack them in their homes without the danger and almost the *certainty* of bringing destruction upon the mail line. The present force here does not warrant such a step, for it would be, in my mind, exceedingly rash. I desire to go and demand the still missing property, taken from Arivaca, but I am deterred from so doing for the reasons stated.

If, in your opinion, I should act without reference to the mail line, saving that I shall give the best protection the case admits, with due safety to the troops who take the field, I respectfully request that you will give me your definite instructions in the matter; and would further request that you will do so with the least possible delay. I cannot, and shall not, take any decided step until I hear from you, unless some new and aggravated act on the part of the Indians forces me to do so.

Hoping soon to hear from you, I refrain from any further remark at present.

I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,

J. V. D. REEVE,

Brevet Lieut. Col. U. S. A., Commanding.

Lieut. J. D. WILKINS,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant General, U. S. A.,
Santa Fé, N. M.*

P. S. 9½ o'clock, p. m.—Since writing the foregoing letter, I have received by express from Captain Ewell the inclosed note. He gives a somewhat different complexion to the affair. My report was based upon the statements made by the man in charge of the mine, and was presumed to be, in the main, correct. There is still more doubt now than before as to *what* Indians they were. They are all troublesome in one way or another, but it seems almost impossible to fix the acts in each case on those who are really guilty.

Yours, &c.,

S. V. D. REEVE,

Brevet Lieut. Col. U. S. A.

AUGUST 3, 1859.

DEAR SIR: I find that the affair out here was brought about by the imprudence and bad management of the whites, who were the aggress-

ors. They did not say they had been to the post to deliver up stock. The trail was found to-day, and I shall follow it for a short distance, although there is no doubt that these were either Piñal or Ponto Apaches.

Yours, &c.,

R. S. EWELL,
Captain 1st Dragoons.

Col. REEVE, *Commanding post.*

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *August 7, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor, respectfully, to report, that in compliance with orders Nos. 8 and 9, dated headquarters, Navajo command, Fort Defiance, New Mexico, July 14, 1859, I proceeded with companies B and K, and detachment of company I, 3d infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Dickinson, and Captain Sykes and Lieutenant Freedley, 3d infantry, and companies G and H mounted riflemen, commanded by Lieutenants Edson and Clafin, regiment rifles, on the 18th ultimo, to examine the country lying west and southwest of this post.

On the 18th and 19th July the line of march was for thirty miles over the Moqui wagon road, leading hence to the Indian pueblos of Moqui; also, for six miles on the 20th of July. As the region immediately along this road is so well known, nothing special or new can be offered. After leaving the Moqui road on the 20th, the line of march was about south, for four miles, till we reached the Rio Pueblitos, on which we encamped the night previous. Water not permanent. On the 21st our route ran southwest, through the cañon of the Rio Pueblitos, for fifteen miles. Water not permanent.

July 22.—The route was west for ten miles into a large cañada leading west in the direction of the Moqui villages. No trail. Water not permanent.

The guides, Juan and Jose, not knowing that section of the country, it was thought best not to pursue this valley any further, fearing a want of water for so large a number of animals as were in the command; therefore, on the 23d July, the direction of the Ojo de la Jarra, on the Moqui road, was taken, and this spring was reached in about fifteen miles. Water permanent. No trail, and hilly. The 24th, 25th, and 26th were occupied in traveling over the Moqui road till reaching these Indian towns, about thirty miles. This part of the route being also so well known, nothing need be offered. On the day of reaching these Indian pueblos, three of them, viz: Anoche, Sucho-mobe, and Ualbe, were visited by the officers.

July 27.—We marched for better grass further west about six miles, in front of the two pueblos of Muchonobe and Chupanlebe, which were also visited the same day by a portion of the officers. Encamped at rain-water ponds.

July 28.—We marched five miles further west and southwest of the pueblo of Thomopebe. Encamped at rain-water ponds. This pueblo and Orgebe, lying fifteen miles north, were visited by myself and Lieu-

tenants Freedly and Clafin. This day the chief of Chupanbebe and a head man of Shumopebe promised to lead us for two days south.

July 29.—We marched fifteen miles south, and encamped in the same cañada that we left on the 23d. Water not permanent.

July 30.—We marched still south for about twelve miles, and encamped on the southern side of some black and high mesas, from which could be seen the Rio Colorado Chiquito, and supposed to be about twenty miles distant and further south. Here we had but little water for the animals. Water permanent.

July 31.—We marched in direction east-southeast through a broad range of high and large black mesas, sufficiently detached to leave beautiful valleys between. Distance to-day about twenty miles, and no trails. Water not permanent.

August 1.—Marched east for ten miles, and encamped on the Rio Pueblitos, and no trail. Water not permanent.

August 2.—Marched east-southeast for fifteen miles to another Ojo de la jarra, on the Zuñi and Mogui trail. Water permanent and abundant.

August 3.—Marched east-northeast for fourteen miles, when we reached the ruins of Pueblo Grande; thence marched east-southeast for four miles, and encamped on top of the mountain at the banks of Aquor de Viboras. Water not permanent.

August 4.—Marched east-southeast for fifteen miles, when we entered the lower end of the Cañon de Calites, and thence turned up in direction of north-northeast for three miles. Encamped at the mouth of cañon. Water not permanent.

August 5.—Marched through the cañon of the Calites after much labor and difficulty. Cañon, for about six miles, being choked up with a dense growth of underwood and willow; the ground besides being mirey in many places, from recent rains. This cañon has never been entirely traversed before. Encamped in the upper cañon of the Calites; distance twenty miles, and direction about northeast. Water near camp permanent.

August 6.—The command marched to this post, sixteen miles, making a total distance of about two hundred and sixty-five miles.

Respecting the character of the route, I have to state that the whole distance traversed south of the Moqui wagon road is impracticable, except during the rainy season, and it was only in consequence of the previous heavy rains which determined me to march over the route indicated. We saw no Indians along the route, except on the Rio Pueblitos, the second day out. Near the Moqui villages some two or three Indians came into camp, but they did not live near there. At the mouth or lower end of the cañon of the Calites, some few came into camp, principally women; also at the tanks, near Pueblo Grande. At the last camp in the cañon of the Calites some few also came into camp; none, however, at any point, of a character to hold a talk with. No flock of sheep were seen on the whole route. At the last, only sixteen miles from the post, a herd of horses were seen. Corn fields were seen on the Rio Pueblitos, about thirty miles hence; also a few small fields down the cañon of the Pueblitos, on the fourth day out. No fields were thence discovered till we came to the cañon of the

Pueblo Grande, about thirty miles hence, southwest; thence none till we entered the lower end of the cañon of the Calites, where were extensive fields, distant hence about thirty-five miles; and also in the upper cañon of the Calites, sixteen miles. Some few other patches were seen along the way, hardly worth mentioning. Scarcely one hundred acres in all were discovered.

Evidences were discovered of wintering large herds of horses and flocks of sheep, in the cañada leading west towards Moqui, from the lower end of the cañon of the Rio Pueblitos, as well as on the mesas adjoining this cañon; also in the cañada of the Ojo de la Jarre, near Moqui, and thence, particularly in the valley reaching from the Ojo de la Jarre, on the Zuñi and Moqui trail, to the Pueblo Grande, and likewise at the lower end of the cañon of the Calites. In all these places it must have been warm and sheltered from cold winds, and with grass abundant. The recent rains have caused the grass to spring forth sufficiently to furnish fair grazing. Ten days earlier than the expedition started no grass could have been found.

The expedition has been remarkably successful in having traversed a section of country never before known or attempted, and in demonstrating the possibility of troops going to the remotest haunts of the Indian; also in having discovered the valley of the Pueblo Grande, so near this post and hitherto unknown, and where large numbers of Indians must have been during the past severe winter, as indicated by the newness and number of the lodges; likewise in having penetrated, through its whole extent, the cañon of the Calites, sometimes called the Cheneyer or Chenay. All the Indians whom we saw came into camp freely, and manifested a very friendly disposition.

Regarding the Moqui Indians, they appeared to be an honest and very industrious and simple-minded people, living almost entirely by cultivating the soil. They have large and flourishing fields of corn, a thousand acres or so came under my own eye; perhaps there were more. It is a well settled fact, from the best information, that the Navajo Indians live a great deal upon them; and what they don't sponge they rob, as is evident from their being no horses among them. These Pueblos merit care and protection. The large mountain lying southwest of the Moqui's villages is doubtless the Sierra de Francisco, and is beyond the Rio Colorado Chiquito, being about four days beyond, and the home of the Coninas Indians. I am satisfied that the Navajos never go there to secret themselves or property.

The sketch of the route made by Lieutenant W. H. Bell, 3d infantry, who accompanied the command for the purpose, is respectfully inclosed.

During my station at this post, for six years past, I have never known a more pacific disposition manifested by the Navajos, and the salutary effect of these explorations is apparent, and has, I think, produced this desired result.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. S. SHEPHERD,

Capt. 3d infantry and Brevet Major, commanding expedition.

Lieutenant J. H. EDSON, *R. M. R.,*

Adjutant Navajo-command.

P. S. I forgot to mention that the horses and pack mules returned from the expedition in fair condition, notwithstanding the softness of the ground, caused by the heavy rains for the first ten days, and the unnutritiousness of the growing grass. Only one pack mule was lost, owing to a heavy storm and boggy ground while in march.

Very respectfully, &c.,

O. S. SHEPHERD,

Capt. 3d infantry and Brevet Major, commanding expedition.

FORT STANTON, N. M., *August 9, 1859.*

SIR: In obedience to Special Orders No. 76, May 14, 1859, from department headquarters, I have made the scout therein indicated as far as Hatch's ranch, the rest of my instructions having been suspended at that place.

My force was composed of one hundred and twenty men, as indicated in the annexed copy of Post Orders No. 53, June 11, 1859. Hospital Steward Edmund Noirsain was sent with me; his conduct was such as to give me a high opinion of his fitness for his duties.

The object which is first mentioned in your instructions was to find a pass through the mountains to the plains as far as the "Rio Pecos," proceeding eastwardly from Fort Stanton. The Sierra Capitain is a range of unbroken front from a point north of this post to a point east is distant from the post at its nearest part, perhaps twelve miles, its length cannot be less than 25 miles. The Albuquerque road turns its northwest end, and its southeast end is washed by the Hondo. The possibility of getting a wagon road through this mountain can have no advocate in one who has ever examined the country. The only route by which a wagon road can go hence to the Pecos, eastwardly, is by following the valley of the Rio Bonito as far as the junction with the Ruidoso, with it from this point a tortuous road can, with much difficulty, be made to pass through the broken ranges which lie at the southeast termination of the Capitain; 10 miles below the junction, Captain Hare reports a road practicable on the left bank of the Hondo, passing up the mesa around a range abutting on the river. (See pencil tracing on the map.) This information I gather from persons living on the river.

Below Mr. Peck's place, (the junction,) for a few miles further, the valley of the Hondo is tolerable; thence onward its course is in a narrow cañon, quite tortuous, and, in my opinion, impracticable for a wagon road, without infinite labor, and then by ascending and descending, again and again, 800 or 900 feet, as I judged the height of the mesa to be.

By a glance at the map you will see that a road leaving the *Hondo* at the junction of the *Bonito* and *Ruidoso* would leave eastwardly to the *Pecos*, and that its entire direction from Fort Stanton would be quite as direct to the *Pecos* as could reasonably be looked for in a broken country, being only 2° south of east. The only trouble would be the want of water beyond the arroyo of the *Alascoso*, which stream is a very bold one a few miles above its mouth, but is a sinking one

near the mountain; when I passed down in June *there was no water for my footmen to venture along this line*, and I had by the advice of my guide to follow the general east-southeast course of the Hondo. I should have left the Bonito at Peck's ranch and made my way due east had it been advisable to attempt it with 45 footmen. The country lying within the angle of the "seven rivers," the *Atascoso*, *Hondo*, and *Pecos* rivers is a salty marsh. That part of the country lying on the Hondo from the point where it leaves the cañon to the point where I left it, a distance of 12 or 15 miles, is undulating and very rocky, and the wide flats, which on its south side stretch away from the river, are quite barren. I found the grass all along the river very poor and insufficient. I resorted to cutting the long green grass which hung over the water from the river banks for the animals, so long and severe had been the drought, that the little grass in the bottoms and on the hill sides was of no value.

I found excellent grass when I reached the *Atascoso*, and the water is good. Two or three miles further on, the western springs of the "seven rivers" are reached, they are salty, and the water of the "seven rivers" is brackish; but higher up where I crossed it was very palatable. The mesa, which is washed by the *Pecos* on the east, and on the southwest by the "seven rivers," is very sterile, and whitened by the salt it contains. The bottoms of the *Pecos* are of the same character except a few places. The *Pecos* water, when I first struck it, was extremely brackish and unhealthy. This is caused more immediately by the *Salado*, which arroyo comes in few miles above my camp, and which I crossed in the first day's march up the *Pecos*, with infinite labor on the part of every man in the command, in cutting rushes and grass to enable the animals to cross the marsh, a distance of nearly half a mile. Flores* says the *Salado* comes from the west, a distance of seven leagues.

I found the *Bosque Grande* to be grand only in name, it is a poor affair. The general aspect of the country on this side of the *Pecos* is most cheerless and desolate. On the other side stretches away the famed *Llano Estacado*. The heat is excessive, yet in many places I saw fine grassy plains. A few trees are occasionally seen along the *Pecos*. At the *Bosque Grande* several molts of cottonwood are seen for four miles along the river from which it takes that name.

The *Bosque Redendo* is an elbow of the river, the molts of cottonwood are mostly on the left bank of the *Pecos*, extending for perhaps six or seven miles in clusters. The river is very crooked and stretched from side to side of the valley, which, midway of the *Bosque*, is two miles or over wide. The appearance of the *Bosque* in that desert country is very agreeable. The lower half of the valley is tillable, the upper is filled with drift sand. A secondary mesa, 1200 yards wide and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles long, lies on the right bank of the river, about midway the *Bosque*, about 30 feet above the river bottom, and is curtained by sand hills about 25 feet higher than itself. A kind of red-top grass grows in the lower bottoms mixed with bunch grass; the hills are covered with brown sedge grass; the mesa above spoken of is well covered with

* The guide.

mesquit grass. The water of the river is bad and the surrounding country is most desolate. The place is altogether unfit for a post.

Above this point to Hatch's ranche the *Pecos* is more crooked and the mesas higher. The river bottoms are fewer and very small. At Giddings's ranche, which is 35 miles below Hatch's, there is a little strip of bottom land, a small stream [*brackish*] comes in from the west southwest. The mesas have stunted cedar scattered over them. The road thence to Hatch's leads over the very elevated mesa of Gaudaloupe. It is impracticable to follow the river banks with pack-mules. I struck the *Pecos* in about 16 miles, at Taylor's corral, crossed it and struck across the Gallinos, a distance of six or seven miles, and following up the same eight miles, rested at Hatch's ranche on the 3d of July. With the exception of a march 12 miles east of Hatch's and back to camp, four miles below Hatch's, I remained in camp until 22d July, when under your immediate orders I marched to Utah creek and back to Hatch's, *via* the Tucumeari, all of which being performed under your own eye, I do not introduce in this report.

I must report that Mr. Hatch sold so much liquor to my men at his ranche as to cause great annoyance to my command; at all other times on the march my men behaved admirably. Three men, always considered first-rate men, deserted at Hatch's ranche, I believe from no other cause than being soldiers of a mounted corps they were compelled to march on foot by reason of so few horses in the company to which they belonged, and little prospect of any other sort of marching before them. I had about 75 mounted men and 31 on foot, riflemen, 11 of infantry, and one officer, Lieutenant Jackson, with me. Having no officer to command the footmen, I placed Sergeant Speer in command of them. I had 47 mules to lead, and with this ill-arranged command, I found it took from seven to eight hours to make 10 to 14 miles per day where there was no road, much sand, and great heat.

I take this occasion to express to you how much obliged I am to Lieutenant W. H. Jackson for his cheerful assistance to me in the performance of this duty. At all times pleasant in his manners, always attentive to his company, the service may well be proud of him. I beg you to excuse this should you think it out of place, as I could not speak of him at all without saying this much; but you have seen him yourself on the march and will judge him most favorably.

Accompanying this I inclose * * a map of the country traversed. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THS. CLAIBORNE,
Captain regiment Mounted Rifles.

First Lieut. J. D. WILKINS,
3d infantry, Acting Asst. Adjutant General,
Santa Fé, N. M.

HEADQUARTERS FORT GARLAND, N. M.,
August 10, 1859.

SIR: In obedience to department Special Orders No. 79, I have the honor respectfully to report, that I left this post on the 15th of June

last with a detachment of forty rank and file of company "A," 3d infantry, and proceeded in an easterly course towards Bent's new fort, situated on the north bank of the Arkansas river, making a thorough examination of the country between this and that point with a view of discovering the most direct and practicable route for a wagon road. By reference to my map herewith submitted, you will perceive that the route taken by me on my return is rather shorter than the one traveled in going, but my preference is certainly in favor of the route taken in going to that point, for the following reasons :

In going to Bent's fort, following the banks of permanent water courses, and in addition, wood and grass are abundant on every mile of the road, and for at least one-half the distance the road is a plain beaten wagon road, and without a single obstacle to be found on the way. The trail over which I returned is rather more direct, and over a fine, open country, with an abundance of wood and grass, but the great scarcity of water will prevent its being followed, excepting at a very wet season.

On my return trip I made a thorough examination of the three passes over the mountain range east of this post, and find the one now used is by far, in my opinion, the most practicable, and with but little labor can be made a very good mountain pass, excepting during the winter months, when it will be entirely impracticable to cross this range of mountains at any point on account of deep snow.

The trail traveled on my trip to the westward with company "A," 3d infantry, is also marked on the accompanying map on leaving this post. I followed the base of the White mountains and Moscho range to the cañon, or Punche pass, which is at the north end of the St. Louis valley, then turning west and heading this valley, and crossing a spur of the Sierra Madre entered the Puwache pass, crossing it ; I still continued west, following the base of the Sierra Madre to the cañon of the Rio Grande del Norte, striking this stream near the point Colonel Frémont met with his loss in the winter of 1849 and 1850, and at the junction of the two streams that form the main river. My course then followed this river (the del Norte) to a point nearly due west from Fort Garland, when I left the river and struck for Fort Garland. The west side of the St. Louis valley is much more practicable than the eastern, on account of a long and heavy range of sand hills which extend from the Mescho to within a few miles of the Punche pass ; there is but very little difference in the distance to the Puwache pass by either route.

The entire absence of instruments, except a pocket compass and a pair of dividers made by the post blacksmith, will be my apology if any errors in distance should be discovered in the accompanying map.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. E. STEEN,
First Lieutenant 3d infantry.

First Lieut. J. D. WILKINS,
3d infantry, Acting Asst. Adjutant General,
Santa Fé, N. M.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *August 19, 1859.*

SIR: In obedience to orders No. 11, headquarters Navajo command, Fort Defiance, New Mexico, August 9, 1859, I started on the morning of the 11th ultimo, (August) with the command assigned me, and have the honor to submit the following report:

The first day's march led through the cañon a little south of east of this post; the general course throughout the day north of east; saw no corn-fields; a few lodges, old and deserted; encamped at night on holes of rain-water; saw no permanent water; marched seventeen miles.

August 12.—Made an early start this morning, with forty-five mounted riflemen under command of Lieutenant Dubois, regiment mounted rifles; Lieutenant Bell, Third infantry, accompanying; leaving Lieutenants Dickinson, Third infantry, and Clafin, regiment mounted rifles to follow with the remainder of the command. From a conversation had last night with Sarcillos Largos, who had volunteered before leaving the post to conduct the command to where the Indians lived who were accused of stealing the cows from the Zuñis, I was in hopes, the guide being honest, to be able to catch the thieves, or, at least, to secure their herds, and thus comply with my instructions. Having made a quick march of nearly fourteen miles, Sarcillos Largos informed me that the Indians we were in search of were ahead. I moved on slowly, not anticipating a bloody fight with forty-five riflemen against three Indians. I should here state, Indians had been joining the command for some four or five miles back on the march; and there were at this time twelve or fifteen riding ahead of the command with the guides, occasionally one of these Indians would ride some distance ahead, and returning, communicate something to the guides. We now reached the point where the thieves were, and found them about half mile up the side of the mountain, and on ground impracticable for our horses in a chase. I therefore ordered the guide to conduct me to the nearest water, where I encamped. I was in hopes Sarcillos Largos would be able to induce the thieves to come into camp during the evening, when it was my intention to have seized them; he, however, failed to do so. The Indians gave as a reason for not coming in, that they were afraid the soldiers would kill them; at one time they sent me word they would meet me on a hill about a quarter of a mile from camp. I sent them word that I had nothing to say to them; and, if they wished to speak to me, they must come into my camp. I talked with many Indians this evening, but was unable to find out from them where the flocks and herds belonging to the thieves were to be found. They all agreed on the same old story, that it was impossible for them to deliver up the thieves for fear of the consequences. By this day's march I found I had left Laguna Grande so far in my rear that I did not think it necessary to return in order to visit it.

From the best information, it is situated some six or seven miles southeast of our camp of the first day; our course to-day was east of north, striking Chusca valley early in the morning; continuing up it; the mountains on our left, and near us; saw four or five lodges and small corn-fields; encamped on quite a large hole of muddy water; in the vicinity were other holes, tolerable grass, no wood. The distance of to-day's march, fifteen and a half miles; at the camp of to-day we

found the lodges of the thieves—mere temporary shades—and the heads and bones of the stolen cows.

August 13.—Our course to-day northeast, and still in the valley; encamped on a branch of arroyo Tunicha; grass pretty good; water in small lagunas, which is probably permanent a good portion of the year; no wood. Many Indians came into my camp; had a long talk with them relative to the subjects mentioned in my instructions; encamped nearly opposite to Washington's pass. Distance of march to-day, fifteen and a half miles.

August 14.—Our course turned nearly west for Washington's pass after reaching the hills; passed a lodge of two women, one man, and some twelve or fifteen goats and sheep; saw three small corn-fields. Reaching the mouth of the pass, found a small running stream of good, pure water; a little further on a small cienequilla of good grass. Encamped on the summit; wood, water, and grass plenty, and excellent.

August 15.—Did not move camp in consequence of the illness of Private McClusky, company L, 3d infantry.

August 16.—Left camp in Washington pass; our course west of south; passed a spring of permanent water, also a small running stream; saw one camp of Indians, a few horses, and some one hundred and fifty or two hundred sheep and goats. Marched fourteen and a-half miles, and encamped at Laguna Negra.

August 17.—Marched to the post. The country at Laguna Negra, and from that point to the post, is well known. All the animals of the command returned in as good condition as they were when they left.

Accompanying this report is a sketch of the country travelled over, made by Lieutenant W. H. Bell, 3d infantry, who was assigned to the command as topographical engineer.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. B. SCHROEDER,

Captain 3d infantry, commanding column.

Lieutenant J. H. EDPSON,

R. M. R., Acting Adjt. troops, in Navajo country.

P. S.—I would respectfully add that all the Indians seen on the trip were exceedingly friendly, and willing to render us any service in their power; they all desire peace.

Very respectfully,

H. B. SCHROEDER,

Captain, 3d infantry, comm. column.

24. Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., September 25, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose, for the information of the lieutenant general-in-chief, copies of instructions sent from these headquarters.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Col. 3d infantry comm'g. depart.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO.

Santa Fé, August 7, 1859.

MAJOR: Your communication of July 17, has been submitted to the department commander, who directs me to state in reply that Mr. Kendrick, the newly appointed agent for the Navajos, has arrived here, and will shortly leave for Fort Defiance; he will carry out further instructions from the superintendent of Indian affairs.

Instructions will be sent you at the same time.

As there is a possibility that war may ensue, you cannot be too diligent in obtaining every information in regard to the country. It would also be advisable to keep your command fully prepared to strike a decisive blow at any moment.

I am respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d infy., Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Major J. S. SIMONSON,

R. M. R., comm'g Fort Defiance, N. M.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,

Santa Fé, August 12, 1859.

MAJOR: The department commander directs me to inform you that the new agent for the Navajoes, Mr. Hendrick, carries out further instructions from the superintendent of Indian affairs in regard to those Indians. Upon his application, you will take possession of any Indians or flocks he may designate, and hold them subject to his orders. Should he require you to punish any one party of the Indians, you will do so; but this is not to be considered as a declaration of war against the whole nation; the department commander reserving to himself the right to declare a general war against the Navajos, after consultation with the superintendent of Indian affairs.

Should you however observe a general uprising among the Indians, you will immediately commence hostilities. Under such circumstances you cannot act too promptly.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut., 3d infantry, Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Major J. S. SIMONSON,

Regiment Mounted Riflemen,

Commanding Fort Defiance, N. M.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,

Santa Fé, August 12, 1859.

MAJOR: The department commander directs me to say to you that when your command was ordered to the Navajo country, it was expected they would return about the 15th of September. Under present

circumstances that will not be possible, unless the present difficulties terminate, of which you will advise these headquarters, and await instructions.

By this time, your exploring parties have no doubt informed you of the nature of the country, and the places where the Indians cultivate, graze their animals, &c., and you must have formed some idea how the war, if it become a matter of necessity, can be carried on most successfully. From what the department commander saw last winter, he thinks Fort Defiance too far in the region of snow to be available as a depot for the troops to act from in the winter; for the Indians even declined attending the council on account of the depth of snow. His idea is, that Zuñi on the south and Tunichey on the north would be nearer the wintering ground of the Indians, where the troops would have to go in search of them and their herds and their flocks, and that Fort Defiance could be left with merely a garrison sufficient to defend it. He requests your views on the subject.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d infantry, Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MEXICO,
Santa Fé, August 14, 1859.

MAJOR: Your report and inclosures of August 8th were duly received and submitted to the department commander, who directs me to state that he is glad the Indians are desirous of complying with the agreements made with the superintendent of Indian affairs last December; the report will be forwarded for the information of the general-in-chief.

With regard to withdrawing the troops, he is of the opinion, that now is the time to make a final adjustment of the Navajo difficulties. As long as the Indian department are in negotiation on the subject, if peace or war, he cannot see how he can well withdraw the troops; that in the meantime it is desirable you continue explorations. The Navajos have been represented as the owners of large herds of horses and sheep, and it is probable with their desire for concealment you may not have seen all. It is necessary that this should be known to a certainty as a basis for the superintendent of Indian affairs and himself to act on.

Last winter it was frequently reported that the Navajoes had driven large numbers of their animals sixty miles south of Zuñi, also to the waters of the Chiriquito Colorado, and on the northern slope of the "Sierra Blanco." Others represented that they were hid to the north and northwest of Moqui, and that Cuyatona's band took refuge to the north of the San Juan.

From your representations of the late rains and the coming up of the grass, this is probably the time when examinations of these portions can be most readily made. It is well understood that grass is deficient in the neighborhood of Fort Defiance on account of its eleva-

tion. Last winter it was covered with deep snow, whilst in the distant valleys and plains there was no snow and an abundance of grass; and there it was where the Indians were supposed to have wintered their stock. He suggests that in case you should find it impossible to carry sufficient provisions on your pack mules to explore these distant places; why it would not be advisable to load all your wagons, mules, and horses, if necessary, and establish a depôt on the Moquis on the Chiriquito Colorado or at Zuñi, and from either as a center, continue your explorations?

Should it be necessary to hire Moqui, Zuñi, or other Indians as guides for this purpose, you are authorized to do so.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d infantry Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Major J. S. SIMONSON,

R. M. R., commanding Fort Defiance, N. M.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, September 7, 1859.

MAJOR: The department commander directs me to inform you that a report has reached here that "Guerro" having some papers, supposed to be for these headquarters, was set upon by a party of Indians, at present unknown, and has not since been heard of. He also directs me to say that the report of Captain Schroeder, 3d infantry, does not meet his approval in this much—that he appears to regard the object of his scout as a trivial matter; whereas the department commander thinks a great deal of importance would have attended its success. In addition to this, forwarded as it has been to the headquarters of the army, it may be looked upon in a different light from what he (Captain S.) supposes, and reflect upon others.

I am directed also to say that you mention "there are some ten or twelve men in the nation who do all the stealing;" if you can catch some of them, and hang two or three it will have a salutary effect on the whole tribe.

The department commander desires you write by every mail and keep him informed of the state of affairs.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d infantry, Acting Ass't Adj't General.

Major J. S. SIMONSON,

R. M. R., commanding Fort Defiance, New Mexico.

25. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, October 2, 1859.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose, for the information of the lieutenant general-in-chief, copies of orders lately issued by me. Also,

the papers marked A, copies of instructions to and communications from the commanding officer of Fort Defiance, relative to the Navajos. It has been my constant exertion to have this large nation divided among themselves, as you may have observed in my former instructions as well as the inclosed.

The papers marked B, report of Major Simonson, inclosing report of Captain Walker, regiment mounted rifles, relative to some Mormon emissaries having been sent among the Indians living on the western limits of this department. This may create some talk, but I do not apprehend any serious result from anything the Mormons can do in that quarter. I will however keep myself advised as to what takes place.

You will also see by Special Order No. 121 that, on the representation of Colonel Reeve, commanding Fort Buchanan, I have assembled a force of two hundred and twenty men, on the San Pedro river, near the overland mail station, to be under his command for the purpose of chastising the Piñal Apaches, and such other Indians in that part of the department as may require it.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. L. E. BONNEVILLE,

Colonel 3d infantry, commanding department.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

Ass't Adj't Gen'l, Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, September 10, 1859.

MAJOR: By direction of the department commander I inclose you a letter just received by him. It informs of an outrage committed by Indians, supposed to be Navajos. You will immediately investigate this, and if the depredators should be Navajos punish them at once.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d infantry, Acting Ass't Adj't Gen.

Major J. S. SIMONSON, *R. M. R.,*

Commanding Fort Defiance, New Mexico.

HEADQUARTERS NAVAJO COMMAND,
Fort Defiance, New Mexico, September 23, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 10th instant. Scarce a doubt is entertained that Navajos committed the murder and depredations mentioned by Mr. Hubbell. Cabras Blanco, an Indian living at Tunicha, informed Mr. Kendrick, the agent, that five Navajos have brought to Tunicha *eleven* cattle, and boasted that they had killed two Mexicans. He also said that the thieves and murderers were attacked by Navajos at Tunicha, and two of the murderers were killed; that the three remaining thieves went off in a manner which induced him to believe they were going on another

foray, and that the principal man in this affair was a man whose brother had been killed last year at Atrisco. This confirms the report from Albuquerque, as far as the murder of the two men, but differs greatly in the number of Indians concerned and the number of cattle stolen. It is reported that Cyatana has planted corn on the Tunicha, and the belief is entertained that some of his band are guilty of the murder and depredations.

Captain H. B. Schroeder, 3d infantry, with two companies 3d infantry and detachment of mounted rifles, have marched for Tunicha, in pursuit of the murderers and depredators.

Mr. Kendrick, the Indian agent, has appointed a council to be held with the Indians at Laguna Negra, on the 25th instant. Fearing that the presence of the troops may alarm the Indians and prevent their attending the council, he has requested that I take only a small guard to the place of holding it.

"Huero Miles," the chief robbed, had no communications for headquarters; his object was to see Colonel Collins, the superintendent, in relation to the indemnity, and to sell some horses. He had a written pass from the Indian agent here, and was accompanied by the nephew of the governor of Jemez, a Pueblo Indian, who, he says, knows the robbers, and can tell if they belong to Sandia or San Philippe. His loss was 4 horses, 14 yards vazeth, 15 yards domestic, 1 pair pants, 2 blue blankets, 4 Navajo blankets, 4 buffalo robes, 2 plugs tobacco, and 1 knife. He sold a horse to a priest for the goods, and lost them as above stated.

About the time of the murder and robberies mentioned by Mr. Hubbell, 27 Mexicans came up the road as far as a point where a route turns off to the mouth of De Chelly. They were on a trading expedition. Mr. Kendrick, the Indian agent, went to De Chelly to ascertain what they were trading, and if they had a license, but could not get nearer than one day's travel of them. This is the third trading party of which we have received information, and in every instance they have done mischief in stating falsehoods to the Indians, and telling them they had paid all the indemnity required.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. SIMONSON,

Major R. M. R., com'g troops in Navajo country.

Lieut. JOHN D. WILKINS, *Acting Ass't Adj't General,*

Department of New Mexico, Santa Fè, N. M.

HEADQUARTERS NAVAJO COMMAND,
Fort Defiance, New Mexico, September 23, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to forward the report and sketch of explorations made by Captain J. G. Walker, regiment mounted rifles, in pursuance with Orders No. 14 from these headquarters. This report will be found highly useful and interesting, having been made over a country heretofore unknown to our troops. The immense coal beds discovered are of great importance, in view of future railroad construc-

tion: being nearly intermediate between the Mississippi and Pacific termini.

Also herewith is forwarded the special report of Captain Walker in relation to the movements of the Mormons with the Indian tribes. Not a doubt exists that this tampering with the Indians is to the prejudice of the citizens of the United States and the interest of the government. A Pah-Ute, who visited the Indian agent here, informed me of the proposed council at Sierra Panoche, and expressed himself anxious to attend it, in order, as he said, to bring about a peace with the Navajos; he said the Mormons had baptized him into their church, and gave him a paper certifying he was a Latter Day Saint and a good man. He was informed that the President of the United States appointed agents to whose care the interests of the Indian tribes were entrusted, and that all persons assuming these duties without his authority were bad men; that last year the conduct of the Mormons was such that he sent his troops against them, and that now these bad men were endeavoring to get our red brothers identified in their difficulties and troubles. Much more was said of the same tendency, and he promised he would not attend the Mormon council; his manner, however, contradicted his promise, and I have not a doubt he will be present himself and induce as many Navajos as he can to be present also. Every prominent man among the Navajos has heard of this Mormon council, and doubtless some will attend it.

Major Shepherd's column returned to the post yesterday. His report will be forwarded as early as possible.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. SIMONSON,

Major R. M. R., com'g troops in Navajoe country.

Lieut. JOHN D. WILKINS, *Acting Ass't Adj't General,*
Department of New Mexico, Santa Fé, N. M.

FORT DEFIANCE, NEW MEXICO, *September 20, 1859.*

SIR: On my late exploring expedition in the neighborhood of the Colorado Chiquito and San Juan rivers, my camp was visited, about eighty miles west of the mouth of the Cañon de Chelly, by a party of Pah Utahs, one of whom could speak the Navajo language, and gave the following statement to my Navajo guide in the presence of the interpreter:

"That the Mormons had deputed them and some others, who had gone on to the Cañon de Chelly, to meet the Navajos and to make peace with them; that they (the Mormons) were anxious to see peace established between all the different tribes between the Colorado and the Rio Grande, and by that means to resist the encroachments of the people and government of the United States, the natural enemies of the whole Indian race. That, unless they resisted us, we would soon have their entire country; that they (the Mormons) would assist them with arms and ammunition to do this. That, in order to carry these views fully into effect, the Mormons had sent them (the Pah Utahs)

to invite the Navajos to meet them and all the different bands of the Utahs and the Mohaves at the Sierra Panoche, a mountain some seventy or eighty miles east of the Colorado, and about forty miles southeast of the junction of the Rio San Juan and Colorado Chiquito."

This council is to be held about the middle of October next, at which time the Mormons are to distribute arms and ammunition to the various tribes represented in the council who will join the alliance.

That this statement is substantially true, I have every reason to believe, as the Pah Utahs, to confirm their story, exhibited various presents from the Mormons, such as new shirts, beads, powder, &c. I was further confirmed in this opinion by meeting, the next day, a deputation of Navajos on their way to Sierra Panoche, to learn the truth of these statements, which had been conveyed to them by a Pah Utah whom I saw in the Cañon de Chelly afterwards, who had been sent as a special envoy from the Mormons to the Navajos. He had in his possession a letter from a Mormon bishop or elder, stating that the bearer was an exemplary and regularly-baptized member of the church of the Latter Day Saints.

From this, there seems little doubt that these fanatics are endeavoring to combine all the wild tribes of this region against the people and government of the United States, and it is to be feared that their intrigues will cause much trouble, unless the government take prompt and effective measures to counteract them. It has already been observed that the Navajos, since the Mormon emissaries came among them, are growing discontented and sullen; and should a war break out between our troops and the tribe, I believe it will have been brought about in no inconsiderable degree by Mormon influence and intrigue.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. WALKER,

Captain R. M. R., com'g second column Navajo com'd.

Lieutenant J. H. EDSON,

Act'g Adj't. Navajo com'd, Fort Defiance, N. M.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO.

Santa Fé, October 2, 1859.

MAJOR: The department commander directs me to communicate to you the following: Major Simonson reports that Captain Schroeder, with a force, have marched for Tunicha, in pursuit of murderers and depredators mentioned in Mr. Hubbell's letter. Should he be unsuccessful in finding them, you will, on his return, take all the available troops in the Navajo country, leaving a sufficient garrison at Fort Defiance, and proceed to Tunichey, and chastize the Indians living in that vicinity.

He further directs me to say that it is time these murders and robberies should cease, and as scarce a doubt is entertained that this last robbery and murder was committed by the Navajos living in Tunichey, you will endeavor to make this blow as effective as possible. The explorations made throughout the summer, have given you sufficient

information of the resources and situation of the country as scarcely to allow of a failure.

This is not intended to be a general war against the nation, but simply a merited chastizement of the Indians in and about Tunichey for this robbery, and they are to understand, it will be repeated every time a depredation is traced to them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut., 3d infantry, Acting Assist. Adj. Gen.

Brevet Major O. L. SHEPHERD, *U. S. A.,*

Commanding Fort Defiance, New Mexico.

26. *Colonel Bonneville to the General-in-chief.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,

Santa Fé, N. M., October 10, 1859.

COLONEL: By direction of the department commander now absent, I have the honor to inclose, for the information of the lieutenant general-in-chief, the following copies of reports received at these headquarters. "A." Major J. S. Simonson's report of Indian council held near Fort Defiance. "B." Brevet Major O. L. Shepherd's report of exploration of Navajo country. "C." Captain J. G. Walker's report of exploration of the Navajo country, northwest of Fort Defiance.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

First Lieut. 3d Inf'y A. Asst. Adj. Genl.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS, *Assist. Adj. Gen.,*

Headquarters of the Army, New York city.

HEADQUARTERS NAVAJO COMMAND,

Fort Defiance, New Mexico, September 28, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Indian agent held a council with the Indians at Laguna Negra on the 25th instant. After stating to them a desire for the peace and happiness of the Navajos under his charge, and his personal friendship for them, &c., he stated "that they had not paid up the indemnity for which they had pledged themselves in the treaty of December last, and that this must be paid, else he would be compelled to turn them over to the military for punishment and reprisal; that instead of paying for property heretofore stolen by them, and remaining peaceable, their people had again been committing murder and robbery towards the Rio Grande; that it was the determination to put a stop to these murders and robberies; and that the entire nation would be held responsible, and must be the sufferers, unless the depredators themselves were brought to punishment." He said they were liable now to be treated as enemies for the

violation of their own agreement last December, but that in consideration of the efforts of many to pay, and the solicitude of many he knew to be good men among them for the maintenance of peace, the statement of these that they thought they had paid enough, but were willing to pay more as their means would permit, and endeavor to procure contributions from others, and had requested further time to do so, he would give them thirty days to gather and bring in more horses, sheep, and other property, and show their good intentions, &c., &c.

They said "they thought they had paid enough; that they were very poor people, and unable to pay more without distressing their wives and children, and depriving them of the means of living; that *they* had not stolen anything, nor committed any depredations, and had discountenanced and discouraged it in others of their people, who they knew were bad men; that these bad men mostly lived on the other side of the mountain; and that the late robbery and murder on the Rio Grande was committed by a man whose brother was killed by Mexicans last year at Atrisco; this man being aided by four or five other bad men who lived on the other side of the mountain at Tunicha."

They said "these bad men had not been seen by them since the murder; that they had been told they were attacked by other Navajos on their return to Tunicha, and had run off to the mountains; and that they would have nothing to do with the bad men." They also said "that six of their people had been killed by Mexicans and Pueblo Indians without just cause; that many had been robbed and plundered of their property by Mexicans and Pueblo Indians, and no remuneration for the stolen property had ever been made; that these robberies had been done since the peace, and most of them last spring and summer." They said "an inoffensive Navajo was killed at Zuñi last spring for no other cause than that he was alone and a Navajo; that about the first of this month another was killed near Jemez and robbed of *vieta** and other goods, for which he was followed and murdered; that within the last two months a number of their horses had been stolen, and other property taken at different places, and no remuneration or satisfaction offered; that Huero Miles had been robbed by Sandra and San Philippe, when he had a pass from the present tata, and was on his way to see the great tata, (father,) at Santa Fé, about the indemnity, and four horses and other property taken from him." They said "they knew the present tata (father) would investigate Huero's losses, because he had told them he would; but no inquiry or investigation had been made into the other robberies of their people, and it was hard that their people were to be robbed and murdered so frequently without the least show of endeavor to do them justice or prevent the repetition, while they were compelled to pay an indemnity, perhaps to the murderers and robbers of Navajo relatives and friends, for claims at least doubtful if not dishonest." After much talk and speeches of similar tenor they agreed that they would do what they could in the thirty days allowed to gather and bring in property, and would separate themselves from the thieves and bad men. Several then talked to the people

*Red cloth.

present, advising them to drive off the thieves and bad men from among them, and do all they could to preserve peace.

Herrero Virjo, Sarcillo Larzo, Ganaroa Mucho, and others spoke, all to the same purport, and were listened to with great attention by their people.

It now seems that a strict and rigid compliance with the provisions and obligations of the treaty of the 25th of December last, as far as regards the payment for stolen or lost property must be required and enforced against these Indians, and that such payment is the ultimatum, without regard to the denial of the guilt of any of their people of many of the depredations for which remuneration is claimed, and without taking into consideration any of the losses they have sustained by depredations committed against *them*. This being the case, and no deviation from a rigid and strict liberal construction of the treaty allowed, would it not be right and fair to give the Navajo nation any and every advantage that may result from such construction? The second article of the treaty reads: "*They agree to indemnify the citizens, settlers, and Pueblo Indians for all depredations committed on their property by any of the Navajo nation, since the 15th day of August last, by the return of property stolen,*" &c.

In considering the justice of the present demands against the Navajos for restitution under the above article, one of two hypothesis must be assumed, either that the Navajos supposed as the demands for indemnity were not made at the time of making the treaty, they would not be made thereafter, or if made thereafter, would be determined by some disinterested, fair, or legal mode of valuation. The claims for indemnity were *not* presented at the formation of the treaty, and there has been *no* fair, impartial, much less legal mode of ascertaining the value of stolen property, or whether the property was stolen at all. On the contrary, the demands now being urged against these Indians are made up of claims established on no better authority than the testimony of interested parties.

The third article provides the penalty for depredations perpetrated, but creates no authority or power to determine if Navajos were the perpetrators, or the value of the property stolen, and it is submitted whether it would be right or just to enforce demands which have not been adjudicated by some legally-constituted authority, which are in most cases exaggerated, and in some wholly fictitious, upon the interested testimony of the claimants themselves, and the absence of any stipulation in the treaty in relation to the manner of establishing the justice of the demands.

The attention of the department commander is particularly requested to this branch of the subject. It is believed this is the first instance on record where men who have had the misfortune to lose property, have been allowed to prove their claims by their own testimony, set their own value upon it, and have their pretended losses made good to them upon such testimony, or enforced at the point of the bayonet. Upon what testimony are these robberies affixed upon the Navajos? Did any one of the sufferers ever pretend to have seen the thieves and recognized them? Has the stolen property been found in their possession? Even if all the property for which indemnity is demanded

was actually stolen, (a supposition that cannot be admitted,) there is no proof whatever that the Navajo Indians committed the robberies.

As this appears to be the only obstacle to a peace with the Navajo nation, it becomes an important matter, and demands the serious consideration of the proper authorities. This question settled, and the nation induced to separate from the thieves and depredators, the punishment of the latter would be accomplished with certainty, and would be much more effectual than by holding the innocent and guilty alike responsible.

Another important item, in connection with Navajo affairs, is the depredations of Mexican citizens and Pueblo Indians upon Navajos. Since the troops arrived in the Navajo country, in June last, these depredations have increased under the supposition that the plundering of the Indians could be done with impunity, and less danger be encountered; and they have been continued up to this time. A universal trait of savage character is to revenge a wrong done themselves or friends upon any of the race or people of the party committing that wrong, and until the Mexicans and Pueblo Indians can be restrained from depredating upon the persons and property of the Navajos, it will be almost impossible to prevent retaliation. Several depredations upon the property of the Indians are within my own knowledge, and when asked by them if they would not be paid their losses my answer has been, that our great father, the President of the United States, would see them righted; but unless they could identify the thief, or show the stolen property, they had no remedy, there being no stipulation to that effect in the treaty. And I respectfully request to be informed if it was the intention of Colonel Bonneville and Colonel Collins, who acted in behalf of the United States, to exclude the Navajo nation from the benefit of indemnity for depredations committed against them by citizens of New Mexico and Pueblo Indians? The treaty binds the Navajos to make restitution, but leaves them without redress for injuries inflicted upon them by other persons under the protection of the United States. The principles of equity and fair dealing forbid the supposition that the makers of the treaty of the 25th of December last desired to take advantage of the ignorance of the Navajos of our language, to force upon them terms so unequal and unjust. That the Navajos understood that restitution was to be mutual is certain from their constant declarations and their frequent applications to the agents and officers of the United States for such restitution, and the omission of a stipulation affording them redress for injuries done to persons and property, must greatly prejudice the character of our country for justice and fair dealing, in their estimation. If it be answered that the treaty must not be complied with, in its literal, rigid construction, and thereby the Navajos are cut off from the benefit of mutual restitution, then all justice and fair dealing demands our adherence to the latter, in its provisions in regard to indemnity for property alleged to have been stolen by the Navajos, and that all claims not *legally* established be excluded.

A list of property said to be taken from different places and different persons, without date, except in one instance, has been furnished the Indian agent here, and a letter accompanying, from the superin-

tendent of Indian affairs, says they must be paid, but by whom the claims are adjudicated and allowed we have no information. The whole proceeding has been *ex parte*. Neither in person nor by counsel were the Indians present; they have not been confronted with the witnesses, nor permitted to defend themselves. Let the murderers, on all occasions, be punished with the utmost rigor; make their stock, property, and persons be amenable for all they steal; but we should reflect, before enforcing claims under the provisions of the treaty of December last, upon the inoffensive and innocent.

It is now thought that Mexicans were concerned with the five Navajos in the late murders near the Puerco, as they were seen near the place where the murders were committed about the time, and the trail of the murderers shows that there were more than five in the party. The Indian who led the Navajos, four others and himself, attended one of the councils at this place, and claimed remuneration for his brother, killed last year at Atrisco. Failing in this, he revenged his brother on an innocent man. We will put him and his coadjutor to death, if possible.

The present agent for the Navajos, Major Kendrick, has been very industrious in the discharge of his duties. The energy he displays will soon give him an influence over the Navajo Indians that no agent has possessed since the death of Mr. Dodge, and will have a most salutary effect upon their condition and the peace of the country.

No information has been received from Captain Schroeder since he marched in pursuit of the murderers, supposed to be at Tunicha. His report will be forwarded on his return.

The Indians have thirty days to bring in property, and comply with the treaty. The explorations will therefore be suspended, after the return of the troops now out, until after that period, unless otherwise ordered. Our pack mules are much injured and broken down, and until recruited will be unfit for service.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. SIMONSON,

Major R. M. R., com'g Navajo country.

First Lieut. JOHN D. WILKINS,

Act. Asst. Adjt. Gen., Dept. of New Mexico, Santa Fé.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M.,
September 20, 1859.

SIR: In compliance with Orders No. 14, dated headquarters Navajo command, Fort Defiance, New Mexico, September 1, 1859, I marched from this camp on the 5th instant with company "K" and a detachment of company "E," mounted rifles, and companies "C" and "E," 3d infantry, under the command of Lieutenants Bell and Walker, respectively.

The first two days march, (thirty miles,) and a part of the third, was over the well known Moqui road, but seven miles beyond the Rio Pueblitas we changed our course to north seventy west, and traveling

ten miles over a broad valley-like plain lying between the hills on the Puéblitas on the east, and the range of broken mountain-like hills known as the *Mesas de la Vaca*, on the west, and encamped on good grass, with rain water in holes. Day's march, seventeen miles.

8th.—Marched eleven miles north twenty west, to the foot of the *Mesa de la Vaca*, their northeastern termination, which we suppose to be about twelve miles from the mouth of the Cañon de Chelly. Entering this system of broken hills and small valleys, our progress rendered slow by the miry character of the latter from recent heavy rains, we marched on the same course (about north twenty west) ten miles, and encamped at a peculiar rock in the valley, called Piedra Santada. About five miles to the north of our camp our Navajo guide says there is a large spring which the Indians call by a name signifying "Trout Spring," from this fish being found there in abundance. As it lay off our route we did not visit it. We found water in holes at the foot of the rock, but I do not think it permanent. Grass indifferent. Day's march, twenty-one miles.

9th.—Traveled five miles over the broken mesa, course northwest; then rising a very steep hill, gradually descended into a broad valley running from north to south, and extending, as our guide informed us, as far as the Moqui villages. Since entering the mesa we have seen no signs of cultivation, except one small patch of corn this morning, near our camp of last night. This valley, although it seems fertile, is not cultivated, there being no water except in the rainy season, although we found an abundance of water in pools along the valley. About two miles from where we entered the valley, traveling north ten west, the guide pointed to a spring of permanent water to the east of our route, and about a mile and a half from it, in a cañon at the foot of a high bluff, to which a well-beaten trail leads. Marching eight miles up the valley we encamped on good grass. Water in holes, not permanent. Day's march, thirteen miles.

10th.—Our course from camp was northwest, three miles up the valley, then across a "divide," and entered another small valley, running nearly west, down which we traveled ten miles, the valley widening as we advanced, until we reached a ruined pueblo of some former race, known now as the pueblo of Tapolate, perched on a hill jutting into the valley on the north side; near by is a laguna of permanent water. About a mile above this ruin we left the valley of Tapolate, and turning more to the northward, (north thirty west,) we crossed a divide and entered another valley, a tributary of that just left, which the guide informs us debouches on the plain in the neighborhood of Oraybe, the most northern of the Moqui villages. Traveling up this valley (north seventy-five west) four miles, we encamped on good grass; water in holes, not permanent. Day's march, sixteen miles. (Three miles from our camp of last night, observed bituminous coal of a good quality, apparently, cropping out on the hill side, in two distinct strata, with forty or fifty feet of sandstone intervening.)

11th.—Traveled four miles nearly west; then crossed a divide, and entered another small valley, down which we marched three miles; then entered a broken valley running southwest, down which we marched one mile; then turning nearly due west for a short distance,

then north for nine miles, and encamped on good grass; rain water in arroyo. Day's march, seventeen miles. Saw bituminous coal cropping out along the arroyos at several places to-day.

12th.—Our course for seven miles after leaving camp was nearly northwest, to a place with running, permanent water, called *Maton de Jara*. Here we observed a column of smoke, apparently about two miles southwest, which we supposed to be from an Indian camp, or signal fire; but, after reconnoitering from the top of a neighboring hill, our Navajo guide assured us it came out of the earth. This we found, to our surprise, to be true. That it was a burning coal bed was very evident from the bituminous smell of the smoke which issued from two considerable fissures, the sides of which were coated with the bituminous deposits of the smoke. The hills from the top of which these volumes of smoke issued, is forty to fifty feet above the valley, and overgrown with cedar and piñon trees, which have been killed by the internal heat. This fire has probably existed some years, as the hill has a considerable cavity on the top from the consumption of the coal which formed the support of stratum of sandstone and earth. Our guide has not passed this place, he says, for fifteen years; but at that time there was no such fire; although he has frequently seen similar ones in different places through this country, which, he says, everywhere abounds in coal, or black earth, as he calls it. Leaving the burning coal bed, we continued our march northwest four and a half miles to the summit of the principal mountain of the Mesa de la Vaca; and, reaching a plateau on the summit, traveled two and a half miles, where we reached the bank of a precipice some six or seven hundred feet in height, from which we obtained a view of a vast range of as desolate and repulsive looking country as can be imagined. As far as the eye can reach towards the southwest, west, and northwest, is a vast mass of sandstone hills without any covering of vegetation, except a scanty growth of cedar. In the northwest, and apparently about fifty miles distant, *Sierra Panoche*, a detached mountain, looms up; and beyond this, and to the northwest, our guide pointed to the junction of the Colorado Chiquito, and the Rio San Juan. At the foot of the precipice lies a valley from a mile to a mile and a half broad, which can be traced thirty or forty miles to the south, where it debouches upon the plains in the neighborhood of the Colorado Chiquito. Descending the precipice by a steep, zigzag path, we reached the valley, and crossing it obliquely to the western side two miles from where we entered it, we reached an ancient ruin, like all others in this country, situated on a hill. The buildings are of stone, and of the same form and appearance as those met with in the Cañon de Chelly, and other parts of New Mexico. Near this ruin we found pure rain water in natural tanks in the sandstone hills, which are solid blocks of unstratified sandstone, which the action of water and other causes have disintegrated into deep fissures and cañons, which everywhere break the surface, and render it entirely impracticable to travel over for any distance. Only the bottoms of these cañons can be followed; and the guide assures me that there are very few of them that have any outlet but the mouth. The country on the two sides of this narrow valley has entirely different characteristics; on the eastern side the bluffs of

the Mesa de la Vaca are of white stratified sandstone, while on the western side the country is a vast mass of red sandstone in the wildest stratal confusion. Camped at the ruined pueblo; grass tolerable. Day's march, nineteen miles.

13th.—Marched this morning north twenty east down the valley four miles to the mouth of a cañon entering from the west, which is known by the name of La Puerta Limita. In this cañon, which is of considerable length, there is said to be several lagunas, and good grazing, and is the home of a band of Pah Utahs. Half a mile below the mouth of this cañon there is a spring breaking out at the foot of the bluffs on the west side of the valley; four miles down the valley from the Puerta Limitas, at the point of the mountain on the west side of the valley, is a laguna of permanent water. From this laguna we changed our course to northeast, and emerged upon the plain-like valley, with the Lana Negra, a dark rock resembling a vast Gothic cathedral, lying due north about ten miles distant. (This rock can be seen eighty or ninety miles to the eastward, and from a point twenty miles from this post.) Marching six miles northeast we came to running and, I believe, permanent water, near some red hills, where we camped on poor grass. Day's march, fourteen miles.

14th.—Our course to-day has been nearly due east, along the northern base of the Mesa de la Vaca, which terminates towards the north in perpendicular precipices, from four to seven hundred feet in height. Camped at rain water in holes; grass tolerable. Day's march, eighteen miles.

15th.—One mile and a half from camp a laguna of permanent water. About one mile south-southeast of this laguna the guide pointed to a gorge in the mountain, where, he said, was a good spring, called Ozo Limita. (Limita is a small red berry, intensely acid, and valuable as an anti-scorbutic.) Our road leads southeast, along the base of the bluffs of the Mesa de la Vaca, passing over spurs of slight elevation. Fifteen miles from camp we turned off to a laguna of permanent water, five miles due east, where we camped; grass poor. Day's march, twenty miles.

16th.—Marched southeast nine miles, over a broken country, to a permanent spring, near a solitary rock in the valley, with an opening through it like a window. Three miles further came in sight of the cotton-wood trees in the Arroyo de Chelly, and about seven miles further we crossed it and encamped on very scanty grass. Day's march, nineteen miles.

17th.—Marched up the Arroyo de Chelly, passing numerous corn-fields and Navajo huts, swarming with men, women, and children, whose principal occupation seems to be the devouring of the corn crop of this year. Some of the more provident were engaged in drying corn for winter use, in kilns heated with hot stones. The Indians brought us some very good peaches. Half the Navajo nation seems to be congregated here, either to enjoy the fruits of their own labor or the labor of others. They all express good will towards us, and a desire to be on friendly terms. Saw a good many horses, and two or three flocks of sheep. Marched six miles to the mouth of the cañon, and encamped on abundance of coarse bottom grass.

18th.—Traveled east twenty south for five or six miles, along the southern brink of the Cañon de Chelly, and every now and then obtaining a glimpse in the depths of the chasm. About ten miles from the mouth we passed the point at which Colonel Miles's column entered the Chelly last year. About fourteen miles from the mouth of the cañon we found water in the arroyo, perhaps permanent, and at this point we turned to the right, leaving the road by which Colonel Miles came from Fort Defiance, at the time he entered the cañon. The road followed by us is the principal one used by the Navajos going from the head to the mouth of the Cañon de Chelly. About sixteen miles from our camp of last night we came to the edge of a vast pine forest, that extends, in a belt of twenty-five miles in breadth, from east to west, and in length, some eighty miles, from north to south. The country to the west of the point just mentioned, on the Chelly and Rio Pueblitos, produces only cedar and piñon. About twenty miles from the mouth of the Chelly we came to the head of one of its side cañons, heretofore unknown. It is, in some respects, more remarkable than the Chelly itself. The road passes within a few yards of its head, a circular opening in the earth, fifty or sixty yards in diameter, and probably four hundred feet deep. A few hundred yards lower down, the cañon becomes so much contracted, and the opposite walls approach each other so nearly, that it looks as if one could almost leap across. The falling of even a small stone to the bottom of this curious chasm gives out a report like that of a six pounder. From a hill east of the head of this cañon, we could trace its course to its junction with the Cañon de Chelly, about ten miles to the northward. Three miles further on we came to a branch of this cañon, along which we traveled one or two miles to its head, where we encamped; no grass; rain water in the arroyo; permanent water half a mile lower down in the cañoncito just mentioned. This country has been much grazed over this year, and, from the great number of huts everywhere seen, must have been a hiding place during the war. The nooks and angles between the Cañon de Chelly and the two side cañons mentioned above, are doubtless numberless, and being thoroughly known to the Indians, and not at all to us, we would have but little time to ferret them out in time of war. Day's march, twenty-five miles.

19th.—Marched southeast ten miles to Ewell's Hay camp, and thence to this camp nine miles. Days march, nineteen miles.

Before concluding, I would mention that I found no place known to my guide as the "Mesa de Cali Cassa," mentioned in my instructions, and no mountains supposed to be southwest, where the Navajos are in the habit of taking refuge in time of war, except the Mesa de la Vaca themselves. The region of country known by this name is of very considerable extent, say from sixty to seventy miles east and west, and of like extent from north to south. The country within these limits is not what is usually known as mesas or table-land; on the contrary, its surface is extremely irregular, being everywhere interspersed with hills, sometimes rising almost to the height of mountains, and cut up with arroyos and divided by valleys. The valleys are without timber, but the hills are clothed with cedar and piñon, and now and then a clump of pines, but that is rare. Bituminous coal, apparently

of a very fine quality, we observed cropping out along almost every perpendicular bank; in fact this whole region seems one vast coal field. No part of this region is now inhabited, except the extreme eastern border, although it was evidently inhabited some years ago, as we saw many abandoned Navajo huts. Our guide says, the reason is, the Navajos are afraid of the Pah Utahs, upon whose country it borders. There never seems to have been any cultivation here, although the valleys appear to be fertile and produce vast quantities of wild potatoes, which we found excellent. In all this region we saw no running stream and no spring of permanent water, except one, although the guide told of three or four known to him in different parts of this region. That the Navajos would avail themselves of the few watering places in times of war with us, and conceal themselves in this labyrinth of hills, valleys, and arroyos, is very certain, as they have assured me they did last year. Discovering these hiding places would be as difficult as it was to discover Seminoles in the hammocks of Florida. Beyond the Mesa de la Vaca there are one or two cañons mentioned by my guide as having water and grass, but they are within the Pah Utah country, with whom the Navajos have been at war for some time past.

The command was during its absence without serious sickness, and the animals returned in good condition.

The names of places mentioned in this report are the original Indian names translated into Spanish, the Navajo names being frequently harsh and unpronounceable.

Accompanying this is a topographical sketch by Lieutenant Bell, 3d infantry, of the country visited by my command, and described in the foregoing report.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. WALKER,

Capt. R. M. R., com'g second column Navajo com'd.

Lieutenant J. H. EDSON,

R. M. R., Act'g Adj't Navajo com'd, &c.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., *September 25, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor, respectfully, to report the following in compliance with Order No. 14, headquarters Navajo command, Fort Defiance, September 1, 1859.

With the command composed of Dr. Bill, companies B and K, and detachment company I, 3d infantry, officered by Captain Sykes, Lieutenants Freedley and Dickinson, 3d infantry, and company H, and detachment company G, regiment mounted rifles, officered by Lieutenants Edson and Claflin, of the same regiment, I made the following marches:

September 5.—Marched from post to the valley of Chusca. This day's march had nothing worthy of notice, and besides had been frequently passed over by different commands last year and this. Direction east-northeast, and distance fourteen miles.

September 6.—Marched eastward; first across the valley of Chusca,

in which were seen several cornfields, not to exceed a hundred acres; several lodges were seen here, and some, apparently friendly, Indians were occupying them, it being green-corn time. Thence our course passed over the northern slopes of the mountainous mesa, bounding the north of the Bear Spring valley, through which passes the wagon road hence to Albuquerque. The country to the north of our route was a depressed and rolling plain, extending far in that direction. Encamped in cañon where the water was said, by the guide, Blas Lucero, to be permanent. Direction about east, and distance eighteen miles. Grass and wood not very abundant.

September 7.—Marched about east and passed over some spurs of the mesa on our right, and encamped two miles short of the Puerto de Agua Cito. The region to the north of our route became more level, and appeared like an immense desert dividing the Navajos from the settlements east of the Sierra de San Mater. Near our camp were cornfields. Direction about east, and distance twenty miles; fuel abundant, and water in pool.

September 8.—Marched east-southeast. In passing through the Puerta de Agua Cito found water, which the guide, Blas, said was permanent. A bed of fine bituminous coal, ten feet in thickness, cropped out in the ravine, near the spring. About two miles east of this spring was found an old abandoned pueblo, not large, however, nor very old. The land in its vicinity was dry, although a cornfield a short distance from it was visible. After marching fifteen miles we passed over a high ridge, and at three miles further on we encamped at rain-water pools. Grass and wood good. Direction about east-southeast, and distance eighteen miles. Saw to-day, along the route, a flock of about 1,000 sheep.

September 9.—Marched for twelve miles east-southeast over high and rolling hills; northern spurs of the mountain on our right. Thence took direction southeast through two cañons, the latter of which debouched at the northern base of the San Mateo. Encamped at rain water pools. Wood and grass good. The Rio de San Mateo was about a mile in advance, on which there was no wood. Cornfields, with large and beautiful cienegillart, (meadows,) and large corrals and lodges, were here seen on this river. An old abandoned pueblo was also here found. About a dozen Navajo Indians visited our camp here; they were a portion of Sandoval's band, and were encamped in the latter of the two cañons passed through. At a point between the two cañons, I took Lieutenant Claffin with ten mounted men and diverged to the left from our trail, and visited the Rita de San Lucas expecting to find Indians and cornfields; saw neither. A heavy trail passed thence over the Sierra de San Mateo to the town of Cibolleta. Direction to-day nearly southeast, and distance twenty miles. Some mules gave out to-day, although but half laden. The whole route, thus far, had the most numerous and heavily beaten trail I have ever seen in the Navajo country, and it is evidently the great thoroughfare for all thefts and robberies.

September 10.—Marched south, across the valley, and ascended the western slope of the San Mateo. Ascent about two thousand feet, with footway good, and much traveled over by Indians. This trail leads to the valley of Curero and laguna; after about three miles from first ascent, the trail led down, by a rough and rocky footway, to a deep

gorge of the mountain, in which was a small cienegilla and some pasturage. Many lodges were seen scattered through the forest, and were used, probably, as a summer resort. Thence ascended by the trail the mountain again; and at about ten miles at the southern edge of it, we descended to the Rio Gallo by a rough and unfrequented route. Direction to-day about south-southwest, and distance twenty-five miles. Day's journey very fatiguing to men and pack animals.

September 11.—Laid by to-day on account of rain, and the fatigue of animals and men. Procured from Carrero another guide, Fernando Aragon.

September 12.—Marched for twelve miles between the fields of Lara and the Sierra de Acoma. Trail good, and easy. Encamped at rain-water pools. Grass indifferent; fuel abundant. A large rancheria of corrals and lodges was at this camp. Direction south.

September 13.—Marched for about ten miles, when we reached the valley of Cebolla Chequito, where were found a large and beautiful cienegilla, and some corrals and lodges, the latter mostly new, or of last winter's make, showing that a number of Navajos had wintered there during the last war with them. The guide, Aragon, said the same. After passing this valley, we crossed a western spur of the mountain, and descended into the mouth of the valley of the Cebolla Grande. Encamped at rain-water pond at point of Lara. Wood and grass good. Direction south-southwest, and distance eighteen miles.

September 14.—Marched along the Mal Pay, or field of Lara, for six miles, where the trail led across a broad plain. Encamped at some rain-water ponds at the edge of the timber on the ridge separating the waters of the Pacific from those of the Atlantic. Route mostly level, direction about southwest, and distance twenty-four miles. Wood and grass good. Shortly after leaving camp the fresh track of three Indian ponies, mounted, were seen. On starting from camp in the morning, I took Lieutenant Claflin and ten mounted men, and went up the valley of the Cebolla Grande to the head spring, and found that no Navajos had fled there during the war last winter. Distance up to spring about eight miles, out of the line of march.

September 15.—Marched in the old trail from Acoma to the Rita Quemado. Direction about southwest, and encamped down this stream about a mile. Distance nineteen miles. Wood and grass good. Found no Indians had been living here, contrary to what was supposed, probably being too near the Apaches. It is, perhaps, a neutral ground, judging from the abundance of antelope existing there.

September 16.—Marched down the valley of the Rita Quemado, and found that its waters sunk or spread out in a small lake at five miles, instead of running for thirty miles, as was supposed. Encamped at some rain-water ponds; wood and grass good. Direction west-northwest, and distance eighteen miles.

September 17.—Marched for about four miles west, when we reached the Saline lake, having an old crater, 150 feet high, in the center of which there is a pond of very saline water, hot at the bottom. This pool is about 200 feet long, by 150 broad, and from ten to fifteen deep. Its surface appears to be at a higher elevation than the water of the surrounding lake, which has a circumference of about two miles. All

these waters hold so much salt in solution as to prevent a person from sinking below the surface. At this season of the year there is so large a supply of rain-water in the great lake, as to have dissolved a greater portion of the crystallizations, and what remains lies embedded within the soft mud, covering the bottom of the lake, to what depth is not known. The salt crystals are easily gathered, by scraping them out of the mud with the hands. The guide, Aragon, gathered a small sack full in this manner; it was found white and pure, and very palatable. At any season of the year the salt can thus be gathered. The water within the crater has no crystallization, though excessively saline. As it is a large spring, its waters probably percolate through the scoria, which forms the crater, into the large outer lake. This main outer lake appears itself to be the bed of a large crater, having its surrounding sides of volcanic rock. There is no permanent water flowing from the exterior into the large lake. A small fresh water spring exists among the rocks on the southwestern side of the outer crater, but its waters never reach the lake. This spring was amply sufficient for the uses of the command. The vicinity of the lake may be distinguished by a high mesa, lying about three miles south of the lake, with a conical peak of the same height, situated between it and the lake; heavy trail led from this saline to the south and the west, towards the Rio Colorado Chiquito, about two days' journey west, and east towards Curero, and north towards Zuñi, all showing it to be much frequented.

September 18.—Marched from the saline, and took the heavy and well-beaten trail, in the direction of the pueblo of Zuñi. After crossing for ten miles a broad valley, formed by the junction of the valley of the Rita Luemado and one running from the east, we ascended a high mesa, and thence descended into a parallel valley, on the northern side of which we found permanent water running from a cañon. At the mouth of this cañon, and situated on the top of the mesa are the ruins of an old, abandoned pueblo. From the remains of the walls still standing, it must have been beautifully built of volcanic rock, of which the mesa is underlaid. During the occupancy of this pueblo, the broad valley below was probably cultivated. It is now entirely too dry for such purposes. Wood, water, and grass good; direction about north-northwest, and distance twenty-two miles. Near this camp, but west of it, the late Captain Dodge, Navajo Indian agent, was killed by Apaches, in November, 1856, while en route to visit the saline, in company with Major Kendrick, United States army, then commanding this post.

September 19.—Continued the march upon the Zuñi trail, and after passing two lofty mountain mesas, reached Zuñi. Direction north, and distance twenty-three miles.

September 20, 21, and 22.—Were occupied in marching from Zuñi to this post, a distance of sixty miles, over the wagon road, the trails being impracticable for want of water for so large a command. This part of the route is too well known to require further notice. Total distance marched three hundred and seventeen miles. Judging from the absence of signs on the route from the Acoma mountains to the Pueblo of Zuñi, the Navajos do not frequent the region south of the

Zuñi mountains, although the climate is warm, and the pasturage abundant during the winter months.

A sketch of the route will be furnished as soon as practicable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. L. SHEPHERD,

Capt. 3d inf'y and Bvt. Maj., Com'g first column, Expl'g Ex'n.
 Lieutenant J. H. EDSON,
R. M. R., Adjutant Navajo command.

VI.

AFFAIRS IN DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

- No. 1. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, January 19, 1859.
- No. 2. General Twiggs to General-in-chief, January 31, 1859, inclosing reports of Major Van Dorn, December 28, 1858.
- No. 3. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, April 13, 1859.
- No. 4. General Twiggs to the General-in-chief, February 5, 1859, inclosing orders of January 20 and February 5.
- No. 5. Same to same, February 16, inclosing report of Lieutenant A. T. Lee, February 5.
- No. 6. Same to same, February 22, inclosing report of Captain Maclay, February 18.
- No. 7. Same to Adjutant General, March 28.
- No. 8. Same to General-in-chief, April 1, inclosing letters to Mr. Runnels, March 19, from Mr. Neighbors, March 24 and 28, and Captain King, March 28.
- No. 9. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, June 9, 1859.
- No. 10. Same to same, July 16.
- No. 11. Major Van Dorn to General Twiggs, May 13.
- No. 12. Captain Brackett to Lieutenant Wood, May 16.
- No. 13. Lieutenant Hazen to Captain Maclay, May 23.
- No. 14. Major Van Dorn to General Twiggs, May 31.
- No. 15. General Twiggs to the General-in-chief, June 2, inclosing letters of Captain Plummer, May 21 and 23; Major Thomas, May 26 and 27; and letter to Mr. Runnels, June 2.
- No. 16. Same to same, June 11.
- No. 17. Same to Adjutant General, June 22.
- No. 18. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, July 19.
- No. 19. General Twiggs to the Adjutant General, June 25.
- No. 20. Same to General-in-chief, July 6.
- No. 21. Same to same, July 8.
- No. 22. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, August 5.
- No. 23. General Twiggs to General-in-chief, September 16.
- No. 24. Same to Adjutant General, October 7, inclosing letter of Mr. Larham, same date.
- No. 25. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, October 25, 1859.
- No. 26. General Order No. 13. Department of Texas.