



At Home, near Butteville
Jan 3rd, 1857

Coel Palmer Esq
Late Sup't Ind Affairs,
Dayton, O., T.

Dear Sir,

On the 30th ultimo I received a long communication from you bearing date 8th August 1856. It appears that it had been enclosed to the office of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior and by Commissioner Mansyenny transmitted, under date 23rd October last—seventeen days after my departure from the Atlantic States for Oregon—to our delegate Gen Sam and by his kindness forwarded here to my address. As I was in Washington until near the close of September it is somewhat remarkable that your letter did not reach me.

Your communication is intended to be a reply to a note I addressed you on the 23rd of June last, on the eve of my departure for Washington. You say, "that letter is not now before me, and I cannot recollect its precise language." It is to be regretted that it was not before you as your "impression" and "memory" have served you incorrectly.

Your communication, in part is open to various objections—

Am. As, however, you say that it "is not intended for an official communication" - yet you have affixed your official signature to it and addressed it to me officially - "or to be heralded to the world to be criticised and perverted," notwithstanding it has doubtless, been made public property by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I hesitate to answer as I would desire, else I might show you the injustice you have done to a large body of your fellow citizens and myself when you charge upon them and me as being "Indian exterminators", and also take occasion to make appropriate rejoinders to other issues you have raised and in which you are as sadly mistaken.

I have never asked or invited individual approval of the policy which an eminent crisis compelled me to pursue; that matter has met its legitimate consideration and judgment. Whether it was right or wrong is immaterial now except to myself personally. I did not however anticipate that it would have occasioned the aspersion and insulting ridicule of my fellow citizens, and false testimony as to the occurrence and events of the war from army officers and their attaches here and in California, as well as, some two or three of our own citizens, who from their attachment to the female portion of the Indian race chose to take sides with the enemy.

You have evidently misconceived the object of my note of the 23^d June last, It was not for the purpose of drawing you out in a lengthy communication which would require as extended a reply from me. For long years we had been friends. I believed you to be as true and faithful as the sun. Some of your official communications had placed you in an equivocal position with your fellow citizens who conceived that you had unwarrantably assailed their reputation. From personal intercourse with you I was lead to infer that the language of those official communications had been misconstrued, and that your feelings were mingled with regret on that account. My note would give you an opportunity to say as much, and to make public what you said, that your fellow citizens might understand you. Be pleased to do me the justice to believe that I had no personal motive in addressing you other than what my note expressed in its brief terms.

Since writing the above I have noticed an endorsement in pencil upon the back of your communication, which goes to show that a copy of it was taken, for the Office of Indian Affairs I suppose. I now have to request that I also may consider it as an official affair.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,

Geo. L. Curry,
Governor of Oregon



Geo. T. Currier
1857