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Appropriations for the Navajo Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, recommending an appropriation for the benefit of the Navajo Indians

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APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NAVAJO INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

An appropriation for the benefit of the Navajo Indians.

APRIL 12, 1864.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 12, 1864.

SIR: On the 5th instant I had the honor to submit to Congress a recommendation that the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be appropriated for providing the means of subsistence for the Navajo Indians, of New Mexico, on a reservation at the Bosque Redondo, on the Pecos river.

I now transmit, for the consideration of the appropriate committee, copies of papers in relation to the subject which have subsequently reached this department.

I respectfully invite attention to the communication of the Commissioner of Indians Affairs, herewith, as to the supposed necessity for increasing the number and pay of officers of the Indian department in New Mexico, and have to state that I concur with him in the opinion that such necessity does not exist.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs.

SIR: I return you the letter of the Secretary of War, covering communication of Brigadier General Carleton and other enclosures relative to the pressing necessity of providing for the Navajoes, now prisoners of war at Bosque Redondo, in the Territory of New Mexico, some hundreds of miles from their homes. I can appreciate fully the necessity for immediately providing for these people forced from "their mountain home" and located on a tract of country entirely in a state of nature, and that they cannot be expected to contribute anything to

their own support for, at least, several months to come, and very little the first year of their residence there. These facts, as set forth in General Carleton's letter, cannot well be controverted, and I concur with him in the general views set forth in his communication.

I feel constrained to say, however, that the spirit manifested in this communication, so far as it has reference to the past or future action of the Indian bureau, is manifestly unkind, and the inferences unfair. I do not believe it to be necessary to create a separate and new department in New Mexico above and independent of the superintendency as at present organized. I do not think it necessary to provide for the appointment of a special superintendent, with a salary of three thousand dollars per annum. There is already a sufficient number of officers in New Mexico connected with the Indian service, and should they prove incompetent, they can be removed and competent persons appointed in their stead.

I cannot, from any data before me, judge of the amount necessary to be appropriated to provide for these people for the next fiscal year. I believe, however, that, with proper economy, the sum mentioned in the estimate forwarded to you in my letter of the 4th instant will be sufficient. I will not, therefore, change my recommendation in that respect, although a larger sum could, no doubt, be used very much to the advantage of these Indians. I return the papers, with the recommendation that copies of them be laid before Congress for such action as may be thought best by that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.

No. 1.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, April 7, 1864.

SIR: The Secretary of War instructs me to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a communication of the 12th instant, from Brigadier General James H. Carleton, commanding department of New Mexico, with copy of papers which accompanied it, on the subject of subsistence and supplies for the captured Navajo Indians, and their management upon the reservation.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

ED. M. CANBY,

Brigadier General and Assistant Adjutant General.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

No. 2.

SANTA FÉ, *March 5, 1865.*

DEAR SIR: In response to your inquiries, I beg leave to submit the following suggestions:

There being now no longer a doubt in regard to the success of your Indian policy, as applied to the Navajo and Muscalero Apache tribes, the latter, with unimportant exceptions, having surrendered and gone upon the reservation at the Bosque Redondo, and the former now being in the act of following their example, it becomes a question of much importance how the large number of Indians which will shortly be collected on the reservation is to be subsisted and

clothed. At the rate the Navajoes are now surrendering themselves, voluntarily, prisoners of war, there will be of that tribe alone between four and five thousand on the reservation by the beginning of May. If the Indian department should not take steps to relieve the military of the care of them by taking them under its control, the duty of furnishing the estimates for the requisite supplies will doubtless devolve upon you; and in regard to that question I will say, that the Navajoes, owing to the hostile attitude they have maintained towards the government for the last five or six years past, have been deprived of the presents which have been distributed among them annually previously to the beginning of their hostilities, and they are consequently entirely destitute of clothing. A large supply will therefore be necessary to meet their requirements in this regard. The officers in your department will be able to make the estimates for the rations necessary to issue to them. I would suggest, however, as a matter of economy, that the rations be confined to flour, corn meal and corn, and fresh meat, either beef or mutton; salt and soap might be added. I would not advise the issue of coffee and sugar, for they are not prepared to make proper use of these articles, especially of coffee. The accompanying list will embrace the leading articles of clothing that will be required.

If the removal and location of the Navajoes should be a permanent one, and it certainly should be, the government will doubtless give them some compensation for the large and valuable district of country which they abandon and leave to be disposed of by the government. This compensation should be made in stock and other useful articles suited to their mode of life. The labor of teaching the Navajoes and Apaches the business of farming will be light compared with most other wild Indians, for they are already well advanced in this knowledge, but the complete success of the enterprise will in a great measure depend upon the personal fitness and efficiency of the agents who may be placed in charge of them.

They should be men of liberal and practical views, well acquainted with the modes of life of the Indians, and who are willing to devote their whole time and attention to the duties required of them. None should be appointed to the position of an Indian agent who is not specially qualified, both by inclination and ability.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. COLLINS.

Brig. Gen. JAMES H. CARLETON.

I have read this letter, and fully concur in the views expressed by Colonel Collins.

C. CARSON,

Colonel 1st Regiment N. M. Volunteers.

I have read the foregoing letter written by Colonel J. L. Collins, late superintendent of Indian affairs, and fully concur in the views therein expressed.

HENRY CONNELLY,

Governor of New Mexico.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,

Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 6, 1864.

Official:

CYRUS H. DE FORREST, *Aide-de-Camp.*

List of Indian goods.

100 pieces of red standing; 15,000 yards unbleached domestic, wide and heavy; 5,000 yards blue or other dark calico; 3,000 yards brown drills, (cotton;) 3,000 yards blue denims; 5,000 pairs Mackinaw blankets; 2,000 Mexi-

can blankets, (for old women and children;) 50 dozen spool thread, No. 12 to 20; 50 dozen cotton handkerchiefs; 100 dozen hickory shirts; 15 dozen flannel shirts; 10 M needles, (coarse numbers;) paint, looking-glasses, beads, butcher-knives, scissors, hatchets, axes, pick-axes, stout hoes, (at least 300,) spades, long-handled shovels, ploughs, (12 breaking up and 12 small,) 50 hand corn mills, 20 spinning wheels, brass ornaments for women and children, brass wire, (large,) a good supply of colored yarn, (bright colors,) awls, 12 sets shoemakers' tools, 6 sets blacksmiths' tools, 50 trowels, files, rasps, iron arrow points, fish-hooks, lines, pipes in abundance, plenty of tobacco, garden seeds of all kinds, hammers, nails, (assorted,) some saws, chisels, and other common carpenters' tools, 2 sets of saddlers' tools, 6 anvils, 6 vises, a good quantity of sole leather, worsted tapes of bright colors, (a good supply,) some cheap ribbons, a good supply of strong linen thread of assorted colors, buttons in abundance, (the more fancy the style the better.)

I have read the foregoing list, and know these things are needed, and should be sent at once.

C. CARSON,
Colonel 1st Regiment N. M. Volunteers.

I concur fully in the recommendation of the articles additional to the Indian supplies.

HENRY CONNELLY,
Governor of New Mexico.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 6, 1864.

Official:

CYRUS H. DE FORREST,
Aide-de-Camp.

No. 3.

SANTA FÉ, NEW MEXICO, *March 11, 1864.*

SIR: The experiment of collecting the Navajo Indians and confining them within the limits of a reservation, with a view of making them a self-sustaining people, having been inaugurated and to some extent accomplished, it must be the ardent wish of every citizen that the enterprise may be completely successful. These Indians have been a scourge to New Mexico for the last half century. And although millions of money have been expended in making campaigns against them since the acquisition of the Territory, they have never ceased from the commission of robberies and murders. In the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo the government stipulated to furnish the people inhabiting the territory transferred to the United States by the treaty protection against the Indian tribes. This in addition to the natural rights our people have to the protection of their government, they have also the rights which were guaranteed them by the treaty. It is true that the authorities have made strenuous exertions to give New Mexico adequate protection, and the failure has not been in consequence of a want of inclination to do what was right and just in the premises, but because of the prosecution of a mistaken policy. In the prosecution of that policy immense amounts of money have been expended, and at the beginning of last year's campaign the Indians were as far from being subjugated as they were when the United States soldiers went into their country under command of Colonel Doniphan, in 1846.

All the treaties which have been celebrated with them at the conclusion of the respective campaigns made against them proved to be of no effect as often as the Indians felt inclined to violate those treaties; true to savage instincts, they did so; nor did their intercourse with us in that way assuage their barbarities—it had quite the contrary effect. Now, it seems to me that the right policy has been inaugurated by you, and has thus far succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations of the most hopeful among us.

By it the Indians will be rendered powerless for harm, and with proper management will be made useful friends to us in the event we should be involved in hostilities with the Indians of the plains. Taking this view of the case, I cannot conceive a good reason why the government should not give you all the pecuniary aid that may be necessary to enable you to accomplish the work undertaken. As an act of justice to our people, and of humanity to the Indians, it should do this. The outlay may look to be large for the present, but when we trace the subject to final results, and compare those results with those of the former policy, which must be reinaugurated if the present one be abandoned, the practical mind will readily perceive that the outlay will in fact be a measure of economy on the part of the government, to say nothing in regard to the loss that may be sustained by the citizens should the Indians be allowed to continue hostile.

Not doubting, therefore, but the government will comply with your request in this respect, I would respectfully suggest, in addition to the requisition for food and clothing for the Indians, that application be made for the allowance of the enclosed list, as necessary in the prosecution of the enterprise.

With this allowance I am satisfied that the reservation can be put in complete working order this year, and the Indians be enabled to sustain themselves in a very few years.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. COLLINS.

Brigadier General J. H. CARLETON.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 11, 1864.

Official :

CYRUS H. DE FOREST,
Aide-de-Camp.

One Indian agent, selected because of his qualifications for the duties of his position; one sub-agent, a good man of approved moral habits; one head farmer, well acquainted with farming; three assistant farmers, good steady men; two good blacksmiths; one head carpenter; one assistant carpenter.

All of these men should be required to live on the reservation, and held to strict accountability for the performance of their duties.

There should be added to the list of supplies furnished the other day: 2,000 pounds assorted iron, 60 yoke of oxen, 20 wagons, 20 large ploughs, 40 small ploughs, 2,000 pounds sole leather, 1,500 pounds upper leather.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 11, 1864.

Official :

CYRUS H. DE FORREST,
Aide-de-Camp.

No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 6, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the information of the War Department—

[Extract.]

* * * * *

VI. Letter dated March 6, 1864, from Colonel James L. Collins, the late superintendent of Indian affairs, to myself, suggesting what the government ought at once to do with reference to the captured Indians. Colonel Collins's views are worthy of great weight. You will see that they are fully indorsed by Governor Connelly and by Colonel Carson, who has been Indian agent in this country. All three of these gentlemen have great experience with Indians. They have resided in this country for thirty years. I beg to say that I fully concur in all that Colonel Collins has said. By the subjugation and colonization of the Navajo tribe, we gain for civilization their whole country, which is much larger in extent than the State of Ohio; and besides, being by far the best pastoral region between the two oceans, is said to abound in the precious as well as in the useful metals. I beg to impress upon your mind, general, that the government should *at once* take some action for the immediate support and the prospective advancement of the Navajoes. Although they have been forced by military power to leave their country, yet the government is so greatly the gainer by their giving it up that an annuity of at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars should be given to them in clothing, farming implements, stock, seeds, storehouses, mills, &c., for ten years, when they will not only have become self-sustaining, but will be the happiest and the most delightfully located *pueblo* of Indians in New Mexico, perhaps in the United States.

Legislation to this end should be had at once. There should not be a week's delay. Now, until laws be passed granting this annuity, *somebody* has got to feed and clothe these Indians. From what I have observed, the Indian department, as represented in this country, is slow to move in any matter looking toward the peaceful settlement of the Indians, thus freeing the country forever from their hostilities. There is no superintendent here; no goods or money belonging to the superintendency, as I am informed; and no agent to take care of and direct this interesting tribe. I have had eight ploughs made, and am gathering up seed, opening acequias, and endeavoring to do all that I can possibly do to get in a crop for them this year. I wrote to the superintendent, now in Washington, to send out by express even two "breaking up" ploughs; but he has not even answered my letter. The chief quartermaster has also bought blankets, manta, and kettles, hoes, axes, &c., &c., to help give them a start until you in Washington can come to their relief.

The troops have toiled hard to overcome this formidable tribe, and doubtless the operations against them will be entirely closed by the end of next May. It is a little hard that the Indian department does not stand ready to receive and provide for the captives, so that our attention and energies may be turned to other portions of the department, where other bands of Apaches are killing and robbing the people with seeming impunity. These Indians are upon my hands. They must be clothed and fed until they can clothe and feed themselves. I

will not turn them loose again to war upon the people, and cannot see them perish either from nakedness or hunger.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES H. CARLETON,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

Official :

CYRUS H. DE FORREST,
Aide-de-Camp.

Brigadier General **LORENZO THOMAS,**
Adjutant General United States Army, Washington, D. C.

No. 5.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fe, New Mexico, March 11, 1864.

MAJOR: I have heard that over five thousand of the Navajoes have surrendered, and, within a few days, you will have over two thousand of this tribe; the other three thousand are about leaving Fort Canby.

The question about sufficient food for them to support life, is one about which, as you may well suppose, I am very anxious. In conversing with Colonel Carson, Governor Connelly, and Major McFerran on this point, I find it is their opinion that one pound of *flour*, or of meal, or of meat, per day, to each man, woman and child, if cooked as *atolé* or porridge, or into soup, could be made to be enough, and is probably of more nutriment per day than they have been accustomed to obtain.

Counting big and little, it is believed that this would feed them. On this basis, one pound of food per day—that is to say, of flour, or of corn, or of wheat, or of meat, made into soup or *atolé*—I can barely see how they can be supported until we get provisions from the States, or their corn becomes ripe enough to pluck. The other day it occurred to me that it would not be well for you to sow much wheat; but I am told the wheat crop will mature much sooner than corn, and therefore submit the question entirely to your judgment as to how much of each you will plant. You will at once commence the system of issuing the pound. The Indians themselves must be informed of the necessity of the restriction. Unless this plan be adopted, *and at once*, ultimate suffering must ensue. Soup and *atolé* are the most nutritious, and the best way in which the food should be prepared, to go a long way and at the same time be wholesome.

I am told the Navajoes never plough. I am told that corn can be planted (so the ground be prepared for irrigation) in hills, and that if afterwards the intermediate grass be cut down, and the turf kept loosened, quite a good crop can be raised in that way. I have more anxiety about the length and capacity of your *acequia* than a little.

If you only have water enough, you can plant wheat, corn, beans, English turnips, in this order, until the summer be far advanced.

The Indian villages should be along the *acequia*, and each family or band have their separate lot, so that all could be spading up ground and getting it ready at the same time. Your *acequia* should be at least six miles in length, allowing that your land to be cultivated is one mile in width. If the land is narrower, the *acequia* should be longer. If you can get in six sections of crops, you can laugh at next winter. Working every hand every hour from morning until evening, you will all be surprised at what you will accomplish.

Having sixty of the 143 cattle reserved for ploughing, you will run ten breaking-up ploughs. We have had eight new ones made. The ploughs can

be run in open ground away from mesquite roots, and the spading done in among the mesquite roots. I only make these hints as they occur to me. Being upon the ground, you will be the best judge of how best to employ your force. The troops I know will feel like lending a hand in so important a work. Again I recur to the length and breadth of the acequia. With plenty of water and *such* a soil, I am sure you can raise a year's supply of bread this year. What an achievement! Pray let me count on the effort of every soul to attain such a vital point.

I will have two storerooms and a hospital for Indians made by contract, so as not to interfere with building the post, and will have a doctor sent especially for Indians.

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

JAMES H. CARLETON,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

Major HENRY D. WALLEN, U. S. A.,
Commanding at Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

Official:

ERASTUS W. WOOD,
Aide-de-Camp.

No. 6.

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Assistant Adjutant General's Office, Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 14, 1864

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 8. }

[Extract.]

I, Colonel James L. Collins, late the superintendent of Indian affairs for New Mexico, will proceed from Santa Fé to Washington city, D. C., as bearer of important despatches to the War Department, having reference to the immediate support, settlement, and prospective care and maintenance of the more than five thousand Navajo Indian prisoners who have been captured, or who have voluntarily surrendered to the military within this department, within the last four months. Colonel Collins will receive written instructions as to the particular points to which he is to call the attention of the authorities in Washington, with regard to this grave matter, now become so vital to the Indians, and filled with such weighty issues to the people of the Territory.

The chief quartermaster will provide Colonel Collins with funds for the necessary transportation of himself to Washington city and back to Santa Fé.

* * * * *

By order of Brigadier General Carleton.

CYRUS H. DE FORREST,
Aide-de-Camp.

Adjutant GENERAL of the Army, Washington, D. C.

No. 7.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, New Mexico, March 12, 1864.

GENERAL: Since writing to you on the 6th instant, in relation to the Navajo Indians, I have been informed that there are now three thousand of them, men, women, and children, who have surrendered at Fort Canby, and are about

starting for the Bosque Redondo. These, with those now at that place, and *en route* thither, will make five thousand five hundred, without including the captive Mescalero Apaches. There will, doubtless, be more Navajoes come in to Fort Canby—what are known as the *ricos* of the tribe; men who have stock, and will, doubtless, be able to subsist themselves upon that stock until we are better prepared to take care of them. Colonel Carson has been instructed to send in the poor and destitute first. The *ricos* will come in afterwards. Among the poor are nearly or quite all the *ladrones* and murderers, so that we have already in our hands the bad men of the tribe. An exact census will be taken of the *ricos*, and a statement made of the probable amount of their stock, which has hitherto been greatly exaggerated, in my opinion. When this is done, Colonel Carson will himself come in from the Navajo country, and go down to the Bosque Redondo to give the Indians the counsel they so much need just at this time, as to how to start their farms and to commence their new mode of life. You have, from time to time, been informed of every step which I have taken with reference to operations against Indians in this country. I multiplied, as much as possible, the points of contact between our troops and themselves; and although no great battle has been fought, still, the persistent efforts of small parties acting simultaneously over a large extent of country has destroyed a great many, and harassed the survivors until they have become thoroughly subdued. Now, when they have surrendered and are at our mercy, they must be taken care of; must be fed, clothed, and instructed. This admits neither of discussion nor delay. These six thousand mouths must eat, and these six thousand bodies must be clothed. When it is considered what a magnificent pastoral and mineral country they have surrendered to us—a country whose value can hardly be estimated—the mere pittance, in comparison, which must at once be given to support them, sinks into insignificance, as a price for their natural heritage. They *must* have two millions of pounds of breadstuffs sent from the States. This can be done by instalments; the first instalment to be started *at once*—say five hundred thousand pounds of flour and corn in equal parts. The next instalment to reach the Bosque Redondo in August next; and *all* to be delivered by the middle of next November. This amount will last them, with what we can buy here, until the crop comes off in 1865; when from that time forward, so far as food may go, they will, in my opinion, be self-sustaining.

Add to these breadstuffs four thousand head of cattle, to come by instalments of 500 each; the first to reach the Bosque Redondo by the first of next July, and all to be there by the middle of November. Salt can be bought here, but you cannot buy the breadstuffs or the meat. *They are not in the country*, and consequently cannot be got at any price. In view of the contingencies of delays, accidents, &c., I have put all the troops on half-rations, and, at most of the posts, ordered that no grain be issued to cavalry horses. *These six thousand people must be fed* until you can get us relieved by sending supplies, as above named, from the States. This matter being of paramount importance, is alluded to here as the *first* which will claim your attention, or rather *your action*, for the matter is imperative—is self-evident; it needs no deliberation, as you will see, and admits of no delay.

Next comes the wherewithal to clothe these poor women and these little children. You will find, in a duplicate of the letter which I wrote to you on the 6th of March, and which is herewith enclosed, a list of such articles as are absolutely *needed now*.

Then come agricultural implements, which must be here to insure the crops. Then the tools, cooking utensils, &c., &c., lists of which you will find enveloped with this letter.

I beg to call your attention to that most important consideration—the management of the Navajoes upon the reservation. The amount of ability, and business habits, and tact necessary in one who should be selected to direct these people in their work, and in the systematic employment of their seasons of labor; in one having forecast to see their coming wants and necessities, and having resources of practical sense to provide for those wants and necessities; in one who would have the expending of the funds which must be appropriated for their support, cannot be commanded for the salary of \$1,500 per annum given to an Indian agent. The law to be framed, granting an annuity to the tribe, should also provide for a *supervisor*, with a salary of, at least, three thousand dollars a year, and an *assistant supervisor* with a salary equal to that of Indian agent. These men should be selected with great care. The *assistant supervisor* should be apt at accounts; practical as a man of business; of resources as a farmer and as a mechanic; of patience, industry, and temperance—one whose heart would be in his business, and who would himself believe that his time belonged to the government, and need not be spent mainly in “grinding axes” elsewhere, at the expense of the United States.

The superintendent need have and should have no further control than simply to credit the accounts.

If *all this be set forth in the law*, so far as salary and duties go, the whole plan will go into successful operation at once. If not set forth in the law, you may depend upon it, general, that, what with changes in superintendents, with diverse counsels, and diverse interests, and lack of fixedness of purpose and SYSTEM, the *Indians will not be properly cared for*; and in room of becoming a happy, prosperous, and contented people, will become sad and desponding, and will soon lapse into idle and intemperate habits. You wish them to become a people whom all can contemplate with pride and satisfaction, as *protoges* of the UNITED STATES; a people who, in return for having given you their country, have been remembered and carefully provided for by a powerful Christian nation like ourselves. But unless you make, in the law, all the arrangements here contemplated, you will find this interesting and intelligent race of Indians will fast diminish in numbers, until, within a few years only, not one of those who boasted in the proud name of Navajo will be left to upbraid us for having taken their birthright and then left them to perish.

With other tribes whose lands we have acquired, ever since the pilgrims stepped on shore at Plymouth, this has been done too often. For pity's sake, if not moved by any other consideration, let us, as a great nation, for once treat the Indian as he deserves to be treated. It is due to ourselves, as well as to them, that this be done.

Having this purpose in view, I am sure the law-makers will not be ungenerous; nor will they be unmindful of all those essential points which, in changing a people from a nomadic to an agricultural condition of life, should be kept in view, in order to guard them against imposition, to protect them in their rights, to encourage them in their labors, and to provide for all their reasonable wants.

The exodus of this whole people, from the land of their fathers, is not only an interesting, but a touching sight. They have fought us gallantly for years on years. They have defended their mountains and their stupendous *canons* with a heroism which any people might be proud to emulate. But, when at length they found it was THEIR destiny, too, as it had been that of their brethren, tribe after tribe, away back towards the rising of the sun, to give way to the insatiable progress of our race, they threw down their arms, and, as brave men, entitled to our admiration and respect, have come to us with confidence in our magnanimity, and feeling that we are too powerful and too just a people to repay that confidence with meanness or neglect; feeling that, for having sacrificed to us their beautiful country, their homes, the association of their lives, the

scenes rendered classic in their traditions, we will not dole out to them a miser's pittance in return *for what they know to be*, and what we know to be, a princely realm.

This is a matter of such vital importance, that I cannot intrust it to the accidents of a mail, but transmit this letter and its accompanying papers by a special messenger—Colonel James L. Collins, late superintendent of Indian affairs—who can be consulted with profit, not only by the War and Interior Departments, but by the proper committees in Congress, whose attention will have to be called at once to the subject.

The War Department, general, has performed its whole duty in having brought these Indians into subjection; and now, in my opinion, stands ready to transfer them to the Department of the Interior. Other tribes along the Gila and in Arizona are murdering our people and committing robberies almost every week. We certainly should not be embarrassed with the care of Indians no longer hostile. So that it follows that laws should be at once passed to provide for them, and the proper officers be sent out immediately to receive them. We certainly, as soldiers, have come to that point where our services cannot properly be required any longer with anything which concerns the Navajoes, unless it be to station a guard in their midst for the preservation of order, and to protect them for a while from the nomads of the plains.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES H. CARLETON,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

Brigadier General LORENZO THOMAS,
Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

Official copy.

C. T. CHRISTENSON,
Major, A. A. G.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April 6, 1864.*