

Office Supt. <sup>1<sup>c</sup></sup> 22 April 1886

This one is to be copied

Sir:

Your menacing letter of yesterday is just received. My first impulse, of throwing it aside as too contemptible to make answer to, has given way and I will endeavour to answer it - as impudent, threatening and bombastical as it is.

You <sup>well</sup> know I did not seek to coerce you in selling you land claim to the Govt. I was desirous to purchase of you and offered you a large <sup>(£4,750)</sup> sum for it - much ~~above~~ indeed above its intrinsic value (~~£4,750.~~) but you saw proper to refuse it thinking you might compel me to pay the exorbitant demand you made for it - You had a right to do so, and I have no more to say.

Let my effort has been, and shall continue to be made, ~~by the Dept~~ to under the ~~best~~ proximity of the Indians as little <sup>annoying</sup> ~~inconvenient~~ to you as possible, <sup>yet</sup> ~~but~~ the position of your land is such that Indians & ~~cattle~~ their stock may sometimes <sup>get</sup> ~~be~~ upon it without a possibility of being prevented. I gave no order to have ~~the~~ any Indians <sup>located</sup> ~~put~~ upon your ground, and I much doubt if there be any upon it - should there be however, they shall at once be removed. As soon as the <sup>line</sup> fence is completed we shall be able to keep all the stock of the Indians within the ~~true~~ limits of the reservation.

Perhaps you have it in your power, ~~as you threaten~~ "to make it a warm time in that region", <sup>as you threaten</sup> and <sup>you</sup> may (possibly) commit some lawless act against them or their property, which might cause retaliation



by them - Should you do <sup>either</sup> ~~so~~, let the consequences that may follow be upon you. Remember this, that I hold your letter as an evidence of such design, and it shall stand <sup>forth</sup> in judgment against you. We live in a country of laws, where every man, ~~if aggrieved~~, has his rights, and if aggrieved, can be righted and justice done him.

You ought not to lose sight of the truth that three Indians are removed to the reservation by order of the U.S. Govt and that they are under its protection, and any wonton act - such as you threaten in your letter - will be visited upon you its heaviest punishment.

The letter <sup>of yours</sup> - which I now dismiss - was doubtless written in anger; had you given yourself time for sober reflection you would not I think have sent it. Let me advise you to be governed by the <sup>usages and</sup> courtesies ~~and usages~~ of gentlemen should you ever write a second.

The "point" you speak of as having been reached by your "forbearance" - is not <sup>in my opinion attained</sup> ~~attained~~ <sup>nor</sup> ~~will not~~ be until you shall <sup>attempt to carry</sup> ~~have carried~~ into execution some of the threats of "vengeance" your letter is filled with

Your obt Servt

To Mr. A. D. Babcock

Union Farm

D. J.

89.  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> / 56

To A. D. Babcock