

From: REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FOR THE YEAR 1864

EXCERPTS FROM REPORT OF CHARLES D. POSTEN, SUPERINTENDENT

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ARIZONA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 53.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF ARIZONA, *September 30, 1864*

SIR: Referring to my report of April, 1863, I now beg leave to hand you a statement of transactions since that time, accompanied by some suggestions made for the favorable consideration of your department.

MOQUIS.

In passing to my field of labor, I stopped a few days in Salt Lake City, to confer with Governor Doty, *ex-officio* superintendent of Indian affairs in Utah.

Three Moqui chiefs, from my superintendency, had recently visited his excellency to ask for protection against the Navajoes, who were continually committing depredations on their stock, which induced them to seek a closer alliance with the Americans. The Moquis are peaceable and friendly, and from their isolated position, and the romantic tradition of their Welsh origin, and the curiosity their stone cities excited among the early Spanish explorers, are Indians of more than ordinary interest. I was told by some intelligent Welsh Mormons that the Moqui chiefs could pronounce any word in the Welsh language with facility, but not the dialect now in use. The three chiefs left their photographs in the city of the saints, and returned home, accompanied by some Mormon traders and preachers, who express great zeal for the conversion of the descendants of Modoc.

It was not possible for me to visit this interesting tribe in their mountain homes, for reasons hereafter explained. I take the liberty of appending a report of Colonel Christopher Carson, commanding 1st cavalry, New Mexico volunteers, in which he speaks of these lost and forgotten people in terms of truthful simplicity that ought to excite an interest in their favor in the Indian bureau.

Upon my arrival in San Francisco, two chiefs of the most powerful tribes in Arizona were awaiting the arrival of a representative from the Great Father at Washington. Iretaba, chief of the Mojaves, and Antonio Azul, chief of the Pima tribe of Indians. These chiefs are both of high rank and great consideration in their respective neighborhoods, and were treated with liberal hospitality in San Francisco by citizens and officers of the government.

Iretaba was so much pleased with the customs of civilization that he extended his visit to the Atlantic cities and Washington, under the patronage of Captain John Moss, an amateur representative of the Americans in the remote region inhabited by the people of his *projeté*.

Antonio Azul, having smelt the tobacco and muck-a-muck on hand, returned with us to the Pima villages, and feasted his insatiable avarice on the plunder.

I was so fortunate as to meet Mr. J. Ross Browne in San Francisco, armed with a kind of roving commission from the Interior Department, and desiring to avail myself of his ripe experience in the Indian service, and pleasant company as a traveller, invited him to accompany me on my tour through the Indian tribes of Arizona. Mr. Browne kindly consented to accompany me on the arduous and dangerous journey, and I was continually indebted to his counsel and assistance in managing the Indian business confided to my care, with inadequate means, and beset with difficulties beyond the powers of description. The government and the public will be more enlightened by his facile pen and pencil than from any other source which has yet attempted to illuminate that indescribable country.

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