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On board Steamship "Montana",
En route from Guaymas to San Francisco,
June 6th, 1868

Bvt Maj Genl James B. Fry, A.A.G.
General:

In the measures taken by the General Government for the care of friendly Indians and in the attempts to place on reservations hostile and semi-friendly tribes, little, very little has been done for the Indians of Arizona; yet the hostile ones give as much trouble as any on the Pacific Coast. A breaking out of the semi friendly would cause immense loss of life and would bring great cost; and the friendly ones by their many good offices to the white man deserve a substantial recognition from the Government.

Having concluded my inspection of Arizona, I propose to commence a few remarks upon that District by an enumeration of the principal Indian tribes and their status.

Upon the Colorado River in the Northern part of the Territory, lives a band, or live some bands of Pi-utes, occupying both sides of the river, roaming to the land

Moving down the river are find at and about Camp Mohave, the Mohaves. The former tribe has had a talk with Bvt. Lt. Col. Price, Comdg Camp Mohave and has promised to maintain peaceable relations. They come to the camp associating with the Mohaves and receive food from time to time. There are very few white settlers in their country - a mail station at El Dorado Canon and three (3) citizens at Las Vegas are all I can call to mind, but the small detachments at El Dorado Canon, Las Vegas and Callville indicate no offensive movements on the part of the Pi-utes.

The Mohaves for a long time have shown only friendships for us - they are fed, it may be said regularly, from Camp Mohave, and, although the propriety of their moving to the reservation at La Paz has been often hinted at, it evidently is not acceptable to them and any attempt to move and keep them there forcibly, would, I think be resisted, and we should find in them and allies, which they might bring, dangerous enemies. They look upon the bottom lands at and near Camp Mohave as their homes and they will remain if possible.

As to the reservation at La Paz,

I hear conflicting stories. Not having been there, I can only report the presence there, as stated, of Apache Yumas, Apache Mohaves and perhaps Yavapais. Col Price seemed satisfied that Indians had left that reservation and were engaged in hostilities in company with the Hualapis. One letter from Mr. Dent, the Superintendent, seen by me, (the letter) stated that seventy-five or eighty had left. another letter said that none had. The Indians which came to McDowell, while I was there, and who were fired upon, as I have reported, showed strong marks of being from this reservation. but all accounts seem to agree that little is done at the reservation by the Government towards satisfying the wants and caring properly for the large number of Indians who, from the location of this reservation, are properly subject to its bounty.

About Fort Yuma are the Yumas peaceable; in the past they have received some rations from Fort Yuma. and I suppose do at this time. they are peaceable, and I have heard of no aid extended them, except through the Military Department.

On the North and South of the road

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went through that country, I found them friendly, talked with the Chief and travel was safe through that section. Now they are in a state of hostility, induced by the killing of their Chief, Wauba Luma, by the whites, and have made the road an unsafe one for small parties. They are estimated in numbers at one hundred and fifty.

The Tavapais are about Prescott, are hostile, not of large numbers and may to some extent engage in depredations in company with the Hualapis and are supposed to have rancherias between Camp McPherson and Prescott. In the past many outrages have been committed in Skull Valley and in Bell's Canon (between Skull Valley and Camp McPherson) It is doubtful whether the Tavapai or the Apache has been the more prominent in these.

The numbers, particular haunts and natures of the hostile tribes are involved in much doubt. With no tribes is this more the case than with the Apaches; and although we find officers and citizens, who speak, in great confidence of their knowledge of this tribe and that tribe of the Apache, when their statements are sifted down, we often find them mere speculations.

From the number of Apaches reported in different localities I come to the belief that it is much larger than is adopted in general opinion. From the point East of Prescott to one East of Mc Dowell, the current belief is, runs the Western line of the regular haunts of the Tonto Apache. But Brig. Genl Devin, should he carry out his contemplated scout this summer, to the East of Camp Lincoln, will be able to give information of a country of which little, if anything, is now known, but which popular report makes a country unsafe to be explored by anything less than three hundred (300) men. Maj Clendenin, in a scout from Camp McDowell, made at about the time of my visit to that post, saw no traces of Indians. The establishment of the long contemplated Camp Reno, will bring troops into close proximity with these Indians and allow advantageous movements to the North and East, or to the South against the Indians known as the

Pinal Apaches The indians inhabiting the Pinals (Pinaleños) Mountains seem to be the most dangerous as well as the most difficult of subjugation. Their haunts in the mountains are, at places, almost inaccessible to the whole

behind and any cavalry in the column to continue on foot. The band which lately obtained the large herd of cattle found its place of safety in these mountains and, at the latest accounts, our troops could not dislodge it. Contiguous to this tribe and able to join it in these mountains are the Arivapa Apaches, living about Arivapa river and not far from Camp Grant (their incomings and outgoings and the final firing upon them and killing of three of their number I narrated in my report of Camp Grant) - the Coyoteros Apaches and Sierra Blanca Apaches, most of whom come into Camp Goodwin and are fed there and also the band of Cochees, whose haunts properly are the Chiricahua Mountains, Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora.

Concerning the Indians upon the reservation at Camp Goodwin, Coyteros and Sierra Blancas, almost every officer in Arizona, almost every citizen there and many of the inhabitants of Sonora are loud in their condemnation of the policy, under which they are subsisted there and trace to these Indians many of the outrages committed. I have not yet found any good foundations for this belief of officers and citizens. We surely

must look to the settling of all these Indians on reservations in the end, unless the popular war of extermination is successfully waged, which is not at all probable, and the failure to keep the Indians there, after they have once gone, is certainly not the fault of the system, but rather of the administration of affairs at the reservation. Stories of the most improbable nature are circulated and seem to be generally believed in regard to all peace negotiations or friendly relations between Indians and troops. As an instance of these, the most unjustifiable firing upon the Indians at Camp McDowell, of which I made report, was explained at Tucson and the story generally credited, as follows: That these Indians informed Genl. Alexander that he must not move out, as directed, in coöperation with Genl. Crittenden; that they would not suffer it; for this the troops attacked. General opinion "served the Indians right"; fact, Genl. Alexander not there; Indians perfectly peaceable about camp; the attack most disgraceful affair upon our part.

Another instance:- upon arriving at

man; wounded two or three; all have left the reserve". Universal satisfaction at this. The truth as far as it could be ascertained was that one soldier had been killed, no general attack. In a few days a report came from a Lieutenant temporarily commanding Camp Goodwin "I have the honor to report Indians all back and everything quiet" with no explanation of their leaving and of the many sensation items; but it was whispered that at the bottom of the difficulty was a squaw; source of wars, foreign and domestic, from time immemorial!

Cochee's band has always been reported small but brave and resolute; reports vary as to whether Cochees himself is living.

The Pimas and Maricopas live on the Gila river, from Maricopa Wells to a short distance beyond Sacaton. By the last census the former numbered above four thousand (4000) men, women and children, the latter about four hundred (400). They have a reservation here, and an Indian agent living at Pimas Villages. But little has been done by the Indian Department for their benefit. Their friendship to the Whites for years has been marked; without it many an emmigrant after long sufferings and trials would have perished. It is the boast of many of the Indians of these

tribes that never has a white man's blood been shed by them. May the day never come when the wicked act of any white man shall provoke them to hostility. They are an agricultural people, but the industry which has characterized them in the past has been somewhat impaired by the enlistment of two companies of them and the furnishing by the Government of pay, rations and clothing; though now discharged they continually expect new enlistments. They are well acquainted with the use of all our fire arms but, though in case of scouts with our troops they take arms furnished them they do not generally discharge their pieces on contact with the Apache but rely on close quarters, their war clubs or the stocks of the musket or Carbine. I saw an instance of this at Camp Grant. As soon as the Pimas and Maricopas were notified that Apaches were approaching the Camp, it was with the greatest difficulty that they could be prevented from rushing at once to the camp and attacking, tho' the Apaches bore a white flag. After the latter had been sent away, while I was talking with the Pimas and Maricopas by the river bank, some one came to the top of the hill

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before the friendly Indians, each apparently on his own responsibility, were mounted and away, dashing over the plain and through the canon and killing three out of six Indians who had shown themselves, knocking their brains out with the stock of the carbine!

After killing an Apache they cannot be persuaded to touch the body, they return to camp and will not take food or tobacco; fast for a certain number of days, purging themselves by immoderate drinking of Water.

After destroying a rancheria or killing simply one Indian hostile, it is with the greatest difficulty that they can be persuaded to continue on any scout - so in the case at Camp Grant, although they had started on the understanding of a month's scout, after this small affair at the Camp, but four out of say fifty would go on, the rest must return to their homes to do penance.

Considering the difficulty of moving them with our officers and men and the little advantage to be gained by regular enlistment of them (unless it be the fact that the system once adopted cannot be advantageously changed) it would be a good idea, unless deemed incompatible

with the policy of a great nation, to offer them a reward - money, food or clothing - for every scalp of an Apache brought, or for proof, when it can be found, of the killing of any Apache.

The Papagoes in the Southern and Southwestern part of the Territory are, like the tribes last mentioned, industrious; and like them friendly to us and hostile to the Apache. Nothing is done by our Government for them.

The Moquis in the Northern and North-eastern part of the Territory, live in villages; are reported more civilized, more familiar with the arts and manufactures than even the Maricopas and Pimas. They once paid a visit to the Commanding officer at Prescott; through some mistake they were then put in the guard house, but an explanation afterwards made fixed the matter properly. Their hostility to the Apache is reported intense; it would be well for communication to be made with them from some Camp in Arizona, and if, since it is reported that the lands which they occupy are failing in water they could be induced to move to the valley of the Verde (near Camp Lincoln

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the reduction of the Apache.

The enumeration of these tribes and their condition seems to me sufficient to indicate what I promised: the necessity of action by the Government with a view to settling permanently the Indians of Arizona.

Kind and liberal treatment of the Pimas, Maricopas, Papagos, Moquis and the tribes of the Colorado River seems essential to the future prosperity of the Country and nothing more than a just recognition of the value of their friendships to us in the past, while more clearly defined relations with the Indians about Camp Goodwin, an extension of their reservation and an endeavor through them to open communication with hostile tribes are measures dictated alike by prudence and humanity. × × ×

Here in many places no efforts have been made to care for those whose friendship is valuable, whose enmity would be most expensive. The consequence is that a large number of Indians are fed, thro' the Territory, by the Subsistence Department of the Army. As such issues are forbidden by the Regulations of the Army the thing is evaded by calling these subjects of the Army bounty "Indian prisoners" although it is well known that they are not prisoners. The consequence of not feeding many of them

would be most serious, but an authorized, regular feeding - recorded as to Indians, paid for from an appropriation for this purpose, would accomplish much more than the present habit at many places of giving them food from time to time and would do much towards bringing in the hostile ones.

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Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
(signed) Chas. A. Whittier
Capt. A.D.C. and A.A.I.G.

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