Water; that he made demands of the chief, that he knew, however willing, he could not comply with. This, however, is not an isolated case. It is the common practice of our troops, when out on expeditions to kill Indians whenever found, without care to know whether they be guilty or innocent. Serious trouble grew out of General Harney's campaign, and many white people lost their lives, by reason of the complications which followed.

Contemplating the condition of the Indian population in the vast territory to the west, and the rapid flow of our own population into it, and the conflicts which were ever recurring and never ending, the commissioner of Indian affairs, in the fall of 1856, said: "The wonderful emigration to our newly-acquired states and territories, and its effect upon the wild tribes tribes inhabiting them, and the plains and prairies, is well calculated, at the present period, to attract special attention. Not only are our settlements rapidly advancing westward from the Mississippi river toward the Pacific ocean, and from the shores of the Pacific eastward toward the Mississippi, but large settlements have been made in Utah and New Mexico, between the two. Already the settlements of Texas are extending up to El Paso and spreading into the Gadsden purchase, and those of California have reached into the great valley of the Colorado, whilst the settlers of Minnesota are building cities at the very head of Lake Superior, and villages in the remote valley of the Red river of the North, on their way to Puget Sound." The commissioner continued, at some length, to cite the projected railroads, and other improvements, calculated, as they progressed, to affect the condition of the Indians, and operate as a check to their civilization, unless some means were adopted to counteract the injurious effect of these measures, and then he adds: "As sure as these great physical changes are impending, so sure will these poor denizens of the forest be blotted out of existence, and their dust be trampled under the foot of rapidly advancing civilization, unless our great nation shall generously determine that the necessary provision shall at once be made, and appropriate steps be taken to designate suitable tracts or reservations of land, in proper localities, for