

As a wrong impression seems to have gone out in regard to the stand taken by these Indians with reference to the Snake and Bannock war, I will give a brief account of what actually transpired here. When the war first broke out General Howard sent me a dispatch asking if I could furnish him some Indian scouts, not less than ten being asked for. Many of my Indians had gone off hunting, fishing, & c., and had to be sent after. After a few days' delay a council was finally held, attended by nearly all the principal headmen, including the head chief. I made known to them the request made for a number of them to assist as scouts in the Bannock war, and urged them strongly to go, as also did my employes and the Rev. Fee; but with few exceptions they took strong grounds against going.

The principal reason given was that they were now living in peace with all mankind; that I had taught them it was wrong to fight, and they had abandoned it; and, besides, a missionary had come to teach them about God's law, and now to go to this war they would have to go back and assume the old-time character, have their war dance, and be again a savage, a character they were trying to throw off. Besides it was near harvest-time, and if they left they would have to hire some one to harvest their crops for them. They also called up their experience in the Modoc war where they rendered faithful service, for which they received but little pay, and the relatives of those braves who were killed had never received pensions, though such promises were made to them when they enlisted, and the question here was asked, "If we go to this war and some of us get killed who will provide for our wives and children?" It was also, they said, a long distance off to the seat of the war, and they were unwilling to go so far from home.

I give their reasons, since their refusal has been the occasion for many false and injurious rumors, which have been a matter of grief to them. The principal trouble, to my mind, was in General Howard not sending definite terms as to pay, & c., He merely stated that he wanted them as scouts, and they to furnish their own horses. One Indian having stated that he received \$100 per month as scout in the Modoc war, it was taken up by others as to the amount to be demanded. They did not want to go less than 40 strong, and so they informed me. I would make up a company of that number and go for the above wages and furnish their horses. To this proposition answer was returned from headquarters that no terms could be made, "except to give them pay and supplies of soldiers." And here the matter rested, though by this time a company could have been raised with pay at \$40 per month, and furnish their own horses and equipage. Their conduct all along has given the lie to all that has been said against them, and proves that the efforts made to civilize and Christianize them have not been in vain, and makes me still more proud of them.