

If a change be made, he thinks the stone bluffs on each side of the south branch of Pawnee Fork and the bottom land along the Arkansas River, as well as the ~~growth~~ ground included by the Sante Fe Trail to a mile and a half <sup>north</sup> of it.

Washington <sup>Dec.</sup> ~~Dec.~~ 27-1867

To General U. S. Grant, Commanding Armies of the United States

~~Accounting~~ Secretary of War

General:

This letter encloses a translation of an extract of a letter from Don Jose L <sup>Peria</sup> ~~Pero~~, Berna Lillo County, New Mexico, one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens there. If information from his Wagon Master is correct, the great outrage has been perpetrated <sup>upon</sup> ~~upon~~ the <sup>life or</sup> ~~life~~ of property of three of my constituents. The trains of these gentlemen were lawfully on the road carrying merchandise from the states to the territory. In ~~the~~ <sup>mid-</sup> ~~middle~~ of September, they were attacked by Indians at the foot of "Nine Mile Ridge" on the Arkansas River, lost nearly all of their mules, and compelled to <sup>lay</sup> ~~lay~~ by until cattle or mules could be sent from New Mexico. While so doing, <sup>they</sup> ~~they~~ were attacked by <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ overwhelming force of Indians who fought desperately most of one day. After the cattle arrived, and they were moving again, an officer from Fort Dodge who it appears had orders from the Commanding Officer to destroy the spirituous liquors that they had in their wagons. This is all I can gather from the reading of the letter of which this enclosed is a ~~free~~ and correct translation. The author of this letter goes on to complain that there is no law against transporting whiskey across the plains, that the Government itself transfers it, and that it is unconstitutional <sup>al</sup> ~~al~~ to <sup>dispossess</sup> ~~dispossess~~ a citizen of his property.

Signed--J. Francisco Chaves <sup>del.</sup> Jr., New Mexico