

of crediting the laborer with the fact it is used to give emphasis to something ^{at} ~~alleged~~ as reprehensible. Buildings must necessarily cost more than ~~the~~ other places where materials ~~are~~ are contiguous and cheap and being obliged to haul stone for twelve or fourteen miles should be an argument in favor of labor not against it and should not be alluded to as supporting a charge of extravagance. I invite investigation on this point. I contend that the buildings are not extravagant or costly as asserted nor are the structures anything departing from plainness and good taste. I am willing to submit a true ~~investigation~~ investigation with reference to these buildings but ~~however~~ if there has been any error committed by me it has been one of judgement not of intention, ~~and~~ and I will be glad to have the question settled whether or not I am right or wrong. Gen. Marcy's report has not convinced me.

In reference to Indians--the condition of things ~~was~~ is so confidently stated by Gen. Marcy as to convey the impression of great ~~disrelection~~ dereliction on the part of the commanding officer at Fort Dodge, Kansas. The ~~Smokey Hill~~ ^{road?} Smokey Hill route might be instanced as a ~~parallel~~ paralleled case, and almost every ~~just~~ post commander on that route might with equal justice be held very ^{reprehensible} ~~responsible~~ for not preventing the attacks of Indians on the different stations. Anyone who knows anything about Indians, knows that it is impossible to prevent ~~any~~ small predatory bands from operating on 275 miles of travel, with three companies of infantry and one of cavalry, one company being completely absorbed on escort-duty, the statement that any neglect has ~~at~~ occurred on my part is simply untrue. I invite investigation on this point. Not a simple flimsy glance--but a thorough investigation.

I will state (without meaning any disrespect to the high position occupied by Gen. Marcy but in simple justice) to myself) that it was observed by all the officers at this Post who came in contact with him, as well as by myself, that Gen. Marcy was unduly excited, with regard to Indians, during his stay here. It was a matter of common remark. I dislike to state this, and if the