

Answer to Gen. Marcy addressed to Assistant Adjutant General, Dept. of the Missouri, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

November 1. '67

Sir:

Pursuant to your endorsement covering a report of an informal inspection made by General R. B. Marcy, Inspector General, Department, and requiring an explanatory report on my part. I have the honor respectfully to state as follows.

The whole tenor of the report so much at variance with the impression left on the minds of officers of this Post of the general approval of Gen. Marcy, that I must confess, that I read the report with surprise. After reading to me a part of the contents of a letter in which he speaks kindly and approvingly of what he was pleased to call a prompt response to a suggestion of his in regard to a train corralled above the "Cimarron Crossing" he stated in his report that he "prevailed" on the commanding officer to do certain things. I do not propose to reconcile such inconsistencies though the report is deemed by the gentlemen stationed at the Post as a very unwarrantable piece of injustice. He left this Post giving the impression to all, that he had no cause to visit the Post with a general disapproval, which I must protest against as in the highest degree unjust, and which can only be accounted for from the fact that his inspection was informal and cursory, not critical.

As to the buildings--the impression given by the report is that they are magnificent in extent and structure, "with the exterior faces of the stones as smoothly dressed as if they were designed for the national capitol." If anyone examines critically the masonry of these buildings, they cannot but consider the above quoted expression as a hyperbolism calculated to deceive as to true character of the buildings. The stone is not as smoothly dressed as stated. The upper and lower faces of the stones are nicely fitted so as to give each stone a full bearing throughout its exterior, which does certainly improve the appearance of the buildings but chiefly designed to give strength and durability to the structure. It is only the fronts of the buildings that have any pretense to finish, the balance of the