

to the contrary is based on no investigation at all. The logic as applied to these scouts is extremely foggy, that their very self devotion is made a reason for doubting their reliability, and though the Indians will "kill any white man" yet the writer of the report would not be surprised to find these scouts (they are all white) allied to their dangerous adversaries. I refrain from any further comments on this point.

If the assertion "that the officers at some of the Posts that I have visited seemed to think they are placed there for no other purpose than to make themselves comfortable" is in reference to myself or any officers at my Post I can confidently refer to Gen. Hancock and his inspectors, to show the injustice of it. The house I lived in was no palace but a hovel. I never moved from it until I was a wasted cholera convalescent. My wife died in it, and a want of proper comfort was in my opinion, the main cause of her death. Gen. Marcy himself saw this residence. During the prevalence of cholera, a small frame house of upright boards with three rooms in it was constructed on a neighboring hill, and myself and another patient removed there. This was a sanitary measure recommended by the surgeon. If the assertion refers to any officer at this Post it is as unjust and ungenerous as it is untrue. Gen. Marcy certainly cannot mean that personal comfort is inconsistent with the proper regard for the obligations of one's station, or that an officer must deny himself all comfort in order to perform his duty efficiently; the impression apparently sought to be given in the wording of the report is, that personal comfort is or was studied by officers to the exclusion of higher obligations. The assertion is a sweeping one, and covers the whole Santa Fe Road westward as far, I believe, as "Camp Reynolds." I protest respectfully against its application in any sense to any of the officers of the Post which I command. The comfort of the men and the storage of government property have been the first things considered to the exclusion of officers, and families and their comforts, and a foundation laid as yet for officers quarters they will probably have to live three feet under ground as they did last winter.