

to be violated.

The insinuation in ~~the~~ letter of Mr. Peria's to Mr. Chaves that it is so difficult to obtain protection from Military authorities and yet that they will go in numbers and accompany ~~me~~ <sup>many</sup> miles ~~to~~ do him an injury, is suddenly made without due reflection--when he first lost his stock the only person who tried to recover it were soldiers--when I was a second time attacked a non-commissioned officer and five men were left with him by General Marcy (Perea was absent I think) and subsequently a Lieutenant and 60 men were dispatched to conduct his train safely to Bluff Ranch where I had the ~~support~~ <sup>support</sup> of a conducted guard of eleven men. He made one written application to me for a guard to his train when he lost his stock but I did not at that time have the men to spare and I advised him to entrench his canal, which he did, and with the amount of men ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> had was, in my opinion, perfectly safe. At any rate, the Indians with all their desperate fighting did his train no harm.

From all the evidence that I can collect, I am of the opinion that the Wagon Master or person in command of the train ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> consolidated <sup>to</sup> be held responsible for the liquor destroyed on account of his illegitimate traffic or his permitting illegitimate traffic in the same. *I am very respectfully*

Your ob't Serv't

Signed--H. Douglas

Major-3rd Infantry-Commanding Post