

would have been any issue in the matter, I am certain that I could have shown him that his assertion ~~is~~, that ~~he~~ I could with my aggregate force have kept the road open (in his view of the matter) is very incorrect.

Gen. Marcy says "with a military force of four companies and over 200 armed ~~civil~~ employees, it seems to me that Major Douglas, the commanding officer, should drive the Indians from the vicinity of his Post, but instead of this they come within a mile or two, in open daylight and commit depredations with impunity.

In order to understand and give true value to these allegations, the report should have been accompanied by a topographical sketch of the Post and its vicinity. The Post unfortunately lies in a position, that with the utmost precaution a            can be made in something affected by a few Indians. The General lays great stress upon the fact that cavalry horses were run off "directly in sight of the Post"--this is calculated to mislead, this could be done westward eight miles and especially five miles and a glimpse of the operation might be caught by a ~~careful~~ careful observer. Now if ~~he~~ <sup>I</sup> had nothing else to do with my four companies "200 well armed civil employees" I will grant (supposing the allegation is true) I would have been held justly ~~very~~ reprehensible for not guarding the country 200 ~~miles~~ miles to the <sup>west</sup> ~~eastward~~ <sup>and 75 miles to the eastward,</sup> but there were unfortunately so many other contingencies <sup>to</sup> be prepared for that I am inclined to think, that the taking of one of them as the gauge of responsibility is a very unfair ~~it~~ transaction. I shall go no further in the matter but in this business will submit to investigation as to keeping the road open. I can confidently refer to the Stage Company on this road ~~route~~ for proof that ~~it~~ has been kept open.

With reference to the "scouts" which Gen. Marcy said I relied upon exclusively, and did not use my cavalry for the purpose of obtaining information, etc, I have to state as follows: