

What is my cavalry worth for the purpose of obtaining information? Really ~~xxxxxx really xxx~~ nothing--they are good men and in process of rapid improvement but they had no experience with Indians nor were they conversant with the country. They were mostly recruits, excellent material but not fit for scouting purposes until by experience they were rendered trustworthy. I merely mention this to show that I could not be held properly amenable supposing the allegation true--but it is not true.

I did use my cavalry for the purpose of gaining information and the statement 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 ~~xxx~~ 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