

## SAN JUAN AND SECESSION

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"In a communication to Commissioner Campbell, of the Northwest boundary survey, I have disclaimed any intention of asserting any sovereignty over the island of San Juan beyond that which the necessity of the case has demanded."

This, too, after Mr. Campbell had written to the general that he (Campbell) did not think, "under present circumstances, that we (Americans) should be justified in going to the extent of refusing them (English officers) to land troops for peaceable purposes."

Two months after the general himself had landed on San Juan island, Paul K. Hubbs, jr., deputy inspector for the island, was called on for an affidavit. He stated, June 4, 1892, that Governor Stevens asked for it, but R. D. Gholson was governor at that time. Mr. Hubbs, on oath, deposes that he met the general on the island and mentioned "that there had been some trouble between one of the American settlers and some of the officers of the Hudson Bay company." The general asked the cause. He said that "a short time since Mr. Cutler, one of our citizens, had shot a hog belonging to said company, and immediately went to Mr. Griffin, the superintendent, and offered to pay for the hog. Mr. Griffin became enraged, etc." "In the afternoon of the same day the Hudson Bay company's steamer Beaver arrived from Victoria with Mr. Dallas, a director of the Hudson Bay company; Dr. Tolmie, a chief factor, and some other parties, who, after holding an interview with Mr. Griffin, called on Mr. Cutler and used (Who used?) some very threatening language," and other hearsay on dits.

Mr. Hubbs was, and is still, a great admirer of General Harney.

His affidavit continues: "They said (as if all spoke at once) that they had a posse on board and would take him a prisoner and carry him to Victoria for trial!" He was not present, never heard a word, but told the general as a fact. This same Mr. Hubbs voluntarily contributed to the Post-Intelligencer of Seattle of June 4, 1892, what he saw and knew when the general landed on the 9th of July, 1859, on the island. He stated in the Post-Intelligencer, strangely enough, after making this affidavit, the following: "Here the general dismissed his staff officers, and in private communication the arrangements were made which led to the occupation of the island by United States troops, and hastened the long-delayed question of sovereignty, which took a Jackson or a Harney to consummate." These private oral communications were to be followed up with a promised petition, "signed by every American settler on the island."

The promised petition, although dated July 11, 1859, was not received at the department headquarters until after Pickett had taken possession of the island, when it was of no other use than to refute General Harney's assertions in his letter to the adjutant general, U. S. A., dated August 7, 1859, where he reports as follows:

"On my visit to San Juan island, mentioned in that report (July 19, 1859), the United States inspector of customs on that island, Mr. Hubbs, made an official complaint, on behalf of the American citizens, of the outrages perpetrated upon them by the British authorities of Vancouver island, who are connected with the Hudson Bay company establishment, and who have a sheep farm on the island.

\* \* \* (Here he repeats his version of 'the pig was shot'—which, by the way, was a breeding boar) \* \* \* I was also informed that the Hudson Bay company had threatened, at different times, to send the Northern Indians down upon them and drive them from the island. This statement has since been confirmed to me by some of the most reliable citizens on the Sound."