

with a conditional order to repair to St. Louis, Missouri, and assume the command of the department of the west.

If you decline the order, and I give you leave to decline it, please throw it into the fire; or, otherwise, before setting out for the east, call your next in rank to you, and charge him with the command of the department of Oregon.

We have been forced into this river by a defect in a boiler, and to take in a new supply of coal. I may not have time to hear in reply from you on this side of the continent, unless we arrive at San Francisco too late for the Panama steamer of the 20th instant, which we begin to fear.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Brig. Gen. W. S. HARNEY,

Commanding Department of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, W. T.

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[Special Order No. —.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
St. Helen's, Oregon, November 15, 1859.

Brigadier General Harney will repair to St. Louis, Missouri, and assume command of the department of the west. Colonel Wright, 9th infantry, or the next senior present, will be charged, until further orders, with the command of the department of Oregon, and will be instructed to repair to Fort Vancouver.

By command of Lieutenant General Scott.

L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

24. *General Harney to General Scott.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF OREGON,
Fort Vancouver, W. T., November 17, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the headquarters of the army, dated St. Helen's, Oregon, November 15, 1859, and signed by the general-in-chief, inclosing a conditional order for me to repair to St. Louis, Missouri, and assume the command of the department of the west.

The general-in-chief is pleased to express himself in the following language in this communication, viz:

"I have no doubt that one of the preliminary demands which will be made by the British government upon ours, in connection with your occupation of the island of San Juan, will be your removal from your present command.

"In such event it might be a great relief to the President to find you, by your own act, no longer in that command."

The general-in-chief states this is his own opinion in the matter, as