

## SAN JUAN AND SECESSION

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secretary of war for 1,000 stands of arms and ammunition, for any emergency. the secretary declined until the militia were enrolled and the allotment determined. Hence, our territory was taken by surprise—the governor was in the Blackfoot country—the people wholly unprepared for war.

Our historian, Judge Elwood Evans, writing of these times, says:

"In this exigency, Governor Mason (acting governor), had been compelled to appeal to a foreign government for that aid which our government had neglected to furnish. \* \* \* to ask of a foreign official for arms and ammunition to defend American homes and firesides. But Sir James Douglass, governor of the colony of Vancouver island, proved a friend in need. Promptly and generously (having made himself personally responsible for the purchases), he embraced the opportunity to assist his fellow beings in their emergency, and also to impart the useful lesson to savagery that, in a war against the white race, they need not expect any sympathy from that great statesman and the company, over the affairs of which he presided."

Acting Governor Mason reported the fact of his applying to Governor Douglass to the territorial legislature, and says: "That application was promptly and cordially responded to to the extent of his power, he, at the same time, regretting that he had at the moment no vessels of war at his disposal, and that his steamers, the Otter and Beaver, were both absent, etc." Soon after the Otter was sent over to assist, which demonstrated the policy of the Hudson Bay company, to-wit: the life of a white person was too sacred for any Indian to raise his hand against him, violently. This occurred in the fall of 1855, and the war lasted several years, so these facts should have been fresh in General Harney's memory in 1859.

In writing an official explanation to the adjutant general, U. S. A., for his assumptions on Puget Sound, General Harney, in his letter, August 29, 1859, says: "Time and again our lighthouses were attacked, and the wives and children of our citizens on that coast were brutally murdered by British Indians. Reports reached me that these Indians had been instigated to these acts by the Hudson Bay company, in order to drive them (Who? the brutally murdered, or the Hudson Bay company?) from the lands, etc." One month and ten days before this, July 19, 1859, the general wrote to the adjutant general, U. S. A.: "\* \* \* Mr. Hubbs informed me that a short time before my arrival, the chief factor of the company at Victoria, Mr. Dallas, son-in-law of Governor Douglass, came to the island in the British sloop-of-war Satellite, and threatened to take one of the Americans by force to Victoria for shooting a pig of the company. The American seized his rifle and told Mr. Dallas if any such attempt was made he would kill him on the spot. The affair then ended. The American offered to pay, etc."

"To prevent a repetition of this outrage, I have ordered the company at Fort Bellingham to be established on San Juan island for the protection of our citizens, etc."

The way we undertake to protect them is proclaimed by Captain Pickett, Ninth infantry, in his post orders, dated San Juan island, W. T., July 27, 1859: "Par. III.—This being United States territory, no laws other than those of the United States, nor courts, except such as are held by virtue of said laws, will be recognized or allowed on this island. By order of Captain Pickett."

General Harney upheld this order, but did not seem to know that it exercised complete and exclusive sovereign rights, for in his letter to the adjutant general, U. S. A., of August 25, 1859, he writes: