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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, U. S. PROPELLER MASSACHUSETTS,
Off Port Townsend, W. T., November 9, 1859.

GENERAL: By direction of the general-in-chief I inclose for your information and guidance the following papers, viz:

1. Copies of the general-in-chief's communication to his excellency Governor Douglas, dated the 5th and 9th instant.
2. A copy of Special Orders, dated the 5th instant.
3. A copy of my letter to Captain Hunt, dated the 9th instant.

These papers will show you to what extent the general has interfered in the affairs of the department of Oregon, except that he has made free use of the United States propeller Massachusetts, on board of which vessel he made his headquarters.

Captain Hunt will be left on the island of San Juan, under your instructions of July 18, modified by my letter to him dated the 7th instant; but the general-in-chief wishes it to be remembered that the sovereignty of the island is still in dispute between the two governments, and, until definitively settled by them, that British subjects have equal rights with American citizens on the island.

Captain Fauntleroy represents that the Massachusetts leaks badly, and that repairs are necessary, which can better be done at San Francisco this winter. The general-in-chief concurs, but gives no orders on the subject.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. THOMAS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Brig. Gen. W. S. HARNEY,

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

23 o.

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

SIR: Intending at the first moment to urge that the two departments on the Pacific should be thrown back into one, and being aware of your preference for that having St. Louis as its headquarters, I have already suggested to you a change. Another motive has just occurred to me for renewing the subject.

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

I make the suggestion from public considerations solely, and have not received the slightest hint to that effect from Washington.

To take effect in conformity with your own wishes, I inclose here-