

No. 7.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,
Olympia, March 9, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo, communicating the refusal of the merchants of Victoria to furnish supplies upon the credit of the United States.

As misapprehension exists relative to the character of the security, it is not Territory scrip, but evidence of debt created by the highest official upon the coast.

By our laws no official, civil or military, can draw upon the Treasury Department except for sums already appropriated.

But in any case where expenditures are made to cover expenses not foreseen, the federal officer takes the responsibility of doing so, giving evidence of the indebtedness, and the holders of them are paid by subsequent appropriations from Congress.

These debts are paid, even should the officer be removed from failing to show cause for such expenditures.

Captain Swartwout has not properly apprehended the nature and character of the securities, which, I beg to repeat, is not Washington Territory scrip, but certificates of indebtedness for supplies furnished the United States upon the authority of the highest federal officer, and one who represents the government of the United States in this part of the republic.

In the hope your merchants will properly understand this, and thus see there can be no security, of which the United States officers are capable, more perfect, and will furnish the articles required by the commissary, and also those since sent for by Lieutenant Huger on board the Traveller.

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

ISAAC I. STEVENS,

Governor of Washington Territory.

His Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Esq.,

Governor of Vancouver's Island.

No. 8.

PORT TOWNSEND, W. T.,
May 2, 1856.

SIR: I have to apologize to your excellency for not appearing at an earlier period to settle with you for the supplies you so generously furnished me for the volunteer service of Washington Territory some time since. Unforeseen events have transpired, much to my mortification, to prevent my returning sooner.

I have to reply, that Isaac I. Stevens, esq., governor of Washington Territory, has furnished me with government scrip of sufficient