

MEMORIALS:

NUMBER I.

A Memorial for the occupation of Fort Abercrombie.

To the President of the United States:

The memorial of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota respectfully represents—

Memorial for the
occupation of Ft
Abercrombie

That the occupation of Fort Abercrombie, at Graham's Point, or at some point thereabout, by a suitable military force, is necessary for the protection of settlers in the valley of the Red river of the North.

The establishment of a post at Graham's Point, by the name of Fort Abercrombie in eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, appeared to have been the result of mature deliberation, and in view of official reports based on repeated explorations. Its location was known to be in the midst of a frontier which divides the Chippewa and Sioux tribes of Indians, and which was frequently traversed by war parties of either tribe. Citizens of the United States, native born and adopted, had lawfully advanced into the fertile and inviting valley of the Red river, in the belief that their lives and property would be secure. Many serious losses of property were suffered by some of those settlers previous to the establishment of Fort Abercrombie, and the important travel to and from St. Joseph, on the Pembina river, and Hudson's Bay Territory, was considerably obstructed by Indian depredations. The establishment of that post appeared to afford valuable security to settlers as well as to travel and the transportation of goods, and encouraged many more settlers to advance into the Red river valley with their families and their property. But the partial, and subsequently total abandonment of that post, has left the settlers exposed to frequent trespasses by the Indians, such as the destruction and larceny of stock, and also to annoying intimidations and to personal violence. In the absence of military force at that post, many of the settlers are now upwards of one hundred and twenty miles from any

means of military protection.

While it is not doubted that the actual service of the State Militia, if required to suppress Indian depredations, would constitute a valid claim upon Congress for reimbursement to the State, it has, however, been shown in several instances, that economy can better be promoted by defending the frontier, with the military force of the United States. The immediate occupation of Fort Abererombie by a company of dragoons, or other suitable force, will operate alike as reasonable justice and economy. If a force is maintained there for a few years, sufficient to protect the settlers in that neighborhood it may be reasonably expected that the frontier extending even below that point, will then become so generally occupied as to render it safe to dispense with the post altogether.

By the consent of Congress, considerable money has already been expended in improvements on the site of Fort Abererombie, and in the survey of a large body of the public lands in its vicinity. But as long as there is no protection to the settlers, these outlays will have been fruitless, and the public lands so surveyed may for years remain unoccupied.

Wherefore, your memorialists respectfully, but earnestly request that Fort Abererombie may be immediately garrisoned with a sufficient military force.

AMOS COGGSWELL.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY,

President of the Senate.

Approved, February tenth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MINNESOTA, }
February 10th, 1860. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original on file in this office.

J. H. BAKER, Secretary of State.

NUMBER II.

A Memorial for the Extension of the Reciprocity Treaty.

To the President of the United States:

The memorial of the Legislature of Minnesota respectfully