

NUMBER VI.

A Memorial to the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior.

To the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior—your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, would respectfully represent :

That the people of this State are just emerging from the horrors of an Indian war, unparalleled for its disastrous effect upon the material interests of the State, as well as for its barbarities and atrocities; and the people, naturally inquiring for the causes that have led to a calamity of such a magnitude, and hearing constantly conflicting statements of incompetency, mismanagement and corruption, are led to believe that there may have been causes tending to inflame the inhuman and savage disposition of the Indians.

That while they do not in any manner justify or palliate the barbarities practiced upon unoffending and defenseless people, they nevertheless fear that the just and humane policy of the Government in its intercourse with the Indian tribes has not in all cases been faithfully carried out within the borders of our State.

That the people of the whole country, and more especially the people of this State, have a right to demand, as a matter of justice and policy, a thorough and impartial investigation of the management of Indian affairs within this State, and all other matters pertaining to the Indian outbreak, or in any manner conducing thereto.

Your memorialists would therefore earnestly request the appointment of a commission, consisting of persons entirely disconnected with the management of Indian affairs in this State, and having no interest whatever therein, to make such investigation, and report thereon without delay.

Approved, September 29th, 1862.

To the President
of the United
States and the
Secretary of the
Interior