

MEMORIALS.

[No. 1.]—MEMORIAL to Congress for the establishment of a Military Post on or near the *Pemina River*.

Feb. 18, 1855.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents: That at the first session of the Legislative Assembly of this Territory, a memorial was passed, which among other subjects necessary to the welfare of the *Pemina Settlement*, asked for the establishment of a Military Post for the protection of the settlement, the protection of the Indians occupying the frontier, and for the protection of the interests of the General Government.

Preamble.

That the suffering of the settlement in consequence of the many attacks made by the Missouri Indians, has much increased within the last few years, and has materially retarded the agricultural progress of the Settlement. During the past summer, Mr. E. Terry, a young gentleman who had emigrated to the Settlement but a short time previous, to open a Missionary School, was killed by a war party of Missouri Sioux, in the vicinity of his residence.

Prayer, &c.

The depredations which are being continually committed by those war parties, have much interrupted agriculture in the Settlement, and where it is pursued, the labor is performed only while a strong guard surrounds the premises as a protection against attack.

That frequent excursions of large numbers of the settlers residing in the neighboring British Settlement of the Hudson Bay Company's Territory, is a matter of great importance to the Indians occupying the country South of the line. It is well known that the Indians of that section of our country rely almost entirely upon the chase for subsistence; and it is believed the General Government should protect their country from the ravages of the inhabitants of the British Colony.

Those people make two or three hunting excursions during the summer in very large numbers, destroying the Buffalo and other game, carrying the meat, skins, &c., into the British Colony, thereby causing much privation among our Indians, and inflicting an injury on our citizens, by depriving them of the proceeds of a trade which of right belongs to them. In many instances these excursions are also made in the winter season, which by destroying and chasing the game, upon which alone our Indians subsist in that inclement season of the year, causes much privation, and frequently death.

Prayer, &c.

That the inhabitants of the British Colony bring into the territory of the United States, goods of various descriptions which are furnished them by the Hudson Bay Company, and others, evading to pay the lawful Custom House Duties thereon, and which they trade with our Indians, doing a great injustice to our citizens, by participating in a trade without a license, and without any obligation to our Government for an observance of the laws regulating trade and intercourse with the Indians, and an utter disregard of the philanthropic enactments of our Government, for preventing the sale, or traffic in spirituous liquors within our Indian Territory. This practice not only entails much suffering on our Indians physically, but is also a great source of demoralization.

Prayer, &c.

That the location of the Pembina settlement renders the protection of the Government necessary to promote its increase, from the fact that it is located immediately on the line, and in the immediate vicinity of a flourishing settlement within the British Territory, which is controlled by a powerful Company that lets no opportunity escape of adding to the strength of its settlements, or of annoyance of the settlements and trade within our lines: And while every means is resorted to by this powerful Company of infringing our laws and trespassing on our rights, they are vigilant in protecting its own Territory, and punish, with the utmost rigor, any infringement of its chartered rights. Being always capable of trespassing upon our Territory owing to its strength, derived from its numerous retainers employed for the purpose, the legitimate commerce of our citizens is to a great degree destroyed, our settlements harrassed, and our Indians impoverished and demoralized.

That by the establishment of a Military post at or near the Pembina river, our Territory could be protected from the incursions of the settlers of the British Colony, and the servants of the Hudson Bay Company, whether for the purpose of destroying and carrying off the game necessary for the sustenance and comfort of the Indians within our Territory, or for an illicit and demoralizing commerce with those Indians.

Prayer, &c.

That by a Military Post in the vicinity, our Settlements would be protected from the savage attacks upon the settlers by the neighboring tribes which would lead to the prosperity of agricultural and other pursuits, and security and consequent increase in the settlements, which would be important to the best interests of our country in case of a war with Great Britain.

Your Memorialists therefore respectfully again ask your Honorable body that a Military Post of such strength as may be deemed necessary, be established at or near the Pembina Settlements, and as in duty bound, your Memorialists will ever pray.

DAVID DAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MARTIN McLEOD,

President of the Council.

APPROVED—Feb. eighteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
St. Paul, March 30, 1853. }

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

ALEX. WILKIN,

Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.