

LETTER TO GENERAL BENNETT RILEY.

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Monterey, September 29, 1849.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your appointment of myself as Prefect of the District of Los Angeles, date September 1st, 1849. While thankful for confidence reposed in me, I trust my poor services may prove acceptable to all concerned.

As Prefect of said District of Los Angeles, I beg leave to state that District is particularly exposed to the depredation of Indian horse thieves and other evil disposed persons, and at present the inhabitants are badly armed, and powder cannot be procured at any price. Under these circumstances I would respectfully request that you place at my disposal (for the defence of the lives and property of the citizens of said District), subject to such conditions as you may deem proper the following arms and ammunition; viz,

One hundred Flint Lock Muskets with corresponding accoutrements.

Ten thousand Flint Lock Musket-ball and Buckshot Cartridges.

Five hundred Musket Flints.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

STEPHEN C. FOSTER,

Prefect, Los Angeles.

To His Excel. B. Riley, Brig. Gen. U. S. A.,

Governor California

Monterey.