

LETTER
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of December 14, 1868, further information
in relation to the late Indian battle on the Washita river.*

JANUARY 26, 1869.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 26, 1869.*

The Secretary of War has the honor to submit to the Senate of the United States the accompanying copy of a communication from General W. B. Hazen to the Lieutenant General of the army, as to the hostile character of the band of Indians lately attacked and defeated by General Custer on the Washita river.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

FORT COBB, INDIAN TERRITORY,
December 31, 1868.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I notice the papers are stating that Black Kettle's camp destroyed by Custer were peaceable Indians on their way to their reservation. In his talk with me some five or six days before he was killed, Black Kettle stated that many of his men were then on the war path, and that their people did not want peace with the people above the Arkansas. His people were those engaged in the trouble on the Solomon, and their reservation was not in this section of the country at all.

Very truly,

W. B. HAZEN.

Lieut. General W. T. SHERMAN,
United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, January 19, 1869.

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of the Adjutant General of the army.

By order of Lieutenant General Sherman:

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.