

WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN TO SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN, IN RACHEL SHERMAN THORNDIKE, *THE SHERMAN LETTERS* (NEW YORK: CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, 1894), P. 296, AVAILABLE ON GOOGLE BOOKS.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, Sept. 28, 1867.

*Dear Brother:*

We have now been near two months on the Indian Commission, and I can pretty closely judge of the result. It cannot be complete or final, because it will take years to do all the law requires, and I suppose the pressure will force Congress to do something conclusive this winter. According to existing treaties with Indians, they have a right to wander and hunt across all the railroads toward the West, and Henderson thinks we had no right to locate roads through without a prior assent, and by the payment of damages. Whether right or wrong, those roads will be built, and everybody knows that Congress, after granting the charters and fixing the routes, cannot now back out and surrender the country to a few bands of roving Indians. Henderson says, also, that the demand of these railroads, stage, telegraph, and other lines on me for military aid or protection were not contemplated, but that these companies took their franchises and contracts with a full knowledge of the difficulties. Now I and all who have gone before me have acted on the general theory that when Congress located a road, that it amounted to an implied promise to give reasonable military protection.

However, by the time Congress meets, we can, I think, submit to you some general plan that is practicable, and will in time — not at once — attain a result. .

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN.