

Navy Department,
March 24, 1848.

Sir,

I have delayed answering your communication of the 29th February ultimo, in consequence of the absence of Capt. Gillespie of the Marine Corps. He returned yesterday. The Government will redeem its engagement to supply to the ten men who accompanied you from California, the means of returning to their country.

On the return of Commodore Fickett, the mules, horses, saddles &c. used by his escort were left at St. Josephs, and a receipt taken by Capt. Gillespie, of the person in whose hands they were left. I have deemed it best, to order the Captain to go out, and after furnishing the ten men, whom you name, with the articles which are necessary for the journey, to sell the residue, and account