Finding aid to the Indians of Southern California report, 1868 August 8
MS.1290

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Access
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Related Archival Materials note
Original copy held in the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Scope and contents
Photocopy of the original report printed in the Los Angeles Star, volume XIV, August 8, 1868 issue. Report is written by the Honorable Benjamin D. Wilson to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. The report includes topics regarding land rights and land titles for Southern California Indians.

Preferred citation
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Biographical note
Benjamin Davis Wilson (1811-1878) of Tennessee came to California in 1841, married into the prominent Yorba family, and acquired a vast property, including a ranch that encompassed the site of modern Riverside. He was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1851 and was named sub-agent for Indian Affairs for Southern California not long after. The Indians of southern California in 1852 prints a report Wilson prepared in collaboration with Benjamin Hayes after being named a federal Indian agent. The document identifies two major problems: the security of ranches and settlements from Indian raids and the plight of the mission Indians. He recommends a reservation system as the solution to both. John Walton Caughey’s introduction provides useful background, supplemented by his appendix of “Contemporary Comment.”

Processing history
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General note
The report, prepared in 1852, was published serially in the Los Angeles star, July 18-September 19, 1868. This is a photocopy of that publication, created in 1960s.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles Star.
Indian reservations -- California
Indians of North America -- California
Indians of North America -- Government relations
Missions -- California