

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 1850.

The Indians—their enemies.

We had hoped to hear no more of Indian butcheries in California. With the calender of bloody deeds which last year closed it was our earnest wish that this species of iniquity had blotted the page of our history for a long, last time. That the murderous tomahawk had been buried, and the terrible rifle of the mountaineer laid aside; but our hopes have proved fallacious. In another part of the paper we publish a communication from a friend residing at Sonoma detailing particulars of the recent outrage committed by a party of white miscreants in that neighborhood. The victims upon whom the sins of criminals of their own color have been visited, were, as is usually the case, innocent of offence, and by their uniform quiet demeanor have thoroughly established a name throughout the portion of California inhabited by them, for tractability and usefulness. They were the Indian employes of the several settlers in Sonoma and Nappa Vallies, and for many years they have maintained a relationship of perfect amity with the whites. Definitely concerning the nature of their alleged evil doing, our correspondent does not speak; but we can readily imagine why the chivalrous "hounds" of the red woods have concentrated and commenced indiscriminate slaughter of the Indians.

Early last spring similar difficulties disturbed the tranquility of the miners on the American river, and the grounds of complaint against the Indians were sufficiently strong to arouse the whole mining population to arms and unite them in the work of extermination. The Indians committed several brutal murders, but they sought savage redress for outrages committed by the whites. The desperadoes of our people who went among the Indians to communicate with them through the muzzles of their rifles brought down the deadly vengeance of the various tribes around them, and the consequence was the shedding of much innocent blood. The Indians were mercilessly hunted down and order finally restored by the expulsion of the Indians from the grounds occupied by the miners. The cause of the recent aggressions in Sonoma valley on the part of the whites is said to be the murder of white men by the Indians last fall, and for which, it would appear the slaughter of whole tribes has not sufficiently atoned. We hope and trust the U. S. troops in California will prevent further violence, while the arm of the civil law will ferret out the perpetrators of these infamous crimes, and bring them to condign punishment.

3-11-1850

Correspondence of the Alta California.

SONOMA, March 2d., 1850.

Editors of the Alta California.—Gentlemen: Our little town has since yesterday been the scene of a tremendous excitement, but I trust the worst is over. Ever since the murder of Andrew Keisey at the Clear Lake by the Indians, a party of men have caused much excitement among the peaceful inhabitants of this place and Nappa. On the 31st ultimo, a meeting was got up in Nappa for the purpose of driving all the Indians from the country. A party of twenty-four armed horsemen, mostly from the Red Woods, proceeded to Mr. Yount's rancho, set fire to the rancherie, and chased near one hundred Indians to the mountains; thence proceeded on to Fowler's ranch, and there shot down fifteen innocent Indians. After this, they passed on to Santa Rosa, chased the Indians from thence; came on to Jesso Beasley's ranch in Sonoma, and there killed two of his household, Indian servants; a third was fired at but escaped. The same evening, another meeting was got up in Sonoma for the same purpose. Long speeches were made, and it was partially successful in causing men and money to aid the other party. Fortunately, however, it was discovered in time to break up the scheme. Yesterday the party that is said to have killed the Indians, passed through this town, and threatened to hunt and kill every Indian, male and female, found in the country. At the suggestion of the citizens and military, the Justice of the Peace, P. Campbell, issued a writ to the Sheriff, commanding him to disperse the party; but they paid no attention and passed into Nappa Valley. Here they burned Nicholas Le Guerra's rancherie, and pursued his Indians some distance. The citizens of Nappa, hearing of these acts, met them on their way to Cayetano's ranch, and finally succeeded in arresting their progress. To-day a part of them returned to this place, and it is said a few have gone to the mines, fully equipped with saddles, horses, &c. A courier was dispatched from here, and two from Nappa to the Governor, for instructions how to proceed. The citizens are much alarmed, the mountains are full of terrified Indians, and it is feared they will in return kill every white man within their reach. How it will end, God only knows. VERITAS.

Daily Alta California.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1850.

Our Indian Tribes.

It is usual to associate with preconceptions naturally formed in the mind of the emigrant about to start for California, an indefinable dread of savage terrors, such as saucy Indians and prowling wild beasts are apt to inspire. In the fancies of every adventurer from civilized and enlightened scenes there are always pictured many unreal dangers attendant on their trip into these remote wilds, and let him be ever so well informed concerning the history of his future home, and the character of its inhabitants, deriving his knowledge from the best accredited testimony, there will still be a vast deal of unnecessary apprehensions nurtured. Every one supposes that in coming to California there are certain dangers to be encountered, which eastward of the Rocky mountains are believed inseparable from the toils and trials of the western pioneer. This all-prevalent impression is carried around Cape Horn, and comes across the country in the tangible shape of bowie-knives and five-barrelled revolving fire arms. Even on arriving here, in the hurry of landing the Californian does not forget his weapons of defence, and we not unfrequently encounter one in the streets of San Francisco, armed cap-a-pie as if for a desperate hand-to-hand encounter with a California "savage." It would be somewhat difficult to find such an enemy under a copper skin, were we to search the country through. As much may not be said of other complexions, however. All these fears are idle, though such preconceptions are perfectly natural, and we are willing that as a peculiarity of the present California emigration it should regulate and adapt itself to the spirit of the times until at length overcome by the march of improvement.

The early pioneers of the Anglo Saxon race found a different state of things existing on the Pacific coast than from experience and knowledge of other parts of the continent, quite as uncultivated, they were led to presume. At no time since the occupation of this country by Americans have the settlers had serious cause of complaint against the Indians who occupied the broad lands upon which they have chosen to reside. They were viewed as a vagabond, thriftless and degraded people, depraved by the influence of Spanish missions rather than vicious in the pursuit of their natural inclinations. The depredatory incursions of the roving and more mischievous tribes, amounted to nothing more than the theft of horses from their Spanish masters, and which they possibly considered but reclaimed property. The rancheries in turn would pursue the robbers and in almost every instance would be the first to shed blood. In this manner the Indians of Tulare valley were dealt with, and they were considered the most hostile of all the tribes around. Our countrymen found little difficulty in reconciling these brutish beings to a change of masters. Although the names of Jose and Jesus were identified with the most daring deeds performed by the horse thief Indians, these influential chiefs readily rendered their assistance to Col. Fremont in the subjugation of the country, and evinced by their subsequent conduct a desire to be at peace with Americans. Since the discovery of gold, and the more sudden innovation of Yankee greediness in all parts of California, very little opposition from Indians has been encountered, and sections of country have been penetrated by small parties where two years ago it would have been believed impracticable for a large number of armed men to sustain themselves against the Indians. Feather river, King's river, Clear Lake and the southern tributaries of the San Joaquin, were no longer ago than this infested by Indians, wild and warlike. Yet our people have subdued them without a blow—without scarce a manifestation of strength. This certainly proves the Indians of this country tractable, if it does not clearly establish their inoffensiveness and desire to live at peace with the whites.


Daily Alta California

3-13-1850

page 2 of 2

But the blood of white and red man has been spilled, and not one hundred miles from the earliest established Anglo-Saxon trading post in California. The Indians of Columa, among whom the kindly deeds of the veteran pioneer Captain Sutter had for many years been warmly cherished, were the first to reap the evil of intercourse with their white masters. Last year they were forced to flee the mountains and become vagrants in the valley settlements.

This, as we stated a day or two since, was one of the fruits of intercourse with an inhuman, unprincipled, ignorant and grasping class of miners, who outraged the Indians in their early teachings of *civilization*, and were afterward made the special objects of Indian hatred and revenge. And the work of blood has not yet ended. The innocent are again the sufferers. Vengeance has been heavily visited upon those whose crime is but their color, and by men who we blush to believe are Americans. Let the question then be considered who are most culpable in creating dangerous feuds at this advanced period, between the Indian tribes and white settlers of California? And finally, have we reason for acts of violence or aggression? Is such a course consistent with humane policy or to be countenanced by a Christian people?



TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 19, 1850.

The Indian Outrages in Napa Valley.

We have received a communication from Veritas, in Sonoma relative to the outrages recently committed there, and, though we have published already the principal portion of the information it contains, there are some additional particulars which we have not before received. While this band of lynchers were on their way to Cayetano's Rancho they were dispersed by the citizens of Napa. The next day a number of them were arrested in virtue of a warrant issued by the 1st Alcalde of Benicia, at Sonoma. Those who were accessory to the acts of incendiarism but are not charged with murder are about entering into recognizances for their appearance for trial.

The persons who are now in prison are Samuel Kelsey, Captain Smith, James Lewis, Julian Graham, — Graham, his brother, James Prigmore, John Kelly, W. Anderson. The names of some of those who were present at the murders and who were not arrested at the date of our communication, are George Spence, Joseph Wadlow, Ephriam Prigmore, Calvin Griffith, Francis Kellogg, the brothers Elliott, and — Saunders. Those who disagreed with Smith and objected to the murder and those who were only accessories will be admitted to bail—they are Benjamin Moore, Wm. Hewlett, B. Kirkland, Benjamin Kelsey, J. Rea, Perry and Wiggins. Hundreds of the Indians are in the mountains in a starving condition, afraid to return to the Ranchos. We trust that prompt measures will be taken and carried out to protect the Indians in future, and afford them present succor.

March 28, 1850

Alta California.

PUBLISHED DAILY.

SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 28, 1850.

TROUBLE WITH INDIANS ON THE STANISLAU.—A friend from the mines has favored us with the particulars of a deplorable event, which took place recently on the Upper Stanislaw. Some six weeks since, one Wm. Hunter and another man, residing at Carson's creek, purchased two mules from a man named Parkno, which were stolen a few days afterward. They tracked them to near an Indian ranche, where they saw an Indian and a boy, who told them the mules were at the ranche, and that Parkno was there also. When within about a hundred yards of the ranche the Indians began to run. Hunter immediately shot him, and then knocked down the boy, and would have killed him, but for his companion. A body of Indians fired upon them with arrows, but they escaped unhurt. The Indians afterward had a "talk," and all agreed to let the matter rest. But notwithstanding this, Hunter was afterwards heard to declare that he would take the price of his mules in Indian scalps, and, unfortunately, this reaching the ears of the Indians, probably induced the catastrophe which followed. Not long subsequent to this event a party of twelve, consisting of Hunter, his brother, F. B. Hoskinson, J. Shelton, H. B. Cottrell, D. Parker, A. P. Osborne, and five others, started on a prospecting tour among the forks of the Upper Stanislaw. The party separated, Hunter, his brother, Hoskinson, Shelton, and Cottrell, in one party—the other seven proceeding up another canon. In a deep and narrow part, the former party was suddenly assailed by a shower of arrows, and Hunter and his brother were mortally wounded. Hoskinson and Cottrell made a rush for an opening where the Indians would not be likely to attack them. Shelton seeing his companions fall, stood by until told by them to save himself, if possible, as they were dying. Shelton left them, not however until the Indians had commenced throwing down rocks, one of which struck one of the dying men. Shelton, after much fatigue and suffering, reached Murphy's New Diggings, twelve miles above Carson's creek

Strange to say, though the arrows fell thick around him, he was untouched. He fired several times, and thinks he brought down two or three Indians. Osborn and Parker, and their party, were also attacked, but all escaped, with the exception of Parker, who was struck by an arrow, which, but for his shoulder blade, might have proved mortal. Hoskinson, of Hunter's party, was wounded in the fleshy part of the hip, by an arrow. Hunter and his brother were killed about twenty miles above Pass le Pivo.

Since the above occurrence, a trader at Carson's, while bringing in part of a boeve, had one quarter stolen by Indians. On his return to the spot where the beef was killed, he was grossly insulted by the Indians, and one of them proceeded to draw his bow upon him; when, as a matter of safety, he shot him down—a thing to be regretted, but, under the circumstances, probably justifiable.—[Stockton Times.]

THE TRANSCRIPT.

SACRAMENTO CITY: 4-5-1850

Friday Morning, April 5, 1850.

F. C. EWER AND G. KENYON FITCH, EDITORS.

TERMS:

☞ **TRI-WEEKLY TRANSCRIPT**—For one year, (by mail,) in advance, \$16; Six months, (by mail,) in advance, \$10; Single copies, 12½ cts.

☞ **TERMS OF ADVERTISING**—For one square, (15 lines, or less,) first insertion, \$4; Each subsequent insertion, \$2; Legal and official advertisements will be charged, for each square, (15 lines, or less,) first insertion, \$6; Each subsequent insertion, \$3.

☞ **BOOK AND JOB PRINTING**—Of every description, executed in a superior manner, and with dispatch, at the Transcript office. **OFFICE**—Second street, between J and K.

☞ Messrs. Hoogs & Co., Clay street, near Montgomery, are authorised Agents for this paper, in San Francisco. Advertisements or subscriptions left at their office will be forwarded to this place at the earliest opportunity and receive prompt attention.

☞ Persons wishing to subscribe for the Transcript, can have their papers left wherever desired, by leaving their names at this office.

RIOT WITH THE INDIANS.

We have been informed by a gentleman from Deer Creek, that one day last week, some twelve men, who had been soldiers in the Mexican war, attacked a party of Indians whom they accused of stealing animals, and killed four or five men and one squaw. The Indians, after running some time before their pursuers, turned round, seeing so few in chase, and the pursuer became the pursued, until they gained a strong hold in a rocky part of the mountain, where the Indians attacked them furiously, wounding, it is believed fatally, two of the whites, one in the shoulder, and the other in the arm. The siege lasted two days, during which the Indians lost seventeen men and one squaw, besides those before mentioned.

A man called Bill Ebben is the leader of the assailants. A party of two hundred was organizing at Deer Creek, and were expected to start in pursuit last Thursday morning.

Bloody Doings on the North Fork.

About two weeks ago a party of Indians came stealthily upon a few miners who were sleeping after their work was over, in their tents, on the North Fork, some twenty miles above Auburn. Before the Indians gave any warning to the whites of their presence, they killed two, wounded another, and then succeeded in making their escape. On Friday of last week, a trader, who was traveling with his team, was surprised by Indians when about fifteen miles above Auburn.—Two arrows from their bows took effect on his person, and he only saved his life by a precipitate flight. They carried off his coat, which he left on his wagon, with six hundred dollars' worth of dust in the pocket. They also robbed his wagon of the valuable goods it contained, and killed several of his oxen. The accounts of these outrages spread rapidly; and on Saturday last a company of about twenty men, part of whom were mounted on horses, started from Auburn and Kelly's Bar, in pursuit of the Indians. They found them encamped in a valley, near Illinois town, about a mile and a half from the North Fork, and some twenty miles above Auburn. It was thought the Indians were a hundred strong. They were armed with bows and arrows, and had one gun. The whites immediately fired upon them, whereupon they ran, scattering in all directions. After this the whites were occasionally shot at by the Indians, small parties of whom were found here and there in ambush, from which they were driven as often as discovered. Two of the whites were wounded with arrows, but not fatally. The loss of the Indians could not be ascertained. Twenty-five dead bodies were found, and it is supposed they concealed and carried off others of their dead. Among their dead were found a woman and a child. The party returned to Auburn, having with them several scalps, which were exhibited in that place in the early part of this week.

THE TRANSCRIPT.

SACRAMENTO CITY :

Thursday Morning, May 9, 1850.

F. C. EWER AND G. KENYON FITCH, EDITORS.

It is believed by many of the miners that white men are among the Indians, inciting them to hostilities. It is pretty certain that a German Doctor has been leading them on in some of their attacks.

A meeting was held at Auburn, last Monday evening, to raise a company of volunteers, for the purpose of scouring the country and making war upon the Indians wherever found, so long as they maintain a hostile position. Some fifteen or twenty enrolled their names. There can be no doubt of the right of men to protect themselves when their lives are endangered, and a certain degree of force is justifiable for the protection of property. We fear however, the Indians have not always been dealt with in the right spirit in this country, and that many lives have been lost where there would have been no difficulty had more pains been taken to cultivate feelings of amity and accommodation with the aboriginal race. There are too many who are ready, at the slightest provocation, to shoot an Indian; and, possibly, the Indians have often done things consistent with *their* etiquette, which have been misunderstood by our people. We fear it is too late now, after so many difficulties, for our people to live in peace with them, and that hostilities will become more general than heretofore. It would be well for both whites and Indians if Government troops could be sent in sufficient numbers to the most exposed places. Otherwise there is danger of valuable lives being lost, and an irregular warfare being kept up, which many think not at all honorable to either party.