

Los Angeles Correspondence.

Meeting of Rancheros—Mormons at San Bernardino—Grist and Saw Mills to be built—Indian method of conducting Prisoners—Confession of Cosmo—His suicide—Search for Panito—Experiences of capture of Antonio Garra, etc.—Arrival from Salt Lake—State of things there—Epistolary to the Saints—Inquests on Indians.

LOS ANGELOS, CAL., Feb. 24th, 1852.

The Junta of Rancheros met in full assembly last evening and petitioned the President of the United States to have the Land Commissioners sit in this place, to investigate the claims of South California. The petition was numerously signed, and amply sets forth the necessity for the Board's coming to this region to administer justice to the southern landholder.

Last week I visited the Mormon Encampment—hereafter to be designated as the "City of San Bernardino." On approaching within two miles of the camp, the view before you is interesting. The overhanging mountain capped with snow during eight months of the year, presents a striking contrast to the broad valley beneath its base, verdant with the various grasses of California. About the end of June the snow disappears from the mountain, while the clover assumes a ruddy brown color, and becomes the choice food and sustenance of animals. During the past six months the noble pines of the mountains and the willows of the bottom land have been laid low, and used for building and fencing.

The battle of labor has gone on steadily and vigorously. During the Indian excitement throughout this region the camp was a bee hive. Houses were rapidly pulled down, transported and erected into a stockade fort; and before the Angelic city had taken steps to resist the expected Indian incursions, the Mormons were prepared to rally forth to aid the rancheros of the county.

During the last two months 2,000 acres of land have been sowed in wheat and barley, and the timbers for a saw-mill and a grist-mill have been brought to the spot, soon to be erected, to make this region independent of other places in lumber and flour. In conclusion, it must be acknowledged by the most violent opposers of the Mormons, that industry, enterprise and economy will sooner dignify a nation than laziness, gambling and prodigality; and the contrast in this region will be more evident in a short time.

On Sunday the 15th inst. the Indian mode of conducting prisoners was feelingly exhibited at the Rancho del Chino. The proscribed San Luis Rey Indian, Cosmo by name—a short, stout, bull-headed individual—with a riata around his neck, and running on foot beside his armed captors, was brought and delivered over to Capt. Lovell, commandant of the post at that place. This Indian made his confession of all he knew of the murdering of the four Americans at Agua Caliente, and of the plundering of Mr. Warner's house. He furnished the names of seven of the San Luis Rey Indians, now living, who were concerned in the murder, and of four of the Coahuilla tribe who assisted at the plundering of the house of Mr. Warner. He stated that Bill Marshall and Juan Bera were sub-leaders under Antonio Garra's son, and that the said Marshall knew that the American's living in his house would be murdered, three hours before they were taken out to be killed. He said he was but a private, brevetted for his gallant conduct on the occasion of killing the Americans, and that he expected to suffer death. Three nights after he was brought in, he committed suicide by suspending his body from a peg in the wall four feet from the floor. A deserter in the same room, also in irons, said he knew nothing of it till the light of day revealed the dismal sight to his view.

The captors of Cosmo, John the Baptist, accompanied by twenty-five of his tribe, partook of the hospitalities of Uncle Sam, bivouacked in tents, devoured four beeves, received a few pieces of colored calico, and on the third day went on their way rejoicing, in search of the other proscribed Indian Panito. The expenses in the capture of this Indian, amounted to about \$200. The expenses in the detention of Antonio Garra, probably cost \$20,000. The inhabitants of this region have concluded that Indian warriors are better than American warriors, cheaper, quicker, safer, allowing the glory and honor to be equally divided.

The latest news from the Mormon settlement at Salt Lake was brought through by five Americans, who left about the 20th Nov. Their verbal account shows the affairs of Salt Lake as not very flourishing; that the money market, (like some hombres in this region) was awful tight, and no sale for the late crops—chiefly of wheat and vegetables—while meat was very high. The Deseret News of Nov. 15th, represents the country as flourishing and prosperous.

The sixth epistolary of President Young to the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, seems to consider the Salt Lake Valley as the "City of God," and hopes to see all the believers flocking into the kingdom. Eight hundred wagons were crossing the Plains at the last accounts, bound for the Salt Lake. The letter states, that owing to there being no English vessels bound direct to San Diego, the emigration to Salt Lake would take place via New Orleans and Kanawville, thence across the Plains.

Two inquests were held upon dead Indians last week. Aguadiente and the butcher knife are taking off the domestic Indians at a rapid rate—each year's financial settlement being fifty-two Indians versus \$3000 of Aguadiente sold. In common parlance, fifty-two Indians died by the visitation of God.

CAROLUS.

Daily Alta California 3-1-1852

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM SHASTA—INDIAN DEPRE-
DATIONS—THIRTY INDIANS KILLED.—Mr. Taylor, of Tay-
lor's Express, arrived last evening about 9 o'clock, in the
Capt. Sutter, which boat left Colusa yesterday morning.
We are indebted to him for the following news: On
Friday last a party of Cotton Wood Indians, went to Mc-
Kinney's Ranch, a few miles above Reading's, and stole
a few blankets, besides committing other thefts. On
Saturday a son of Mr. McKinney went in pursuit, but
never returned. His body was found with the head de-
capitated. A party of men was instantly organized at
Cotton Wood and Clarendon Ranch, who on Saturday
gave chase to the Indians, surrounded them and killed
thirty without losing any of their own number. The
prisoners taken were ordered to again go out and kill
every Indian belonging to the Rancheria, where Mc-
Kinney lost his life. On Sunday they returned with the
scalps of two Indians. They were again sent out, but had
not returned when Mr. Taylor left Shasta.

[Sac. Union, 23th

Clinton Democrat April 20, 1852
(Pennsylvania)

JOHN SILVIA.—We have been favored with the perusal of a letter from this young adventurer, written to the "old folks at home." He writes from French Town, near Marysville. He is in partnership with Dr. Thompson of Iowa, in farming. They have taken two quarter sections of land in a valley about five miles from French Town, right in the neighborhood of the Indians. He says these natives can be hired for little and be paid in old clothes. It is their intention to plant, this season, two hundred bushels of potatoes, ten of barley, two acres of onions, five of corn, together with quantities of cabbage, turnips, watermelons, &c., &c. He has no notion of returning home poor. He has been broken up several times, but has always had money plenty to warrant his return to Lock Haven. He regards California, with all its accidents and bad luck, as a good place. If he is disposed to hire out he can get five dollars a day, but he has always worked for himself. He has had the fever and ague for the last sixteen months, but he has got it reduced down to an attack for every third day. He has not met with John & Saul M'Cormick yet, but talks of writing to them or paying them a visit. He has no idea of returning home before next winter a year.

Dr. Thompson was one of the earliest settlers in Concow. His land was later sold to Wm Mullen and was located adjacent Charles Mullen's land, William's father. The property is located on both sides of Concow Road between the Concow campground, which was Charles Mullen's land, and Hoffman Rd.

THE DAILY UNION.

Speech of Mr. Crabb, of San Joaquin.

In the Assembly, upon the Bill authorizing the Treasurer of the State to issue bonds, for the payment of the expenses of the Mariposa, Second El Dorado, Utah, Los Angeles, and Monterey expeditions, against the Indians. Delivered April 13th, 1852.

MR. SPEAKER:—The subject before us is one of great moment to the State, and of deep interest to a vast number of her citizens, and should therefore receive our tranquil attention and unbiassed consideration. The main question presented for our determination is not merely whether the troops employed in the Mariposa, Second El Dorado, Utah, Los Angeles, and Monterey expeditions, and those persons who furnished them with supplies, shall have their claims liquidated by the State; it takes a wider scope and assumes a more exalted character, for we are now to decide whether our State shall be forever disgraced by a refusal to honestly meet her indebtedness, or whether she shall preserve the purity of her plighted faith, and say to her confiding creditors, come on, come all, your claims are just and shall be paid. We, in our legislative capacity, are the umpires in this important crisis—we stand between the State and her citizens; for Heaven's sake, let us with steady hands balance the scales of justice.

Before entering into an examination of the intrinsic merits of the measure under investigation, I wish to address myself briefly to the incidental inquiry concerning the office of Paymaster to these Expeditions. Who is the Paymaster? It is clear there can be but one, and, in my opinion, it is equally clear that he is no other person than Major James Burney, of Mariposa county. Every gentleman in the Assembly, disposed to be just, must arrive at the same conclusion, by a simple perusal of section 4, of the act of March 17, 1851, whereby Major Burney is directly, and in so many words, appointed Paymaster to the troops then employed, or which should be employed, under the provisions of the act. Now, let us reason for a moment upon this fact. The claimants who now prefer their demands, claim that they were called out by the Governor, under the provisions of this act, and this same act appoints their Paymaster, and this Paymaster, by the very act, is Major James Burney, of Mariposa county. Sir, Major Burney, all will concede is an honest man, and a faithful and efficient officer. He has already devoted many months of weary labor, and expended much of his means in the public service, as Paymaster. He has already earned honestly earned, more than all the perquisites of his office will amount to; in the discharge of his duty he has won golden opinions from all sorts of men, and deserves, richly deserves, the meed of praise from every lip, and solid rewards at the hands of the State. Notwithstanding all these things, an attempt is deliberately made to thrust him aside, to abolish his office, the duties of which he has in a great measure already discharged, to deprive him of the official perquisites which rightly belong to him, to legislate him out of office. Not even the shadow of a cause, save that of robbing him for the benefit of the State, has been assigned for this perpetration of a palpable wrong. His only offence, within my knowledge, is his misfortune in being a Whig. Will a Democratic Legislature victimise him on this account? Will they practice "proscription for opinion's sake?" It is to be hoped they will not; if they shall do so, the people will remember, and their indignant rebuke will be visited upon the heads of those who call it down.

With permission of the Assembly, I will now undertake to establish the justness, propriety and correctness of the present demands against the State; and I will endeavor to perform this agreeable task with an eye single to the legitimate objects of equity and right, resting under a solemn conviction of the magnitude of the interests involved. The expeditions in question, were called out by order of the Governor of the State, who is, by virtue of his office, the commander-in-chief of the militia and army of California, and who is authorized and empowered by the Constitution, to call forth the militia to "suppress insurrections and repel invasions." Strictly speaking, it is unnecessary that any statutory enactment should be passed, in order to confer this power and discretion upon the Governor; consequently, in the absence of legislative action, if the Governor, deeming it expedient and necessary, avails himself of his constitutional privilege and orders troops into the field, the honor and faith of the State stands pledged for their maintenance and compensation. An act of the Legislature cannot increase the force of the obligation, but simply serves the auxiliary purpose of prescribing the means and mode of complying with and enforcing the obligation already existing. If it be urged that this constitutional power of the Governor is a *latent* one, and requires a legislative enactment to give it vitality and practical effect, I may safely concede the point, for the sake of argument; for I can readily re-join, that the galvanic application alleged to be essential has been made, and the dormant power has been aroused from its sleeping torpor, and life and vigor have been imparted to its inanimate existence. The act of March 17th, 1851, was the positive pole of the battery through which flowed the electric fluid. I contend, sir, that all of the expeditions in question, except the Utah and Mariposa expeditions, (which were in the field at its passage,) were called out in pursuance of this act, by the Governor of the State, as the dates, phraseology and substance of his orders will plainly evince; the expenses incident thereto, as well as the expenses of the Utah and Mariposa expeditions, should, in consequence, be liquidated by the State, in strict accordance with the provisions of the act.

Doubts, I am well aware, have been entertained, expressed and acted upon—doubts as to whether the act just alluded to was designed to apply to any expedition other than the one then on foot in Mariposa county. If the mind of any gentleman still vibrates in uncertainty, to him I say, "Lend me your ears, give heed to my counsel, and your doubts shall be solved." A firm reliance upon the truth and merit of the cause I advocate, imparts to my breast a cheering confidence in my ability, moderate as it is, to dissipate all doubts, as the rays of the morning sun chase away the mist from the mountain top. Was it intended, by the framers of this act, to confine the benefits and advantages of its operation to one county, or was it designed to shield under its protecting influence, the whole extent of the eastern frontier of the State? We are taught by the constitution that no law shall have more than "one object," and that object shall "be expressed in the title"; and although this famous constitution has divers faults and imperfections yet, so long as it remains unchanged by the people, we must abide by its provisions. What is the title of the act of March 17, 1851? It will be found to be in the following words: "An act authorizing the Governor to call out troops to defend the frontier, and providing for their pay and compensation."

No reference is here made to Mariposa county, or to any other county, but it is simply to the effect that the Governor is authorized to call "out troops to defend our frontier." If information gathered from the title is to be relied upon, we learn that the power of the Governor extended, under the act, to raising volunteers for the protection of the entire frontier of the State, and was not restricted to any particular section or locality. By prosecuting our inquiry a little further, we receive a strong confirmation of this idea, by glancing at the preamble which prefaces the act. It is set forth in the following language: "Whereas our Eastern frontier is now being ravaged by hordes of savages, who are murdering our citizens and destroying property of great value; and whereas the existence of such a state of things demands from us prompt, immediate, and determined action, Therefore" the act was passed. If more convincing evidence is required to establish my position, it will be amply afforded by the Journals of the Legislature of 1851, upon almost every page of which will be found recorded urgent petitions from citizens of nearly every county composing the Eastern frontier, from the Gila river to the Oregon line, imploring protection at the hands of the State, for their lives and property, against the predatory and murderous incursions of the Indian tribes. These same petitions were received by the Legislature, all of them before, and none of them after, the passage of the act; and it is fair to suppose they were the foundation and the producing cause of the act. After this careful canvass of the act, from the title to the final clause—after this intimate acquaintance with its contemporaneous history, can it be said, with even the bare semblance of reason, that it was only intended to apply to the expedition in Mariposa county? I ask gentlemen, where are their doubts now? If truth can find a lodgment in their brain, their hearts must fain acknowledge that their doubts are gone,

"And like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."

[A voice—"My doubts are in the ninth section."] The right honorable gentleman near me has deigned to inform me that his doubts have sought refuge in the ninth and last section of the act. Holding the weapons of truth and reason in my hands, I will pursue them there, and strike them dead with "a word and a blow." Let us read this ambiguous clause, as the conscientious gentleman would have us believe it to be:

"Section 9. This act shall be in force no longer than during the present incursion of the Indians."

Now, sir, he urges that the words "present incursion of the Indians" have reference only to the hostilities which were carried on in Mariposa county then, at the very time of the passage of the act. Ah! how accurate the gentleman would have the credit of being! What wonderful discrimination he has in this instance manifested! Indeed, this effervescence of genius deserves an appropriate reward, and I am sorry that it is not in my power to bestow upon the erudite gentleman a leather medal, with the head of a fox stamped upon one side and the visage of an owl upon the reverse.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, if it was known at San Jose, when this act was passed, that any hostility was actually going on at the precise moment the Governor affixed his signature to it? If the gentleman be correct in his astute construction of the terms "present incursion of the Indians," why, then, I hold that the act was never in force, unless it be proved, with christian regard to veracity, that some painted and feathered red skin was positively engaged in the agreeable pastime of scalping a pale face, or that some other act of hostility was being committed, at the very "nick of time," when the Governor set his hand to the act, and executed the grand and

final flourish of his pen. If horses were stolen, or murder committed, one day or one hour before the signature was affixed, it was a past incursion; if a rancho was fired or a miner butchered one day or one hour after the signature was affixed, it was a future incursion; and the act could not apply to such cases. The deed of hostility must have been perpetrated on the 17th March 1851, and to carry out the gentleman's reasoning, within the hour and minute that the act became a law by the Governor's signature, or the terms "present incursion" could not cover the case. This could not have been ascertained, for telegraphs were not established in the country. Now, Mr. Speaker, how extremely ridiculous does this objection appear! Let us consider the subject seriously. I am grieved, sir, to think that the gentleman should have taken this position; and I would be disposed to regard it as a mere pleasantry on his part, if I had not, with much regret, heard of this objection springing from high official quarters.

Sir, I am informed that the State officers, (State Treasurer and Comptroller,) who compose the Board of Examiners, have positively refused to settle nearly all of these just claims, upon the score of such claims not being contracted in any expedition called out to quell the present incursion" referred to in the 9th section of the act.

Why, Mr. Speaker, I look upon it as a monstrous state of things, that a great and mighty State should call men into her service—that those men should faithfully and bravely perform that service, and when they come forward and hold out their palms, hardened by honest toil, for their pay in depreciated paper, that they should be told that "it was all a mistake; they happened to serve at the wrong time." How shallow is the pretext—how disreputable to the magnificent Empire of the Pacific, is this desperate resort to a flimsy subterfuge to rid herself of an obligation!

Sir, is it just, is it generous, is it honorable in a State, to seek an avoidance of the equitable claims of her citizens, under cover of a mere technical quibble of law, or behind the barrier of a narrow and contracted play upon words? I hope, I ardently hope, sir, that the bright escutcheon of my adopted State will never be tarnished by the foul blot of repudiation—that most deplorable and damning act of outrage and ruin that can be inflicted by the hand of traitors upon the honor and faith of a

noble and magnanimous government. If it should ever be done—if this State should ever break her plighted faith—if she should ever turn her back upon her honest creditors—if she should ever clasp to her breast the dark and loathsome form of Repudiation—if this disgrace should ever befall her, then, in the name of the arch-angel of hell, let the "deed be done" boldly, openly, fearlessly, with defiance on her lip and death in her eye. Let her not, for Heaven's sake, condescend to this unhallowed attempt to avoid the payment of an honest debt, by an unworthy subterfuge and a cavilling doubt. Why, Mr. Speaker, I have some respect for a gallant highwayman, a daring robber, or a bold buccancer, but, in my inmost heart I despise and detest a sneaking pickpocket, a prowling thief, or a skulking burglar; and, therefore, if our State must be degraded and disgraced, I ask that it may be done "with a decent regard for appearances." I implore, sir, as an especial favor to the State, that it may be a "magnificent swindle." I ask this boon for her, sir, in the same spirit that a brave soldier, who is condemned to be hung as a spy, would manifest in imploring that he might be shot and not hanged; shot in his breast, and not in his back; with his eyes unbandaged, his face uncovered, and his hands unbound. Alas! for our State, that she stands not "like Caesar's wife, above suspicion." Would to Heaven that she did occupy that proud position. Let all those who have the honor and good name of our State in their keeping remember the momentous and solemn words of the great Washington, "the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained."

As statesmen and as men of enlarged views, with a comprehensive and equal eye, let us view the subject-matter before us. Did the ninth section alluded to, contemplate the limitation of the act in its operation to a single hostile demonstration of the Indians in a particular locality? Every gentleman conversant with the contemporaneous history of the times, or in the least degree acquainted with the stern and melancholy necessities which brought the act into existence, and the unfortunate state of circumstances it was intended to remedy, must be at once and wholly convinced that it was intended to have no limitation but that of an entire suppression of Indian hostilities along the whole eastern frontier of the State, which was the object for which it was enacted. The term "present incursion" so often unavoidably used by me, bore allusion to the Indian war which was then raging, had been for a long while prevailing, and which continued to be waged without material abatement for a considerable period after all of the expeditions, out of which these claims have sprung, had been constitutionally and legally ordered into the field by the Governor. The act could not have been passed in order to quell a single incursion in the strict and contracted meaning of the word, to suppress a single outbreak, to retaliate for a single night-attack, to punish the firing of a single rancho, to recover a single herd of cattle driven into the mountains, or to wreak vengeance for the slaughter of a single unfortunate family of miners. No sir, its operations were intended to continue, and to cease not until the war was concluded and peace was established. It is known to all that no treaty of peace and amity was ever made with the Indians until a long time had elapsed after the calling out of the troops, for whose compensation and support payment is now demanded. And another thing is equally well known, that all of these expeditions except the Utah and Mariposa expeditions (which were then in the field) were called into service after the passage of the act of March 17th, 1851, as well as before the establishment of peace with the Indians. Again, sir, all of these claims have been submitted to the close and untiring scrutiny and examination of appropriate committees, and they have been carefully considered and evenly weighed, and with very great deductions in their amount (with perhaps rather too much kindness for the State, at the expense of the claimants); the respective committees have reported them back and recommended their speedy and prompt allowance. These claims should be paid to the last farthing. Our delay has already caused much injury to the honest creditors of the State, many of whom are poor, many of whom have freely given their time and labor to the State, many of whom have advanced their money and means for the support of State credit, and some of whom look to their demands against the State as their only staff of support. Under these circumstances, sir, further procrastination would be criminal.

Before taking my seat, I cannot forbear a passing notice of a doctrine, touching this subject, which, to my profound regret, has obtained some prevalence and gained some advocates in the halls of the Legislature. It has been urged in sober and serious earnestness, by a few honorable gentlemen, that all debts contracted by the State in the prosecution of the Indian wars, should be paid by the Federal Government, and not by the State. Sir, it is said by a few discerning politicians, that the State justly owes every dollar of the War Debt, and in the same breath, the creditors, who have served the State and reposed confidence in her equity and honor, are told to seek redress on the other side of the Sierra Nevada, from the Federal Congress. "Oh shame! where is thy blush!" Acknowledge a debt and refuse to pay, with the same inflation of the lungs! Now, sir, is the Federal Government responsible for this war debt? Certainly, but to whom? To the State of California, and not to the employees of the State.

Here is the case. The Federal Government *should* provide for the defence of our frontier—it is not done. The State has the power to employ and muster the militia into service for the purposes of defence. Well, the State has done what she had the power to do, and what the Federal Government should have done, but did not do. There is but one course to be pursued, and that is simple and plain. The State must pay her own soldiers and those who fed and clothed them and gave them arms and ammunition, and the Federal Government must reimburse the State. Sir, the troops ordered out by the Governor looked to the State, and not to the General Government, for their compensation and support; and it is the worst species of ingratitude and dishonesty, on the part of the State, to refuse prompt payment to this peculiar class of creditors, who should be preferred above all others, and who should never be required to ask a second time for what is honestly due them, and what they have so faithfully earned. Will she refuse? My bosom beats with the proud and joyful conviction that my honorable compeers will echo the sentiment that we should at once without stint or delay, "render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's;" and then, sir, when every cent is discharged, when her debt is liquidated, our young giant State may hold up her head among the nations of the earth, with a noble mien and lofty crest, and tremble not for fear of hearing the humiliating cry.

"Pay me that thou owest."

My remarks should now be closed; and prudence and courtesy, perhaps, demand that I should no longer trespass upon the attention, or draw upon the indulgence of the Assembly. But, sir, I must occupy the floor for a few brief moments more. At this stage of the discussion, methinks I hear a mournful wail in the far-off City of the Bay, and sounds of lamentation come to me from that modern Babel, borne upon the humid wings of the wind. What means this strange confusion of plaintive moans? Sir, it ascends from the callous breasts and issues from the croaking throats of the money-changers and stock-jobbers of San Francisco. They cry out with one voice, "If the War debt is paid, we are ruined;" and their smiling and insinuating agents, who like so many vampires flit around the Capitol to prey upon the poor and needy, with a lackadaisical slumber, hiss forth, "If the War debt is paid, we are ruined." Hear the eloquent logic of the scrip brokers who, with exemplary patriotism, keep the "plighted faith of the State" safely locked up in their iron safes, or stored away in their fireproof vaults—they reason admirably: "'Tis true the war was raging; 'tis true the troops were called out; 'tis true they served faithfully; 'tis true they should be paid; and 'tis true the debt is just; but don't you think Uncle Sam had better 'foot the bill'? If the War debt is paid, the State will be impoverished; and if that is done, State scrip will fall, and we, who have innocently purchased large quantities of it within the last three months, instead of making one hundred per cent, on the purchase, will realize but fifty per cent."

It is not strange, sir, that men who are deeply interested—men who worship gold as the God of their idolatry, and bow down only at the burnished shrine of Mammon—should use this heartless argument and unfeeling sophistry; but, wonderful to relate, this specious and hollow doctrine, which springs from the pockets and not from the hearts of men, has found advocates within the four walls of the Legislative Hall. Ay, it is true, that there are men here, who utter this miserable sentiment. They say the State owes the debt, but it would be unwise to pay it, and "to this complexion it has come at last." What! is it not wise to be honest? Sir, one of the ablest jurists of any age has said, with force and truth, "with a nation, as with an individual, honesty is the best policy; or, if it is not the best policy, it is the best morality, which is far better."

I would commend this passage to the careful study of those honorable gentlemen who, by their policy, would benefit a few stock-holders and scrip-jobbers, and to the great loss and detriment of the volunteers who have served the State, and those who, out of their own means, generously furnished them with food and raiment.

Suppose State scrip, upon the payment of the War Debt, should fall to *zero*, (which would not be the result by any means,) is this any reason why the State should sink into disgrace, and yield herself to the degrading embraces of Repudiation? My policy is, to preserve the honor of the State untarnished, at the hazard of bankruptcy.

Daily Alta California July 3 ,1852

MORE INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.—The Indians on Chico creek, Butte county, have recently been committing depredations, stealing stock, &c. On Saturday, Major Bidwell and a company of men started in pursuit of the Indians, who had made for the mountains.—*Journal.*

Shasta Correspondence.

SHASTA, July 2, 1852.

Messrs. Editors:—Last week I sent you an account of the Indians stealing some twenty-five animals from this place. Since then I have learned that those were not all which were taken at that time, the people upon Whiskey Creek, French Gulch, and all that region, having lost nearly all the horses and mules which they possessed. The number driven off at that time was nearer one hundred than the number I first stated.

On Tuesday last a miner at work in a gulch between the Canon and Olney Creek, was killed by the Indians. When found he was lying in his hole, pierced with nine arrows, and his pick driven into his head.

Eight months ago, when I first came into this part of the country, I wrote you many particulars of the difficulties here, and have occasionally sent you an account of a few only of their murders and robberies. I had hoped that enough had been published to secure us here some protection as well as notice; but if we may judge the future by the past and present operations as a guarantee of what we are still to expect, then is our case perfectly hopeless, as there is now a rapid progression from bad to worse; and about the worst part of our case is that our Indian difficulties have become matter for political capital, as the columns of the *Union* and *Democratic State Journal* plainly show.

I do not wish to get into a controversy with any man, and have no desire or cause to find fault with the present Administration, for I am a Whig, a thorough Whig, and I cannot see what possible connection there can be between Whiggery, or the present Administration, and the long neglect under which we have suffered, and when at last noticed, the stupid blundering operations which are the effect of that notice, and now the system of "masterly inactivity" which is sustained. Could I believe that there was any connection between them, I would go as far as any man to cure the evil, by striking at its very roots, and in this I would be joined by nearly every Whig in this region. Divested of partisanship the simple facts of the case are these:

For full three years this section of the State has suffered everything from the Indians. Last fall I was assured by Josiah Roop, Esq. our Postmaster, that he knew of forty-seven men who had been murdered by the Indians in this neighborhood, and since that conversation with Mr. Roop, I can count ten more, making fifty-seven, and within my knowledge they have stolen upwards of two hundred head of horses and mules, besides neat cattle, and other property, which, valued at \$100 per head, amounts to \$20,000, in eight months! Now what has been done by our military authorities to protect us? We have been wholly neglected and unnoticed until within the last three months, since which time a body of troops has been sent up the Sacramento valley as far as the mouth of Cow Creek, and there have built a military post, or adobe fort, and I understand, planted cannon upon it, and there these troops are entrenched, no doubt waiting to be attacked by Digger Indians. At any rate, not a man of them has yet moved from there to redress a single wrong.

What surprises people most is the point chosen for this Fort, being at least *thirty miles* from the nearest hostile Indian, and more than *twenty miles* below the town of Shasta, towards Sacramento City. Now, if Gen. Hitchcock knows anything of the topography of this part of the State, he knows that, for all useful purposes, his troops might as well be at Sutter's Fort as where they are. If he knows what Indians commit these depredations, and in what part of the country they dwell, he knows that they are at least twenty miles from Shasta, upon the opposite side from his Fort, and that the Indians approach the town and its vicinage from the opposite side, and never being nearer his Fort than the point where they commit their depredations. And then again, if Gen. Hitchcock knows anything of the Indians in this country, he knows that the Cow Creek Indians are friendly, seldom or never doing any harm, and that all the harm which is done by Indians is done by those living north and upon Pitt River and its tributaries, and upon the upper Sacramento. In short, if Gen. Hitchcock knows anything about this country he knows that these troops, if for protection, should be placed upon or near to Pitt River, so as to have command of their principal trails, the country below them, and thus hold them in check, which of course he must know, if he knows its topography, with the mountain passes; but if those troops were intended for mere show, or buncombe, then he could not have selected a better point than the one they now occupy. But if Gen. H. does really not know anything about these matters, it is a very easy thing by well directed inquiries, or examination, to learn it all.

These troops have now been fortified at their present point for some weeks, and men have been murdered, property stolen and destroyed, and hay burned, upon Cow Creek, a few miles above them, all by the same Indians, and yet not a movement is made for protection.

Some of the officers being upon Cow Creek, where Wilcox, Norton & Co. were cutting hay, were asked by Mr. Wilcox if, in case they should have any difficulty with the Indians, as they constantly expected, if they could call upon the troops for aid, when these officers replied that they could not possibly render them any assistance, as there were but fifty men of them, and they could not risk themselves.—Comment is unnecessary.

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But Gen Hitchcock informs us that he intends to adhere to his original plan of operations, and that he "refuses to place his troops in a position to witness the proceedings" of the people here in protecting everything themselves. These cases of "indiscriminate slaughter" are rare, and as much deprecated here as by Gen H., and we have no more desire to have his troops witness these things than himself. But what we do desire, is that Gen. Hitchcock will render "such proceedings" unnecessary, by distributing and placing the troops which he should use for our protection so as to secure the end desired. An hundred men properly disposed here in the north, would, in six week's time, render an Indian aggression one of the most uncommon events, and that, too, without using any undue severity. But to accomplish this, Gen H.'s original plan must be abandoned, and his system of "masterly inactivity" cease. Unless something effective is done by the troops, then the people must still avenge themselves, and what may we not expect of men who are compelled to redress their own grievances, where a father, son, brother, or neighbor, has been murdered in cold blood, or where a man, after the toil of years in these inhospitable mountains, far away from his home and friends, has succeeded in accumulating a small property, finds himself stripped of everything, and himself a beggar. Why, the scalp from every Digger in these mountains will not bring the dead to life, nor return to a man his property which has been destroyed, and no wonder the vengeance of the people is sometimes terrible. If there be fault anywhere, it lies at the door of those who have the power, but refuse or neglect to use it for good.

MINER.
