

Butte Democrat

2-9-1861

INDIAN TROUBLES ---The Mendocino Herald
says :

It seems that the Indians in the Vicinity of Round Valley and the country this side of there, are again likely to make a Winter's trouble with the white settlers. Witt, Deputy Sheriff, has just returned from Round Valley, and informs us that the whites have lately had a fight with them, in which eighteen of the Indians were killed; one white man was wounded, but not dangerously. The unusual severity of the Winter has doubtless reduced the Indians to a condition bordering on starvation, and the consequence is, they are committing serious depredations on the stock, great numbers of which range over the Eel river mountains.

Weekly Butte Record

GEO. H. CROSETTE, Editor.

OROVILLE, SATURDAY FEB. 23, 1861.

INDIAN FIGHT.—We are informed that a battle was fought at Dry Creek, in this county, on Saturday last, between a band of Mountain Indians on one side, and the Neal's Ranch Indians on the other. After the killing of one on each side, and the wounding of several others, the mountain Indians retreated, and were pursued some distance by the Neal's ranch party, aided with reinforcements from Chico. The valley Indians, on their return to the battle-ground, took the body of their slain enemy and cut off his arms, legs and head—they then returned to camp, elated with their victory.

Weekly Butte Record 3-9-1861

THE MENDOCINO INDIANS.—The Mendocino Herald's correspondent says: The Yreka tribe are those mostly within the valley, and immediately adjoining in the mountains. They number perhaps five or six hundred; whilst the Tlackers, a more warlike and unfriendly class, range within a scope of country some ten or twelve miles round, and number, perhaps, two thousand or more. They have a great dread of the Reservation, and will not remain on it when taken there, and seem even to take pleasure in killing all kinds of stock whenever the opportunity offers. They are particularly fond of mule meat, which they usually kill in preference to the fatted calf. A few days since, the slaughtered carcasses of horses and mules were found scattered in all directions upon their trail and large quantities of such supplies laid up at their rancherias.

SACRAMENTO DAILY UNION.**INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN CALIFORNIA.**

Debate in the United States Senate, Feb. 19th.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The bill (House of Representatives No. 299) for the payment of expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities in the State of California, is now before the Senate as in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. LATHAM—I ask that the bill be read.

The SECRETARY read the bill. It proposes to appropriate \$400,000, or so much thereof as shall be necessary to defray the expenses incurred by the State of California in the suppression of Indian hostilities therein, in the years 1854, 1855, 1856, 1858 and 1859. The Third Auditor of the Treasury is to be authorized and required to audit the accounts of California for payments for the services of volunteers, and for supplies, transportation, and personal services, furnished or rendered to the volunteers in the Shasta expedition of 1854, in the Siskiyou expedition of 1855, in the Klamath and Humboldt expedition of 1855, in the San Bernardino expedition of 1855, in the Klamath expedition of 1856, in the Modoc expedition of 1856, in the Tulare expedition of 1856, in the Klamath and Humboldt expedition of 1858-9, and in the Pitt river expedition of 1859; but no higher rate is to be allowed or paid for the services of the volunteers than was paid for services in the same grade and for the same time in the United States Army serving in California, nor is any payment to be made for the services of any such volunteers, except for the time during which they shall be shown by satisfactory evidence to have been engaged in actual service in the field.

No allowance is to be made for the services of any person in more than one capacity for the same time; and in auditing the claims for supplies, transportation and personal services, the same are to be computed at prices corresponding, as near as can be ascertained, to the rates paid for similar supplies and transportation furnished or rendered to the United States Army in the same country at the same time; and the Third Auditor, as to all principles not expressly settled by this Act, is to be governed in auditing and settling the claims by the principles adopted in his report upon the claims of the Territories of Washington and Oregon, of the 7th of February, 1860, made in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed the 8th of February, 1859. Whenever, in his opinion, the evidence in support of any claim for services, supplies and transportation is not sufficient to establish such claim, or where he may have doubts as to the genuineness thereof, he is to be authorized to require additional and satisfactory proof touching such claim, or the value of the services rendered or supplies furnished, before reporting such claim for settlement and payment. No payment is to be made for the expenses of any of these expeditions, if the Secretary of War shall be of opinion that there was not a necessity for calling out the troops. The acceptance of the indemnity provided by this enactment is to operate as a final and complete discharge and satisfaction of all claims or matters referred to.

Mr. LATHAM—I will make a very brief statement in relation to this matter. I know very well that there is a great prejudice in this body, and probably very justly, against the payment of the debts of the Indian wars that have been gotten up by the Western States. I will state that, so far as the wars enumerated in this bill are concerned, in no instance, I believe, were they prosecuted without the express sanction of the State authorities of California. Hostilities broke out in different portions of the State; requisitions were made on the commanding officer of your army at San Francisco by Governor Weller and his predecessor, who responded that he had not a sufficient force to protect the settlers from the hostilities of the Indians; and the Governor of the State then, in some cases at his own instance, in others at the instance and by the authority of the Legislature, ordered out volunteers, that the Indians might be punished. The State paid the volunteers, the price of living being high, from thirty to forty or fifty dollars a month; the officers got from seventy-five to one hundred dollars. It was impossible to find men who would enlist, unless this was done. In three different instances the State itself assumed the indebtedness. They found it was going to cost more than the General Government would probably be willing to recognize if the bonds were issued, and therefore they paid the money out of their treasury—over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of this sum. After the other wars were prosecuted, a commission was appointed by an Act of the Legislature to investigate all the claims for purchases and supplies. They underwent the most rigid scrutiny. When they were passed upon, the bonds or certificates of the State were issued as evidences of indebtedness, that the State held itself equitably bound to pay for these wars if the General Government did not assume the debt; and that is its condition before Congress.

This bill has undergone the supervision of the Auditor's Department, and a letter is on file among the papers from the Auditor, stating that no bill could possibly be guarded more than the one under consideration. It reduces the expenses exactly down to what you paid the soldiers of your army; it allows nothing for the transportation of supplies more than you have to give for the transportation of your army supplies; in other words, these expeditions are brought down to the standard that the Government would have had to pay if it had had troops there sufficient to have itself protected the settlers from the invasions and hostilities of the Indians. In addition to this, as a last guard, after the whole bill has undergone the strict rules laid down by the Auditor's office, and adopted in the Oregon war debt, if the Secretary of War, from the evidence before him, is not satisfied that the expeditions were just and proper, and ought to have been undertaken, he is authorized to repudiate the whole. I cannot conceive of a bill more just, more completely guarded, and more proper in all its details.

Mr. COLLAMER—How much is the claim?

Mr. LATHAM—It does not exceed \$400,000.

Mr. KING—The practice which has been considerably extended in the Government, of paying for these Indian wars, is one, in my judgment, calculated to lead to extravagant expenditure. The rule is not what it was at an earlier time, and not what it ought to be. Gentlemen say that this bill is remarkably well guarded; that it could not be better guarded. In my opinion, it could scarcely be less guarded. It is a simple proposition to transfer this matter to the Department to audit and pay whatever accounts are presented here for these expeditions at the rates that were paid to the regular soldiers in California. The suggestion that the Secretary of War may, if he deems these expeditions to have been unnecessary, reject the accounts, gives him no discretion at all. These men went out to kill some Indians. I dare say there may have been Indian depredations, but it is now five or six years since they occurred, and there should be some guard against the allowance of extravagant accounts. It seems to me that the proper course would be, whenever any depredations occur for the State authorities to call on the Federal Government, or its army officers in the vicinity; and if the Federal troops cannot go to the place where they are needed, then, under some general sanction, the State must turn out and defend itself. It seems to me that the proper mode of presenting these accounts would be to send them here, to let us see what they are, and let Congress pass upon the amount, instead of transferring that to some board or officer of the Treasury Department. There were claims to the amount of \$7,000,000 presented for the Oregon and Washington Indian war. When the accounts came to be examined, there were found to be charges of the most enormous character; in some instances men claimed to be paid for service in two or three different capacities at the same time.

The sums claimed for expenses of this kind are enormous. Some four or five years ago the State of California, I believe, had over nine hundred thousand dollars paid to her for similar claims. I know that when General Wool was upon the western border, he stated that there was no occasion whatever for the State authorities to interfere; that the Federal troops were ample for all purposes of defense, if they had been called upon; but that there was a desire for these military excursions and enterprises on the part of the population; and that they were got up quite as much for speculative purposes and for frolic as for anything else. Now, here is an account from California, beginning with 1854 or 1855, going on for some five or six years—a regular account, as if it was the business of the State to make these expenditures on its own discretion, without consultation with our officers, as if all it had to do was to spend what it pleased, and bring in its account in the end for us to settle. Many of these cases lie along in this way for four or five years, until the claims which exist on the part of the soldiers, the parties who performed the services, pass into the hands of brokers and capitalists, and they get about here in the hands of agents at not much more than ten cents on the dollar, until an influence of that kind is created sufficiently strong to get up a bill for three or four or five hundred thousand dollars, or two or three million, and then there is a force about the Capitol here to press it through. Very little of the money, in many instances, goes to the parties themselves. I do not know anything about the condition of these claims; I do not know in whose hands they are. Some of them are in the hands of the State, I suppose; others may be in the hands of the parties who rendered the service; but the whole system, in my judgment, is not entitled to the sanction of Congress.

I opposed this bill in the Committee on these general grounds, and I will not vote for these large appropriations of three or four hundred thousand, or two or three million dollars, without some knowledge of the case. I am not satisfied with a mere guard in the bill that it shall be referred to somebody whom we do not know, to judge of these matters, and who conclude that the action of Congress passes upon the

principle. That is generally the ground on which these public officers act. They say, "you have directed me to pay; you have determined that this is a debt, a liability to be paid; and all I have to do is to ascertain the amount." Thus it is, by the division of responsibility, that sums are taken from the Treasury; and we all know how, within the past four or five years, the Treasury has been emptied, almost bankrupted, by this sort of proceeding, by loose officers and loose commissions.

For these general reasons—not because I know much about these particular claims, but because I do not know that they are due, and ought to be paid—I shall vote against the bill.

Mr. BAKER—Mr. President—

Mr. LATHAM—Will the Senator from Oregon allow me one word? I just wish to say, that the Senator from New York, in the objection he has made here, is a little mistaken as to the acts. The State of California, by her representatives, has been here every year, from the time this indebtedness was created up to this time, asking Congress to pay it. There has been no delay whatever. So far from these claims going into the hands of speculators, I will say that nearly one-half the whole sum is in the hands of the State of California, and for the rest the State has issued her certificates of indebtedness.

Mr. BAKER—Mr. President, there is nobody who listens to the Senator from New York with more pleasure than I do, when he talks about what he does understand, or what he tries to understand; but there is nobody who listens to him with more impatience than myself when I hear him talking on a subject upon which he is happily and profoundly ignorant. It is the easiest thing in the world for a man to enjoy himself in the luxury of a seat in the Senate of the United States, representing the great city of New York, and talk disparagingly of our Indian war debts; and if I now, for about ten minutes—

Mr. LATHAM—The bill will be ruled out in ten minutes.

Mr. BAKER—Well, five; will that do? If I now, for five minutes, say a few words, I want to tell him why I feel a deep concern in this question. Within four months, or a little more, from this day, forty-five men, women and children were murdered by the Snakes, the Nez Percés and the Shoshones, on the Oregon frontier, the men murdered, the women violated, the children burned at the stake; and that state of facts impels me now to answer some of the insinuations which the distinguished Senator has chosen to make. Now, I begin. He says these Indian wars are not authorized. Who is to authorize them? A tribe breaks out and massacres our people; and we seize arms, as best we can, and defend our frontier, until we have a chance to send, sometimes a thousand miles, for regular troops, who do not do much when they get there to defend us; and who is to pay the expense of that war? You are bound to do it by your Constitution, your law and your

custom. What answer is there to that view, upon which these debts are always paid, made by the Senator from New York? He says, here is the Oregon war debt. What has that got to do with this? He says there were \$7,000,000 claimed in that case. No such thing. It is true that a Commission appointed by this Federal Government, composed, a majority of it at least, of officers in the Army, high in rank, and higher in the trust and confidence of the Executive, did report that the Oregon war, just in its expenditure, had cost the people of Oregon, lawfully and properly, \$6,000,000, and that they recommended the payment of that sum. It is true that the Secretary of War indorsed that recommendation, and asked Congress to pay the money. It is true that we have been knocking at these doors ever since that day; and that at last the Senate, at the last session, scaled the debt arbitrarily down to \$3,400,000. They sent that bill to the House of Representatives, and the House scales it down to \$2,200,000; and now it trembles in the balance of that injustice, to-morrow morning, whether it shall pass at all. If it does pass, it is a poor, miserable pittance, which we will indignantly reject.

Now for this California war debt. We are on the frontier, children of dispersion, far away from you and your civilization, and your modes of defense. We depend upon the imperfect operation of regular troops upon fields where they are not fit to operate, in mountainous countries where supplies are almost unattainable, and where the savage upon the frontier strikes as and when you least expect him. This debt was contracted in defense of the lives and property of our people, upon such a frontier as that. Are we to be told, almost sneeringly, that we have waited five years, and ought not to be paid at all? More shame to those who caused us to wait. Sir, some of us at least, from the Pacific coast, acknowledge that there are great demands made by the frontier upon the central civilized portions of the country. I, at least, as one of their representatives, am willing to vote that my own people shall bear all their proportion of these legitimate burdens. I come here and vote for the highest tax on iron, on coffee, on tea, and on sugar. I will vote \$15,000,000 for a navy; I will vote \$15,000,000 for an army; I will vote millions for a coast survey; I will vote all that gentlemen from New York, or Pennsylvania, or Ohio, or Indiana, or Illinois, ask me to vote, for the common defense and the general welfare. I do it on the recommendation of Committees; I do it according to the custom of the House and the Senate; I do it loyally, full of devotion to the whole Union. I would despise myself if I were to sneer, "to hint a fault and hesitate dislike," because here \$1,000,000 and there \$2,000,000 were to be spent which, locally, would not benefit my people.

Sir, not interested more than any other Senator for this peculiar bill, I am willing to vote for it. I have lived there; I have seen something of frontier service; I know the exposure, the privation, the dread, the doubt, the difficulty, the danger, the bloodshed, the massacre, amid which we have fertilized the wilderness, and made it "bloom and blossom like the rose," and if, sometimes that fertility is increased by the hearts' blood of our women and our children that is a poor reason why, after five years' delay, we are to be scaled, diminished, decreased, belittled, demeaned, and then, not only our just debt disputed, but our motives impugned, when we come here to ask it.

I claim for California to-day, as I should, if I could be heard before the other house to-morrow, for Oregon, the just payment of a just debt long delayed, none the less just for that; and I shall call for it day by day and year by year as long as my people place me here, or until they shall send a better man.

Mr. KING—I should certainly be disposed to vote all that I deemed was due to these men, and at a fair, liberal compensation for the services they had rendered that were necessary. It is the business of the country to defend the frontier settlements, and it is for that purpose we have a standing army, and chiefly for that purpose. We have had reports and disputes in relation to the propriety of calling out the militia for this purpose; and we have had statements from our commander on the Pacific, Gen. Wool, a capable and admirable officer, when he was upon that frontier, that many of these expeditions were unnecessary, and that it would have been better to leave the defense of the settlement to the regular troops, large numbers of which were there for the purpose.

The gentleman makes a very eloquent and feeling description of the murder of women and children. Why, Mr. President, we all listen to that with sadness, but shall their neighbors, shall those who live in that quarter, come here, and, because a portion of their people have been butchered by the savages, undertake to make a speculation out of this Government, and wring from our sympathies for this sad destruction, money from the Treasury of the United States, to pass into the hands of the people who were not killed by the Indians, and who were neither women or children? That is another view of this matter. Perhaps we should do something for the families that suffered. I do not know but that I would extend my sympathy for them in the way of liberality, by doing something for them; but the persons who have these claims against the Government are not even those who reside in those remote quarters. Very nearly the whole amount of these claims stand here until they have passed into the hands of brokers perhaps in the very city of New York that the Senator talks of, because I think there are no set of men in the world who are sharper, and keener for speculation. They speculate on almost anything, and I should not be surprised if a large portion of these war claims were now owned by brokers in the city of New York. I represent that State in part, and am desirous that they shall have what is due them, as I am willing that all persons, in all parts of the country, shall have what is due to them. But I have believed that though, while these claims are in the hands of remote settlers they are not brought here to be liquidated and settled by the Department, yet, when they pass into the hands of millionaires—

Mr. BAKER—Will the Senator from New York allow me to state a fact?

Mr. KING—Certainly.

Mr. BAKER—I have heard that before, and had occasion to look into it. Now, I state upon my responsibility here, that, in my best judgment, there is not to-day twelve per cent. of the entire Oregon war debt owned anywhere else than by the people of Oregon themselves; and what I say of that debt I believe, though I do not state it so positively, to be substantially true about the little appropriation that is now asked for. The Oregon war debt is scattered in every valley and upon every hillside in Oregon; and it passes from hand to hand in payment in the trade that we make in Oregon, and does not get out of its borders even now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—It is again incumbent on the Chair, under the rule of the Senate, to arrest the further consideration of this bill, and call up for consideration a bill assigned as a special order for this hour—one o'clock to-day. It is the unfinished business of yesterday, the joint resolution (Senate No. 54) proposing certain amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and that resolution is before the Senate for consideration.

Mr. LATHAM—I move temporarily to postpone the special order, so that we can go on and finish this bill. We can finish it in fifteen minutes. The discussion is nearly all over, and we can vote at once. I therefore move to postpone the special order temporarily, in order that we may finish this bill. I hope the Senator from Maine will allow that to be done.

Mr. FESSENDEN—If Senators are about to proceed to vote on this bill, I shall not object to passing over the special order for a few moments temporarily.

Mr. LATHAM—I believe no one else wishes to speak.

Mr. KING—I have no disposition to extend the discussion of this matter. I have stated my objections to the bill, as I proposed to do, and desire to vote against it. I have no disposition to talk about it further. I shall vote against it; let others vote as they please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—If there be no objection, the special order will be passed over informally, and for the time being.

Mr. HALE—I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—Then it requires a specific motion.

Mr. LATHAM—I move to suspend the special order for fifteen minutes.

Mr. GWIN—I hope the special order will go over to one o'clock to-morrow. The Senator from Oregon (Mr. Lane) has the floor on it, and he does not wish to speak to-day.

Mr. KING—If a vote cannot be taken on it, this bill had better go over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—Does the Senator from California make a motion to postpone the consideration of the special order until one o'clock to-morrow?

Mr. GWIN—Yes, sir.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The Senator from California moves to postpone the consideration of this bill, and make it a special order—

Mr. LATHAM—The Indian War Debt Bill?

Mr. GWIN—No, sir; but the joint resolution announced by the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The joint resolution which is the special order before the Senate.

The motion to postpone was agreed to.

Several SENATORS—Let us vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The question is on the California War Debt Bill.

Mr. FESSENDEN—I will let it go on for a few minutes.

Mr. LATHAM—It will be through in ten or fifteen minutes.

Mr. GRIMES—I shall not stay here if—

Mr. PEARCE—Mr. President—

Mr. FESSENDEN—My friends on this side object to my giving way, and I cannot do it. Let this bill go over.

Mr. LATHAM—There is to be no more discussion.

Mr. KING—It had better go over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The Chair recognized the Senator from Maryland.

Mr. PEARCE—I submit an amendment to come in at the end of the first section of this bill.

Several SENATORS—What bill is before us?

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The special order having been postponed, the California War Debt Bill is now before the Senate.

Mr. FESSENDEN—I move to postpone it until half past twelve o'clock to-morrow, and make it the special order for that time, for the purpose of taking up now the Civil Appropriation Bill.

[The bill subsequently passed.—Eds. UNION.]

The Late News—Commencement of Civil War.

The last Pony Express brings intelligence of a fearful character—of what all good men and the true friends of the Union have been vainly endeavoring to prevent—what has a thousand times been predicted would be the result of sectional and fanatical supremacy—civil war. It has come at last; but when it will end—what will be the ultimate effect, the Infinite, in his wisdom, alone knows. The bare idea is sufficient to make the heart of the patriot despond, and humanity itself weep.

The news is the more astounding from the fact that for some time past the Pony has been bringing us intelligence of the intension of the Administration to order the evacuation of Fort Sumpter. By this, the public were induced to believe that there might be a peaceful solution of the question upon which hung the destinies of the Republic. It was fondly hoped that the border States, which were using every means to effect a satisfactory compromise would be successful in their efforts. But in the midst of these happy anticipations, the sky of hope was suddenly overcast. For the first time, since its advent, the policy of the new Administration was openly and explicitly avowed. It was a determination, under the flimsy and transparent excuse of "protecting the property of the Government," to subject the confederate States to military coercion, or in other words whip them into submission. The avowal of that unwise determination, has, coupled with the extraordinary military and naval preparations which the Administration have of late been making, compelled the confederate States, in their opinion, as an act of self-defense to resort to extreme measures, the attack upon, and the capture of Fort Sumpter. If their acts are to be deprecated, which we admit, much more so are those of the Republican Administration which is the immediate cause of the collision. Had were

Butte Democrat 4-27-1861

not that Administration been more solicitous for the preservation of the Chicago platform, than the Constitution, of their party, than the Union—had they listened to the wise counsels of Crittenden and Breckinridge and Douglas, and met them half-way in a spirit of patriotic compromise, the evils and horrors of a civil war might have been avoided. As it is, it behooves the friends of those great leaders in this State to unite their strength, and put forth all their energies and influence, in the endeavor to stay the fratricidal strife in the Atlantic States, or at any rate to prevent the dangers of a like commotion on the shores of the Pacific. Composed as the population of this State is, of representatives from all parts of the Confederacy, East, West, North and South, and still possessing warm feelings of attachment for their native States, as well as every variety of political opinion, California should as a matter of imperative necessity and self-preservation, if the war of sections in the Atlantic States continues, preserve strict and inviolate neutrality between the contending parties.

The people of this State are warmly attached to the Union—that Union which their fathers formed; but they have the good sense to know, and the honesty and manhood to declare, that it cannot be preserved by war—that it can only be effected by conciliation, mutual concession and compromise. All attempts, therefore, of Republican politicians to enlist them in favor of such an inhuman and suicidal measure, under the miserable pretext of "putting down rebellion, will, we feel well assured, be treated with merited derision and contempt.

Butte Democrat

9-14-1861

ANOTHER INDIAN OUTFRAGE.—Yesterday, Mr. Ball informs us, that a man by the name of McCarty was cruelly murdered by Indians, on the new Jelly road, leading from Battle Creek to Shingletown, twenty miles from Red Bluff. He was driving his wagon loaded with lumber at the time. When Mr. Ball passed the team was standing in the road undisturbed; and he passed on, thinking that McCarty was not far out of the way. Later, Mr. Tift happened to pass the same place, and saw the team still standing, and on looking around saw some arrows. A further search showed that the body had been dragged to the brush about 100 yards from the road, and had been pierced with arrows, buckshot, and a ball through the head. The deceased leaves a wife and family to lament his untimely end.—*Red Bluff Independent.*

Butte Democrat 9-14-1861

ROGUE RIVER INDIANS.—A large number of these Indians have left the reservation and gone to their old haunts in the South, insisting on being reinstated in possession of their lands in Jackson county.

Butte Democrat

9-21-1861

MURDER BY INDIANS.—On Sunday last, McCarthy, a worthy and inoffensive citizen, engaged in the business of teaming, was murdered on the road between Red Bluff and Shingletown. The Indians attacked him beside his wagon, and ran him full half a mile. They pierced his body with innumerable arrows, and consummated their hellish purpose by shooting him through the head with a rifle. It is supposed the Indians were very numerous, as all the shots were found in the back of the deceased. After life was extinct, they dragged him full one hundred yards, and stripped him of all wearing apparel. McCarthy owned the team and was a married man, leaving a wife and two children. The body was found and interred by W. W. Smith, on Monday last.—*Shasta Courier, September 14th.*

SACRAMENTO DAILY UNION.

9-25-1861

YREKA, Sept. 24th.

Last night a party of Modoc Indians attacked the Shastas in this vicinity, killing one of the Shastas, known as Oleman, and three squaws. Oleman was a great friend of the whites, very old and grayhaired. The cause seems to have been revenge for an old quarrel last Spring, in which Oleman had killed three or four Indians of the Modoc tribe for stealing his gun. The Modocs made a complete job by shooting seven rifle balls through the old chief.

10-19-1861

THE BUTTE DEMOCRAT.

A. N. WYMAN,.....EDITOR

OROVILLE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Postmaster of this town gives notice in another column that he is now prepared to exchange postage stamps of the new emission for old ones. After the expiration of six days, letters left in the office, having on them the old stamps will not be forwarded to their places of destination. By a new regulation of the Department, Postmasters are not allowed to receive money for postage of letters. They must have a government stamp upon them.

KIDNAPPING.—Three men, giving their names as Laurie Johnson, *alias* Lewis, James Wood and James Freak, were arrested a few days since, near the tules in Colusa county having in their charge five Indian children, whom they were endeavoring to sell, and taken to Yuba City. It appears that these individuals had previously sold four of their stock in trade. The children, it is supposed, were kidnapped in Humboldt county, and the kidnappers have been sent to that county for trial.

Butte Democrat

10-26-1861

INDIAN FIGHT.—A dispatch from Tehama, on Monday says:

Mr. Clark, special Indian Agent, arrived from Nome Lackee to-day. He says information received to-day by Mr. Short, an employee of Nome Cult Indian farm, that the settlers of Round Valley had a battle about 8 miles northwest of Nome Cult farm, with a band of Indians and Mexicans, who had stolen stock from the Valley. They killed about one hundred and eight Indians and two or three Spaniards. They found twenty eight horses and a large lot of hogs. None of the white men were injured. None of the reservation Indians were engaged in the robbery.

FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

On the Road.

I much do fear me that some of your readers may set me down as somewhat of a specimen of the genus highwayman, as they notice, from time to time, my letters to your paper headed with the above dubious title. If any such there be, I would inform them that I am tolerably peaceable, inclined to be honest, when the temptation is not too strong to be dishonest; but, like all other of the human kind, have my price, though there must be an awful lot of 000s at the end of it.

I am very sorry to inform you that the noble gray steed, usually the favorite companion of my journeyings, and of whom those favored mortals who take the INDEPENDENT regularly, have read somewhat, did not accompany me on this trip. Neither was I, like brother "Caxton," favored with break-neck rides down perpendicular mountain sides, with nothing to console me but the blessed recollection that an immortal old white "mail-keg," with the philosophic cranium inside of it, was banged and bumped through the same scenes years before. Our party was small, but choice; consisting of a jolly doctor—(all doctors are generally so, unless the season is too healthy)—a returned silver-miner, four bottles of whisky, and myself. Our course lay up Thomes' Creek, towards the snow crowned giants of the Const Range. Our worthy M. D. led off, in a buggy that was sufficiently wide enough for two to be uncomfortable in, and whose wheels seemed each to be performing a private rattlesnake jig, as they turned round on their axis. Close following came the returned silver-miner, the whisky, and myself, in a light spring wagon, drawn by a splendid little team of four year olds, the property of that whole-souled gentleman, Col. E. J. Lewis. As we proceeded up the creek, we found abundant proof that the waters had been up and doing in this part of the county, as well as in others. Fences swept away; whole acres of the road ditto; thriving orchards and nurseries totally destroyed, and stock drowned, seems to have been some of the mischief occasioned in this section. There also appears to have been a great mortality among stock this season, either from drowning or famine, as most of the fences in this section are lined with their hides.

Sunset found us approaching the old ford of Thomes' Creek, in the neighborhood of what was called the South Station, in the palmy days, when Nome Lackee Reservation was one of Uncle Sam's peculiar pets, and lorded it amid the foot-hills right royally. Alas! those good old days have passed away, and nothing but a few crumbling adobes, and here and there the sickly flutterings of some venerable Digger's more venerable blanket, present a tombstone remembrance of its faded glories. Among the foot-hills and adown their slopes the wild oats are now sending their green and slender blades up from the moistened soil, of which none richer boasts the State. The horned beast fadders where the white man plowed; and filthy Indians stalk, in all the majesty of idiocy, where erst the jolly Agent and his merry men quaffed deep the jovial cup. *Vale, Nome Lackee!*

Arriving at the ford, we found the water much deeper than we expected. Having tried it with a horse, we held a consultation on the wisdom of crossing there and then. Believing in the old adage, that "in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom," we called in our friend whisky. His arguments, though potent, failed for once to be convincing and we diverged from our path to the ranch of Mr. Wm. Henley, who lives a little off from the Reserve lands. Mr. Henley received us with a hospitality that is always charming; but most especially so, when displayed towards three hungry, tired travelers. The contents of his barn and larder were placed at the disposal of our animals and ourselves. A merry party assembled around the blazing fire-place in his sitting-room, after supper, and many a tough and humorous yarn beguiled the hours until bed time. Some of those yarns will bear repeating, especially two of them, perpetrated by our waggish companion, the Doctor. As, in the course of the evening, the conversation touched upon the late freshet, our friend proceeded to relate some of his high-water experiences. "During a rise in Humboldt county," said he, "in the vicinity of the town of Union, I distinctly remember that a family of hogs were caught by the flood, when they all swam to a tree, and the little ones actually clomb up it ten feet, and hung themselves 'outo' the branches by their fore-foot." (These may not be the exact words of the worthy gentleman; but the facts are as he related them.) Humboldt is a great county, no doubt, and withal a pleasant place to live in; but, alas! there are mosquitoes there, and huge ones, too—at least, our anecdotal friend, who has been there, informed us that they congregate on cattle so thickly that it is impossible to tell the color of the animals. But, perhaps, these may be nothing but traveling yarns, after all.

Early next morning, we bade adieu to our kind host and family, and started again for the ford. The wagon, in which I was, started across first, and after its contents, animate and inanimate, had received a wetting, more cold than agreeable, succeeded in "doing the riddle." Our friend, the mosquito celebrity, had, however, to leave his buggy and cross on horse-back. Five miles further traveling brought us to the pretty little ranch of Mr. Garland better known to the citizens of the lower portion of the county as Enoch. (By the way, speaking of him puts me in mind that he claims to have run against President Lincoln for constable, once upon a time, away back in Illinois, and beat him, too.) Being old Themansians, of course we met with a right hearty welcome from the old gentleman and his amiable lady. They have a very nice little place of it, nested up there among the hills; and the numerous cottonwood and other trees clustered around their dwelling, evince the good taste with which they are cultivating it. The soil is rich, water plenty and handy, and, with good luck, they will have a beautiful homestead in a few years.

Our return trip was devoid of incident; and we reached home all right. So endeth my journey, and this letter.

HUBBELL.

Rancho de las Flores, Dec. 18, 1861.

Butte Democrat 12-28-1861

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY INDIANS.—At the request of Gov. Downey, Gen. Wright is about to send a body of troops to Humboldt county to aid the settlers in their struggle with the Indians. Gen. Wright says in his letter: I design to create a District, giving the commander whom I shall send there full powers over the garrisons in that portion of the State. I trust that these arrangements will afford ample protection to the people. Should it be found necessary, I will also send an additional company to the settlements in Long Valley.
