

Our Indian Relations.

When the eastern tribes of Indians had become surrounded by the white population, and not only the desire of possessing their lands, but also their independent systems of government, made it necessary, as it was urged, that they should be removed beyond the borders of the respective States in which they had become a government independent of, if not antagonistic to the surrounding State, they were accordingly removed, and now beyond, or rather we should say on this side of the Mississippi, are almost ready to ask for admission as a State into the Union.

It was fortunate that the eastern states had a kind of Van Dieman's land on the western side of the great river where they could transport these poor red children of the forest. It is not so, however, with California. If we drive the poor Indian from his old hunting grounds, and break up his fisheries, and cut down his acorn orchards, and burn up his grass seeds, and drive him from his old haunts which the god of nature has given him, it is to the mountains and starvation that we drive him.

We have been led to a short consideration of this subject by two facts: one of which is the communication of Mr. Adam Johnston to the Governor, upon the Indian difficulties at Mariposa, and the other is the presence here of the U. S. Commissioners for California. Mr. Johnston's report is the same in every particular as that which we published on the 3d inst. over the signature of "Arpad," with the single exception of the closing sentence, in which he calls upon the Governor for aid, in other words for troops to destroy the Indian tribes.

It is sincerely hoped that the new Governor and Legislature will not act hastily in this matter and grant the request. Should the State send out troops it can only serve to defeat the object of the U. States by preventing the settlement of difficulties and the pacification of the Indians. For if war is once fairly commenced, it will probably be pursued to the annihilation of the Indians. No one of human feelings can advocate such a course. The Indians have a right to a portion of the soil, a better right than we have to the whole of it. And if we deprive them of that we must afford them the means of sustenance in some other way. This brings us to the second point.

The Indian Commission is now complete and ready to proceed upon its duties. We announced the arrival of Col. McKee and Dr. Wozencraft a week or two since, and Col. Barbour came by the last steamer. They are men fully impressed with the importance of their mission, fully competent, and possessing ample powers from the government. We hope that our Governor and Legisla-

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But they do not wish to approach the Indians in a hostile manner. Their object is to gain their confidence. They intend to deal liberally and justly. They have suitable goods for presents, and can draw for whatever funds are necessary. To take with them a body of troops would only defeat their object. They will therefore proceed, in a day or two, to San José, where they can confer with gentlemen from all parts of the State concerning the object of their mission and the best methods of effecting it. Under these circumstances it is hoped that the Legislature and Governor will not act hastily and grant the troops asked for by Mr. Johnston, especially as he is but a sub-agent, and has undoubtedly ere this heard of the presence here and readiness of the Commissioners to enter upon their duties. Peaceable measures are certainly by far preferable to the law of force. May they in this question be the only ones used or required.