

TREATMENT OF INDIANS.

It seems to us, that the policy pursued by our people in the treatment of the various Indian tribes of the country, is, in many respects, but little superior to that of the natives towards us. It is true that they sometimes barbarously murder our citizens, but cannot they make the same charges against the whites? There are villains among us who care but little more for the life of an Indian than that of a chicken; and yet, it is too often the case that for murdering such a character a whole tribe of Indians are held responsible. We sell them spirituous and inflammable liquors; we drive them about at caprice or will, however unreasonable, and after ingrafting every conceivable vice in their untutored minds, if one of their number, returns upon us or any of our citizens, the product of our own planting, relations and friends indiscriminately take revenge, while Government and the military are called upon to redress the wrong. They are told that Government desires their happiness and reformation, while the practices of individuals and sometimes even of Government agents give the direct lie to all such protestations. They are told that we are a Christian people, while experience teaches them that the most abandoned vices are not only practiced among ourselves, but also toward them.

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Where should lessons of morality and of humanity originate, if not among our own people? A very few instances of annual payments and of colonization schemes are on record, quite enough, it is true, if other dealings and individual examples were not stronger in their influences against them. Natives act from the uncultivated prejudices of their nature, and not from enlightened principle; and when their daily intercourse with our people is unfavorable to virtue and honesty, they lose sight of the moral teachings of theoretical principle. Considering the fact that our people will not be careful in this respect, it is difficult to suggest a remedy, while we are of the opinion, that the whites are more to blame than the Indians, for the many depredations that are committed by the latter.

We have laws forbidding the sale of liquor to natives, but how little these laws are observed can be seen by their frequent drunkenness and intoxication. Should not Legislative enactments be rendered more strict concerning the sale or distribution of liquors? The penalty should be increased, and, if possible, more specifically stated. Even when all this is done, there can be no law established that will reach the practices of individual degeneracy and criminality. These must stand against us; and be it said to our disgrace, if in consequence of such examples, their wild nature becomes uncontrollable thro' persuasive means, we must resort to weapons and usages peculiarly their own—those of brutal force! In the

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Yreka Chronicle.

"Treatment of Indians."
Red Bluff Beacon,
January 12, 1859: p. 1, col. 6.

Red Bluff Beacon.

Vol. 2. RED BLUFF, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, 1859. NO. 43.