

"Our Indian" Article of Last Week.

In our issue of last week we took occasion to comment upon the "Indian fight at Bald Mountain," and in doing so, we claimed any intention to charge any particular officer or man as responsible for the escape of the Indians at that time; and if in the remarks we then made anything was misstated, and in consequence any feel themselves aggrieved, we will assure such that they shall always have an opportunity to set themselves right in our columns, only requesting that they shall point out in what respect we have misstated the facts and wherein we have done injustice.

We give to our readers a letter received from Capt. Ousley, upon this subject, preferring to do so rather than to attempt giving the facts contained in it clothed in our own language.

FORT GASTON, CALIFORNIA,
January 11th, 1864.

Mr. J. E. WYMAN—Dear Sir:—In the Times of the 9th inst., I find an article in regard to the Indian fight near Bald Mountain. Some things in the article above referred to, were true and some were not. I will now give you a few facts concerning the affair above spoken of.

I left this Post at half past eight o'clock on the evening of the 25th of December with fifteen men (with Surgeon Phelps) to reinforce Lieut. Middleton. I arrived at the Digger Ranch on the following morning about sunrise and not finding Lieut. Middleton or any of his command, and not knowing where he had gone, I fell back a short distance and remained quiet until about 11 o'clock, A. M. when I was joined by Lieut. Beckwith with a detachment of twenty-four men of Co. A, C. M., and Lieut. Hale with fifteen men of Co. B, with the howitzer. The Lieutenants informed me they had seen Indians on the road, which fact induced me to make the attack immediately, instead of waiting till the next morning, so that I might have a whole day for it—because I was confident that as soon as the Indians learned of the approach of the howitzer they would leave their position. So we took position; and the first shot was fired about half past twelve o'clock A. M. Lieut. Beckwith on the right with twenty-four men; Lieut. Hale on the centre with twenty men, and ten men with the howitzer on the left, making a total of fifty-four men. By 4 o'clock P. M. the ammunition for the howitzer was all exhausted. We had no axes, crowbars, or anything with which we could successfully charge the houses, without which the attempt would have been more than madness.

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About 5 o'clock p. m. ten of Lieut. Middleton's men arrived from camp at Bald Mountain.

As for who was to blame and who responsible, if any one is, why I am responsible. There was one way to keep them from escaping, that was to charge the houses; and that was the only way, as there was a lagoon surrounded and interspersed with tall grass, within thirty feet of the houses, through which they might have crept unobserved entirely.

Take the facts from the above, and say for me that I alone am responsible for what occurred, be it good or bad, for I have no apologies to make.

'Tis true I feel as much interest in the county as anybody else, and of course I cannot blame the citizens for feeling anxious for the welfare of our county, and yet I believe I have been censured every time I have found the Indians; and as often I have tried to do my duty faithfully. I report to my superior officers and in every instance they have justified my actions, and that alone leaves me a clear conscience.

I should like very much to satisfy everybody; but what I think is my duty I will do at all hazards, and people may say what they please, it will have no weight on my actions.

Very respectfully,

Your ob'l servant,

GEORGE W. OUSLEY,

Capt. Command'g Co. B, 1st B. Al. C. V.

"Our Indian Article Last Week"
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