

INDIANS, AND THE RESERVATION SYSTEM.— Copying some remarks from this paper of a few weeks since wherein it was stated that many of the Indians sent to the Round Valley Reservation had returned to their old haunts, the Humboldt *Journal* says:

When Superintendent Malthy was on his visit to the Hoopa Reservation, last Fall, it was represented to him by many of our best informed and most respectable citizens, that to remove Diggers from Humboldt, Klamath and Trinity counties to a Reservation in the adjoining county of Mendocino, was simply again setting them loose upon the community. The result, as everybody predicted, is that more than one half of the Indians, which cost several years of labor and hundreds of thousands of dollars to catch and gather up, are now again roaming the hills, having returned to their old haunts. These Indians were sent to the Round Valley Reservation for safe keeping, and that they might not again commit their depredations in this and the upper adjoining counties. Now just think of the absurdity of attempting to keep wild Digger Indians on a Reservation, without any species of restraint, within from seventy to one hundred and fifty miles only of their old homes, and every mountain trail between their old haunts and that Reservation known as well and familiarly to each of them as the streets of a city to its denizens. Is it to be wondered at, that full one-half of the 450 Indian prisoners lately removed from Fort Humboldt to Round Valley have left that Reservation and are again living and hunting about their old homes. Certainly not. Everybody that knows anything of the character and nature of a Digger, knows that next to his love of theft and murder, is his great attachment to his ranch and usual haunts, and

and hunting about their old homes. Certainly not. Everybody that knows anything of the character and nature of a Digger, knows that next to his love of theft and murder, is his great attachment to his ranch and usual haunts, and if it is desired to prevent the one by separation from the other, he must be removed entirely out of the range of the former scenes of his villainies—beyond the probability of even Indian sagacity, unaided, discovering the return road—at least a thousand miles."

The *Journal* finally concludes that the Indian Reservations in this section of the State, so far as being of any benefit, or a safe and certain place of deposit for bad Indians, are simply humbugs. Years of experience prompts us to utter a sorrowful "amén" to the assertion.

We desire to call attention to this matter because Spring is approaching, and from present appearances most of the Indians gathered up last year and the year previous, at a great expense to the Government, will be again scattered through the mountains as soon as the snow is gone. That many of those taken from this county had returned before winter set in, is known to all our citizens. They were put on a Reservation but not kept there, consequently the Reservation system is pronounced a humbug by all. If the proper authorities do not inquire into this matter and adopt some remedy, another Indian campaign will be an inevitable necessity.

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