

Martial Law in Round Valley.

We are in receipt of a pamphlet issued from the *Herald* office, Ukiah City, which gives a succinct history as to the causes which led Gen. Wright to proclaim martial law in Round Valley, Mendocino county, together with the evidence adduced before the Court of Inquiry, ordered by the same officer. It appears that Mr. Hanson, the present Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northern District of California, in his first report to the Department of the Interior, informed the authorities at Washington that the settlers in Round Valley were all unwarrantable trespassers, and as they seriously annoyed the Indians on the Reservation, they should be summarily driven off. In a subsequent report he tried to correct this misstatement; but it seems his efforts at repudiation of his own information were unsuccessful. He also represented to General Wright, military commander of the Department of the Pacific, that the settlers of Round Valley were so annoying that it would be necessary to use the military force to remove them, in order that the designs of the Government with respect to the Indians might be carried out. Among other representations thus made to Gen. Wright, were that the settlers were in the habit of wantonly murdering the Indians and carrying off the young ones, and also that they had, during the past season, destroyed or thrown down the fences on the Reservation farm, and let in their stock, by means of which the crop on the Government farm was destroyed, leaving the Reservation destitute of the

...the past season, destroyed or thrown
down the fences on the Reservation farm,
and let in their stock, by means of which the
crop on the Government farm was destroyed,
leaving the Reservation destitute of the
means of feeding the Indians. Owing to
these representations, Gen. Wright issued an
order declaring martial law over that valley,
and, as it is understood, partially promised
Mr. Hanson that he would assist in
removing the settlers therefrom. In
the latter part of October, 1862, Mr.
Hanson visited the valley, and informed
the settlers of this order. E. R. Budd,
editor of the Mendocino *Herald*, happened
to be there at the same time, to whom
Mr. Hanson imparted a knowledge of his
plans. On his return to Ukiah, he published
an editorial article which so clearly exposed
the conduct of Mr. Hanson, and put such a
different view on the state of affairs in that
section, that it caused General Wright to in-
struct the commander who had been sent to
Round Valley, to act with extreme caution,
and do nothing but what was absolutely re-
quired by the circumstances. Soon after-
wards the citizens of the valley held a mass
meeting, in which they endorsed the facts
therein set forth, and asked of Gen. Wright
a copy of the charges preferred against them,
which made these extraordinary measures
necessary, and requested that he institute an
investigation of the truth of those charges.
The Court of Inquiry, composed of Capt. C.
E. Douglas, President, and Lieut. P. B.
Johnson, Second Infantry, California Volun-
teers, Recorder, met at Fort Wright De-
cember 18th. The first witness examined
was James Short, who testified to the fol-
lowing facts: He is an acting Supervisor on
the Nome Cult or Round Valley Indian Re-
servation, has been on the Reservation since
the 1st October, 1861; has never had any
difficulty with any of the settlers in fact in
the valley; that on the 1st of August, 1862,
twenty-two Wylackie Indians were killed,
the largest portion of whom had not been on
the Reservation more than a month; that the
settlers complained of the Indians killing

the valley: that on the 1st of August, 1862, twenty-two Wylackie Indians were killed, the largest portion of whom had not been on the Reservation more than a month: that the settlers complained of the Indians killing their stock; and that there was not sufficient food for them on the Reservation: that five hundred Indians left the valley last fall, the largest number being Cancows; that the wants of the Indians drove them to kill stock, and when caught by the settlers the latter shot them as thieves; that at present there are about 1,500 Indians on the Reservation, and that the latter place is the worst managed place or concern he ever saw.

From the testimony of nearly all the witnesses it appears that the Wylackies are wild and dangerous Indians, committing all manner of depredations on stock, and that the whites were in fear of their lives as well as property: that the killing of the Indians was solely in defence of both, and that the charge that the settlers had wilfully broken down the fences, if the feeble protection to the small and insufficient crops planted can be so dignified, were untrue.

From a careful perusal of the testimony, it seems that Mr. Hanson, the Superintendent, either through his own fear, or for some other motive, induced General Wright to place the district named under martial law, and put soldiers there, where they were not needed, and can be maintained only at a very heavy expense. It is to be hoped that the matter will be thoroughly investigated—in fact, the extraordinary conduct of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the northern portion of the State, has created considerable excitement throughout the district which he has charge of: Mendocino county is sparsely populated—the few who have settled in Round Valley did so by the express permission of previous Indian Agents—they are not intruders upon the Government land, as Mr. Hanson would desire the Department should believe. Grave charges are rumored about in reference to this settler business—too grave for us to repeat—and justice demands that if

excitement throughout the district which
has charge of. Mendocino county is sparsely
populated—the few who have settled in
Round Valley did so by the express permis-
sion of previous Indian Agents—they are no
intruders upon the Government land, as Mr.
Hanson would desire the Department should
believe. Grave charges are rumored abroad
in reference to this settler business—too gross
for us to repeat—and justice demands that
the settlers and Indians are to be protected in
their relative rights, the Department should
provide not alone a suitable custodian and
guardian, but a sufficiency of means to feed
and clothe the Indians, such being the method
by which their savage instincts can be ap-
peased: for hunger and want are powerful
incentives to crime.

Calito

NING. JANUARY 24, 1863

E. books, and shall remain on file in said office