

The Indians in El Dorado.

The annexed letter from the scene of Indian difficulties, at Johnson's Rancho, El Dorado county, contains several items of intelligence that are later than any previously given. It will be observed that the Indians are concentrating their forces on "Silver Fork," and apprehensions are felt lest they will make a general onslaught on the unprotected miners in that region of country. Mr. Phillips is a gentleman of education, and his statements may be received with the assurance that they are strictly true.

Johnson's Ranch, Jan. 23, 1851.

Mr. Editor—Permit me, through the columns of your paper, to give your readers, and the public generally, some information relative to the movements of the Indians in this vicinity. There is at this time a large body of Indians encamped on "Silver Fork" (a branch of the South Fork, which heads in Silver Lake) about eight miles from this place, presenting a most hostile and warlike appearance. The greatest excitement pervades the whole country. Meetings are being held at almost every point, for the purpose of entering into some efficient measures for the relief and protection of the miners. Within the last three weeks they have driven off all the stock belonging to the miners in this region. Many of the miners followed up the trails until they came in sight of their stock; but owing to the odds against them, they abandoned the chase, without making an effort to regain their property. Not content with this, the Indians have more recently commenced a most fatal warfare upon our citizens. Their manner of attack is to creep up and fire upon the unsuspecting miner, while he is busily engaged in sinking the "shaft." Seven companies have been fired upon, and driven from the "Upper Bars," within the last week, several of which were badly wounded. Mr. J. C. Smith, of Wooster, Ohio, was shot with an arrow within three hundred yards

unsuspecting minor, while he is busily engaged in sinking the "shaft." Seven companies have been fired upon, and driven from the "Upper Bars," within the last week, several of which were badly wounded. Mr. J. C. Smith, of Wooster, Ohio, was shot with an arrow within three hundred yards of my house, on the 20th inst. He was engaged in mining when he was shot by the Indians in the left hip. The arrow struck the bone, then broke and spread in different directions. Dr. Rankin, of Placerville, was called upon to extract the arrow, which he did, displaying great surgical skill, doing honor to himself and the profession.

A few days since the body of an American was found, near "Portugee Joe's Bar" literally cut to pieces, presenting a most heart-rending scene. It was evidently the work of Indians. In this way many innocent "prospectors" are hurried to their long homes, and yet how unconcerned we are. How little do we realize the sufferings of a bereaved family in a distant land, could we but trace the meanderings of a lonely widow's mind, and count the numberless conjectures, closely interwoven with "What has become of my poor husband?" If these outrages were properly considered, action would be had immediately.

Respectfully yours in haste,

J. H. PHILLIPS.

P. S. Since penning the above, a runner came down from Taylor's Rancho, informing us that a company of twenty-four men (miners) were attacked last night. One man was dangerously wounded. J. H. P.

P. S. 2d. A gentleman from Placerville has just arrived, with the painful intelligence, that an attack was made last night, on a cabin in the outskirts of the town, killing one man and dangerously wounding another. Later news confirms what we above stated with regard to the Indians assembling on Silver Fork. Their number is daily increasing. J. H. P.