

General Government
We have long known that will be
a more rapid execution, that will pro-
tect the property and interests of our State
against the incursions of the Indians.
There has been a disposition manifested in
certain quarters to ridicule the attempts
that have been made to chastise the In-
dians, when outrages are committed by
them. Some timid men have been deterred
thereby from doing any thing at all, and
have said that the people who venture into
the neighborhood of Indians must protect
themselves! In case that no assistance can
be procured from General Government,
such a heartless doctrine should not influ-
ence our Representatives.
The fact is, the Indians have seriously re-
tarded mining operations all along our fron-
tier, and many valuable lives have been sac-
rificed. We are, at best, too selfish. Be-
cause we live in cities, secure from danger,
we are too apt to forget our obligations to
our countrymen, who are more exposed,
and while exposing themselves, are produc-
ing that which sustains us all. Unless we
protect those who develop the wealth of the
country, we are not worthy of success.
What should we do? Let us see what
is the emergency. For several hundred
miles on our eastern frontier, our State is
hourly in danger of suffering from Indian
hostilities. Almost every day we hear of
depredations, calculated to alarm and de-
populate whole sections of the country. If
neighborhoods combine their strength and
attempt to protect themselves, then the en-
emy escapes to the mountains, where it is
useless to pursue. But the moment armed
forces are disbanded, and the country is un-
protected, the Indians again make sudden
incursions into the settlements, drive off whole

protected, the Indians again make sudden incursions into the settlements, drive off whole herds of cattle, and occasionally commit acts of shocking barbarity. Emboldened by our ineffectual opposition to them, these savages are daily becoming more annoying; even now they infest a great part of the richest mines, and the border miner, who delights to prospect into the mountains, is deterred from this laudable object, because the country cannot be safely traveled without an armed force. Thus we cut off perhaps from thousands of square miles of the richest mines in the country. It will not do to order out occasionally a few hundred militia to march and counter march over the country, and effect nothing. That may do to repel a sudden invasion, but what the miners need is permanent protection.

There should be at least three block forts built on our frontier—say one on the outskirts of the Yuba river, one in El Dorado county, and one at some point further south. The forts should be garrisoned by the U. S. troops. The State should call on Gen. Smith to remove his troops to where they are needed. It is true the State cannot command that officer, but it can make him understand our wants.

But the emergency is such that the State should meanwhile take some action. The fortifications we have named should be undertaken—the State must issue her paper to meet the expense—and if Gen. Smith will not furnish garrisons, then the State should not hesitate. Let us have fifty armed men at each point named, and we believe the whole frontier country will be safe. It is the cheapest way we can defend ourselves; it is the only effectual way. The cost of raising one hundred men in Mariposa, must be enormous—yet, we believe, before they are ready to take the field, the Indians will

not furnish garrisons, then the State should not hesitate. Let us have fifty armed men at each point named, and we believe the whole frontier country will be safe. It is the cheapest way we can defend ourselves; it is the only effectual way. The cost of raising one hundred men in Mariposa, must be enormous—yet, we believe, before they are ready to take the field, the Indians will all be beyond their reach, and nothing be effected towards making them feel our vengeance. But if fifty good soldiers had been stationed in that region all winter, we do not believe any murders would have been committed. We again say, we hope the Legislature will take steps for our protection, that will be effectual. The State owes this to the people. The United States Government owes this to the State of California.