

Indian Raid on the South Salmon.

It will be seen by reference to our Ft. Gaston and Orleans Bar correspondence that the Indians have sufficiently recovered from their recent losses to assume the offensive again. Their field of operations has been changed, probably for the reason that the destruction of everything valued by the settlers in the region of their former depredations is complete. The citizens of both North and South Salmon have heretofore been exempt from the incursions of these demons, since a very early day of their settlement. Their peace and security, for an indefinite period, would now seem to be at an end. The crack of the deadly rifle, the slain bodies of six of their number, their peaceful homes, but smoking ruins, are the sad introduction, we fear, of more disastrous scenes.

We learn that the Indians engaged in these depredations are divided into three bands. One is commanded by "Big Jim," another by "Councilman John," and a third by "Handsomo Billy." All three of these notables are what have heretofore been denominated as "pets," that is, have worked for and been trained by white men. They know perfectly well every foot of the infested country, and control all the Redwood Indians, except the band known as the "Sandy Mowee-ma" tribe. The bands number some fifty warriors each, and are to-day better armed than any company of soldiers in the district. Their movements are conducted with great secrecy, and display a degree of energy and precision worthy of emulation, and with one or two exceptions they have successfully carried out their designs.

As soon as the intelligence reached Ft. Gaston of what had taken place on the Salmon river, two detachments were ordered out under Capt. Oasley, Co. B, and Lieut. Middleton, ~~B. C. C. M.~~ respectively, with instructions to intercept the Indians on their return if possible; but they failed in accomplishing the object for which they were sent—the Indians finding a way to avoid them, and arriving safely in the valley ahead of the detachments.

The result of this raid may be summed up thus: Six white men and several Chinamen killed, and two white men wounded; two trading posts sacked and burned; a large quantity of ammunition and such other things as they could pack away, also about \$3,000 captured.

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It is as disheartening as it is annoying
to think that Knap Valley, while it is
the headquarters of the forces operating
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rendezvous of these murderous huns;
that there, almost within rifle shot of the
Fort, they can maltreat and insult the
whites; that they can go from thence on
their errands of plunder, destruction and
death; and return thereto to feast and
fatten upon their blood-stained spoils,
while they single out more victims and
other fields whereon to prosecute their
fiendish work. The fountains of patience
and forbearance are taxed beyond their
capacities, and exhaustion must speedi-
ly follow. Considerations of humanity
will soon cease to have either weight or
influence in the efforts to rescue us from
this terrible scourge. The uncontrolled
vengeance of the citizens will fall alike
upon the whole Indian race hereabouts
without regard to age or sex. We are
aware that in regions beyond reach of
the gory scalping knife and blazing torch,
hunts will be thrown up in holy horror,
at the mention of such a policy; but it
will be among those who have scarce ev-
er ventured from the thronged pavements
of our cities and populous towns, and
who if they did would hardly hear the
"to who" of the owl without faces blanch-
ed by fear. "Necessity knows no law"
is a maxim coeval with the race of man;
and when no hope of safety or relief ap-
pears through other channels, the dread
alternative must be resorted to.

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