

Indian affairs in this State, at this time, present a subject of difficult solution. All notions founded upon experience with regard to the Indians on the other side of the continent seem to be at fault here. The reservation system which has there worked well proves a perfect failure here, and will doubtless be abandoned. But what other plan will be substituted by the Government is the important question. In this part of the State every year seems to add to the Indian difficulties and we see no hope of any change in this respect. The Indians, scattered throughout the country from Mendocino county to the Klamath river, occupy the lowest grade of humanity and are but a little above the wild beasts that have for ages been their companions. They have no race or nation, but like the elk, the bear, or the wolf, simply live in bands. As an exception to the rest of the human family, savage as well as civilized, these mountain diggers are destitute of any form of government. Hence the impracticability of treating with them; and to this fact also may be attributed the failure on the part of the Government in every move that has so far been made towards providing for them. They seem to take as little thought of the future as the brutes, and fail to provide in summer for their want in winter. Only when hunger begins to pinch will they make an effort to provide the means of subsistence, and they have learned that it is much easier to drive off and kill the stock

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ence, and they have learned that it is
much easier to drive off and kill the stock
of the settlers in their vicinity than to
hunt elk or deer or catch fish. They
are naturally predatory and it is not
reasonable to suppose they will change
their nature and resort to labor or indus-
try for a living as long as they can ob-
tain it by plundering. Before the whites
came among them they plundered from
each other, and will not be likely to re-
form now when the inducements are so
much greater. As long therefore as they
infest the country now being settled with-
our own race we must expect a continu-
ance of what we see going on at the pres-
ent time. Look at the accounts in this
week's paper as a sample of the Indian
depredations and white man's vengeance
exhibited at various points in this sec-
tion. Hardly a week passes that we do
not chronicle the murder of some white
man or the killing of stock or destruc-
tion of other property by the Indians, or
the slaughter of some of their number
by the enraged settlers. How much lon-
ger shall this state of things continue?
Cannot something be done to effectually
remove this curse of Indian troubles
from our county, or are we compelled to
wait the slow but certain process of ex-
termination? These are questions that,
with our people, now rise above all oth-
ers in importance.

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