

Letter from Fort Gaston:

FORT GASTON, HOOPA VALLEY,  
Feb'y 4th, 1864.

EDITOR TIMES:—Once more I resume the record of transpiring events of this, the seat of our Indian war. On the afternoon of January 29th, one of Captain Pico's men was shot by Indians, concealed in the Ceonaltin Ranch; he was struck between the shoulders, the ball rounding upward, passing out through the neck; he was supposed by all to be mortally wounded, but he yet survives and his chances of recovery are considered favorable.

Lieut. Herrick with a detachment of Co. D, was sent in immediate pursuit of the Indians who were making their way in all haste up the steep side of Trinity mountain. The pursuit was an exciting one—both the soldiers and Indians being plainly visible for more than two hours. But as is usual the enemy dodged into dark brush-clad gulches, and made good their escape. A few days later the notorious Ceonaltin Ranch was given to the flames; this should have been done months ago, for this ranch has long been the Charleston of this long continued and murderous war. The ranch takes its name from Ceonaltin John, the leading spirit that has so long prowled among its dismal dens. He should have been turned out in the cold years ago. As for bravery, daring and intelligence, he has no equal in Northern California. He has for many years past, been, and still is, the Chief—the impulsive power and head of the Redwood and Hoopa Indians. In person he is quite tall, dark, and of a very light build. When excited he has a strange wildness of expression of the eye, and an odd twitching of the head. I have ascertained beyond a doubt that he was the leader of the band that carried death and destruction to the homes of Bates, Daby and Muhlburg. He also commanded in the attack on Co. C on Redwood the 9th of July last. At Daby's he, with another Indian, followed and murdered French Pete, who fell bravely, nobly fighting to save little Geo. Danskin. But, be it said to his credit as a savage, he ordered his warriors not to harm or detain Mrs. Daby or her chil-

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We have about 350 men at this Post, including a detachment of Co. A, Mt's, commanded by Lieut. Gear. The greatest activity prevails. Scouts are on the move by day and night—in fine, everything possible is being done to bring about a certain and lasting peace. Lieut. Gear is now scouting with his command; he is accompanied by Charley Hostler as guide, and from Charley's well-known ability on the "war path" we feel almost certain that the Lieutenant will find a fight before he returns.

Capt. Ousley with twenty men of Co. B, Mt's, left us to-day to make arrangements for establishing a post on Redwood; the whole Company will follow soon. This is a good move, as the Indians will doubtless retreat to their old homes when driven from this valley. Early yesterday morning an Independent Company of some fifty or sixty citizens of Salmon River and Orleans Bar, with twenty friendly Indians of the Klamath and Salmon tribes, arrived in the valley, Sheriff McBrown commanding. These brave men have banded together, paying their own expenses, leaving all behind, that they may revenge their murdered companions and give future security to their now desolated homes.

Already they have discovered and destroyed an Indian ranch in which was stored great quantities of provisions. A large part of the company is now on the trail of the Indians. Success will crown their noble efforts. From the late news received from Yreka we learn that Capt. Baird's Company now numbers 56, the First Lieutenant having been sworn in; the Company is expected to report at this Post at an early day.

Thine ever, NEELY

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