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Topics of the Day.

It is gratifying to know that what have been known as "Indian Wars" in California are in a fair way to be decreased in number and in atrocity, by the exposure demanded from our Army officers. We are satisfied that no shadow of excuse existed for the commission of such bloody atrocities as have disgraced the history of the State and neighboring Territory. In this age, nor sex have been spared by the white savages, whose deeds have been perpetrated under the flimsy pretext. They assert that cattle have been killed and eaten by starving Indians, and, therefore, the Indians must be killed like cattle. Of course, the parties to these cowardly and disgraceful transactions emphatically deny the charge, and plead self-defense in extenuation of their crimes; but what credit is to be given to such special pleading the public, who are not Indian stalkers, will determine. These gallant chastisers of their bleeding country's wrongs never tell us, however, how many Indian girls, Indian wives and Indian children they have stolen from their natural protectors, nor how many other wrongs and outrages they have committed upon the red skinned savages. They never tell us of the Indian being driven from his hunting ground, or chased from his fishing stream, deprived of his every resource for subsistence, and treated with the most inhuman brutality. But they do tell us of how many "bucks" they killed, how many squaws they captured; their glorious deeds of arms, their sufferings and privations, the risks they ran and the dangers they encountered. Some of them even go so far as to declare that they do not consider Indians human beings, and that it is doing God service to slay them whenever possible.

the dangers they encountered. Some of them even go so far as to declare that they do not consider Indians human beings, and that it is doing God service to slay them whenever possible. Late reports from distinguished officers of the army sufficiently attest these facts. The gentlemen making these reports have no earthly incentive to give them a false coloring. They are stationed in the districts where Indian outrages are said to have transpired, yet they have heard nothing of the alleged criminality, although it is their especial business to be informed, and it is altogether incredible that Indian depredations could have occurred without their knowing something about them. The Assembly Committee on Indian affairs sustain the Army officers. In their report the Committee say in effect that Jarboe was ordered to raise a company of twenty men by Governor Weller, to punish hostile Indians—that he transcended his instructions by urging a war of extermination against them. They also sustain the position assumed by General Clarke, that in their opinion no depredations exist in Round and Eagle Valleys, and recommend that a Committee of Investigation be appointed to examine into the whole subject.

Humanity requires that the Legislature should take action on this subject. The reports of Army officers must satisfy any thinking man that the Indians are subjected to the vilest outrages, without any means of defense or protection. In ninety cases out of every hundred the whites have been the aggressors. While every precaution should be taken to guard against Indian outbreaks, it should not be forgotten that the helpless savage also needs protection from his more murderous white assailant. Indian wars are altogether too expensive to be incurred merely to gratify the brutal lusts, or speculative purposes of dishonorable and butcherly savages with white skins. In the foregoing remarks we except the late Indian campaign of Gen. Kibbe, a humane and gallant gentleman, who would not tolerate an act of injustice to the wretched aborigines. We are only sorry that this is an exception and not the rule.

SAN FRANCISCO HERALD

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