

[Cal. Star's Sonoma Correspondence.]

SONOMA, A. C. Feb. 10, 1848.

MR. EDITOR: "Humanitas" answers my article on the subject of Indians, for the purpose, he says, of setting me "right in one or more instances." But how he is to effect this by asserting characteristics of savages which never had an existence save in the imaginative conceptions of poets, novelists, and like himself, book-made, mistaken philanthropists, I cannot divine. Without having any idea who the writer is, I would venture to assert, that he has not had the slightest experience of Indian character, and am convinced that such will be the judgement of every one, that has, who peruses his production. I had supposed that men in this age, and particularly travellers to this part of the world, were better read in human nature, than to be caught attempting to rebut truth, experience, and reality, with false, sickly sympathy, inexperience, and romance; and I can see a smile of pity, for the ignorance of "Humanitas," play over the features of numbers of the initiated who read his fabulous account of Indians, as they pronounced the latter true of him.

He says of the American Indians, "render one of them a service and it is never to be obliterated from his memory." Does the writer mean by this, he remembers it in order to repay? if so, how far from the truth is his assertion; for, with most rare exceptions, the principles of generosity and gratitude find no lodgment in an Indian's bosom; nor are they governed, in any instances, by moral restraints, particularly after a slight missionary Christianization and contact with the whites. Fear, or the most selfish spirit alone, actuates them. Again he says, "on the contrary, treat him roughly, and his thirst after revenge is almost infinite, terminating only with his existence." I believe in treating all animals kindly, both quadrupeds and bipeds, but all who have had much intercourse with Indians, know full well that it is bad policy to carry this kindness to too great an extent in dealing with them. Treat them justly but according to their capacity and condition; and if they be guilty of any gross misdemeanors, the more severely you punish them the better they respect and like you. The gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company, (than whom a more humane body of gentlemen do not live,) invariably pursue this course, and have ever reaped its attendant beneficial results; preserving thereby, with but few men, a complete and peaceful control over the numerous tribes throughout their vast American domain; whilst we, from acting on a different principle, are forever engaged in some butchering and exterminating wars with those of our territories. It is a fact, plainly perceivable, when we compare our policy with that of the British, that

Americans, and particularly those from that metaphysically mystified, and mock philanthropic portion of our Union, (where I take it "Humanitas" belongs,) are, with few exceptions, entirely unfit to have any dealings with, or rule over savages. Our republican education, and—notwithstanding the great number of printing presses in the land, and immense quantities of "cheap and useful reading matter" daily flooding it for the enlightenment of our "almost every-man-can-read-and-write" population—limited knowledge of other nations and races of men, no doubt, gives rise to this unfitness and inefficiency. But yet "Humanitas" makes a very wrong exhibit of my real sentiments, (by drawing quite unwarranted conclusions from my article. He makes no notes at all of my "ifs" and "buts"—the conditions of my argument. I am not for making slaves of those with us, if they can possibly live happier lives without, and be placed beyond the opportunity and power of annoying and injuring the whites, with whom none can live on terms of peace and equity, particularly, the poor degraded and brutish class in California, the nearest link, of the sort, to the quadrupeds of any on the continent of North America.

They are a burden and pest to the country, and gladly would I behold the exit of every one of these miserable creatures from our midst. But "Humanitas" says, let them stay, treat them with leniency, "and if we want their labor let it be conditional, that they be permitted to change employers at their discretion"—"inculcate principles of morality amongst them"—"cultivate them," and hearken to him further, ye people of California, "degraded as their present situation appears, it is far better than what it was, and their condition is fast improving." I do not see but it is a great injury for a man to have too feeling a heart, when he allows its philanthropic promptings so completely to blind his reason, and vision of truth as is here manifested by this writer. It is a thing grown almost to an axiom among those having had much contact with Indians, that the kinder you treat him beyond a certain course, the more unkind and treacherously he treats you; and the more you pay one for work, the less he will do.

As for cultivating them, will "Humanitas" tell us how? About all the knowledge they will imbibe in our midst will be new vices and crimes; and as to inculcating principles of morality amongst them, that will be labor lost. Humanitas had better join Pacific to L.

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deavors to teach something of this sort amongst
the immoral, dishonest, and unprincipled white
population in California first, and let the des-
tined doom (an early extinction) of the red
man hasten towards its close, without enlist-
ing his fruitless sympathies and efforts to avert
his fate.

If I have erred in respect to the Indian boy
mentioned, I was led astray by several in this
place, who informed me what I wrote, is the
belief of, which I was confirmed by a lieuten-
ant of the garrison here, who was at San Fran-
cisco about the time my communication went
down, and informed me, subsequently, that
whilst there, this very boy was at liberty and
waited on him as a servant.

Were it necessary for the argument, I could
name several instances in support of what was
asserted of unquestionable truth. The senti-
ments and action of Capt. Hull last winter,
when applied to by Moses B. Carson and oth-
ers, on the subject of Indian depredations and
murders, fully bear me out if the actual con-
dition of this people with us were wanting to
confirm.


It matters but little to me at present, wheth-
er "Humanitas," or others in this land, choose
to consider my writings as intended for "the
mere gratification of coming down upon the
administrators of the law in this country," or
not; as henceforth I cease any farther efforts
in the cause, as a profitless and thankless bus-
iness—profitless I now find both to the coun-
try and myself; though the last is of second-
ary moment, as those aware of my having
rejected offices, popularity, and the means of
acquiring wealth, in order to pursue my own
course, must admit.

Towards the officers of the government,
(excepting of course, as nearly every body else
does, the two or three execrable and dishonest
Alcaldes in office,) I entertain the kindest per-
sonal feelings; and in all that has been said,
but aimed at giving them some instruction
and intimation of the public sentiments on
topics treated of, in order that they might
profit by it.

Yours,

PACIFIC.

"[Cal. Star's Sonoma Correspondent.
Mr. Editor.]" California Star, February
26, 1848: p. 2, col. 3.



The California Star.

...portion as the structure of a Government gives force to Public Opinion, it is essential that Public Opinion should be Enlightened.—Washington

SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 26, 1848.

STAR. ANECDOTES OF GENERAL SCOTT. country honor. But I think it would be a the Church
From an old American