

[Communicated.]

Union, February 26, 1855.

Editor of Humboldt Times,

Sir—In looking over your last paper, I see a paragraph stating your intention not to mention the difficulties now pending on the Klameth River between the whites and Indians, unless it be through the medium of communications over the signature of those writing, and a wise conclusion it is too, for to judge from your last number, you have received no news from any person, save Capt. Judah, U. S. A., that was reliable. Well you are probably correct if such be the case. So far as I am concerned, I frankly acknowledge that I am prejudiced, and do condemn in my own mind, the conduct of some individuals on Klameth River, and for the course that they have taken in the present difficulties. As to their motives, I have nothing to say; but when the facts are known, as they exist, in my opinion the condemnation of every lover of peace and quietness will be placed upon their heads. And as this—by communication—is the only way by which the public can be informed of the proceedings of the Volunteers, I hope you will indulge me in giving you and the public some of the facts as they have occurred.

During my absence from the Company, and while down to this place for provisions, the Indians from Hoopa Valley, through their Chief, came down on to the Klameth and proposed to the whites, through the interpretation of Mr. Rob't Walker, of McDonald's Ferry, to come and assist the whites in capturing the hostile Indians—provided the whites would assure them they and their property should be protected during their absence—and, if the whites did not wish to go with them they would go by themselves; they said they had seventeen guns among them they would like to take with them, as the hostiles are known to have guns in their party, if the whites were willing;

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the whites in capturing the hostile Indians—provided the whites would assure them they and their property should be protected during their absence—and, if the whites did not wish to go with them they would go by themselves; they said they had seventeen guns among them they would like to take with them, as the hostiles are known to have guns in their party, if the whites were willing; if not, that they would go and take their bows and arrows. Upon consultation with the Wietspeck rancho, they agreed to engage in the same proposition; some of the Indians from below was then consulted, who readily consented to assist. The whites told the Indians from Hoopa to return home and hold themselves in readiness, and that they would send for them. The following proposition was then written out and presented to all of the Captains of Companies except Capt. Chesley Woodward, who was absent to this place for provisions.

February 16th, 1855.

Whereas, the Indians on the Klamath river and vicinity have voluntarily proposed to turn out and aid in capturing and killing the Red Cap and other hostile Indians, under the direction and co-operation of the whites. And whereas, the undersigned deem it but just to give them a fair trial, upon their own proposition, and knowing the indispensable necessity of a unanimous co-operation of every white man on the river, and in order to carry the plan into successful operation:

It is therefore proposed that the Captains of Companies, in behalf of their companies, and all others on the river who are desirous of bringing the present difficulties to as speedy a termination as possible, join in one plan and work together, and pledge themselves to give the Indians now on the river time to show their sincerity in the proposition they have made. It is further proposed that the whites all along the river agree and pledge themselves not to attack or trouble the Indians remain-

ing on the river, or suffer them to be attacked until the plan above proposed is fully tried. In case the above plan should not succeed, it is further proposed and agreed that no change of plan will be had or attack made without first having a consultation as to what new plan should be adopted, in order that all the whites may work together and not be pulling against each other. The great necessity for co-operation, which all acknowledge is the imperative reason for making this proposed agreement.

The various Captains on the river readily consented to the proposition, and runners were sent above and below to inform the other Indians of the proposition made by the Hoopa tribe. They all acquiesced in the proposition, and expressed their willingness to join them by coming, in considerable numbers, immediately to our camp or vicinity of our camp. The Captains, during this time, had sent a runner to Hoopa for the Indians who had volunteered their services, and they returned without them, and stated to Mr. Walker that the Indians wanted to come but that Capt. Snyder—a resident of the valley—had prevented them from coming, by telling them that they should never return to their homes again, and if they did that he would raise a party of men and kill them. They, however, sent word to the whites that they would come, notwithstanding the threat, if the whites would come up after them and stand between them and danger.

When Capt. Chesley Woodward returned the proposition was presented to him and was rejected by him, who gave as his reason therefor, that he was going to hunt for the hostile Indians himself, and that if he trailed them to other ranches on the river he did not wish to be under obligations to save them. Upon this decision by Capt. Chesley Woodward, Capt. Young, who had went down the river for the Indians and brought them up, could do no more than to tell them to go back and take care of yourselves. When the Indians

heard this information they expressed much disappointment and exclaimed what was the use

and take care of yourselves." When the Indians heard this information they appeared much disappointed and exclaimed, "what does the white men want; they tell us one day to come up and help catch the Red Caps, the next day they tell us to go back home and take care of ourselves. Just let them say what they do want and we will do it." This is what Mr. Walker, the interpreter, says they said. They were, however, compelled to return home without accomplishing their object. On the day following the Indian Agent, Mr. Rosborough, started for San Francisco, to obtain some authority to act, so there may be a concert of action effected, and requested, as I am informed, that the companies remain organized until he returned. I have now stated as near as I can the true state of affairs, so far as I know and have been informed; and as I have withdrawn from the company I forbear making any comments on what has passed, or speculations upon the future, but with every confidence in the judgment and integrity of a large portion of the companies engaged, I predict an amicable settlement of the difficulties as soon as there is arrangements made for the protection of the Indians as well as the whites, for in my opinion it would be perfectly useless to make a treaty with the Indians and have them agree to respect the white man and his property without affording them the same protection.

Yours respectfully, R. WILEY

P. S. Since writing the above, I have been informed that Capt. Chesley Woodward had determined to remain inactive, as had also the balance of the companies on the river, until the return of Mr. Rosborough, the Indian Agent, from San Francisco.

R. W.

