

# THE JOURNAL.

## Mr. Lawrence's Indian War Speech.

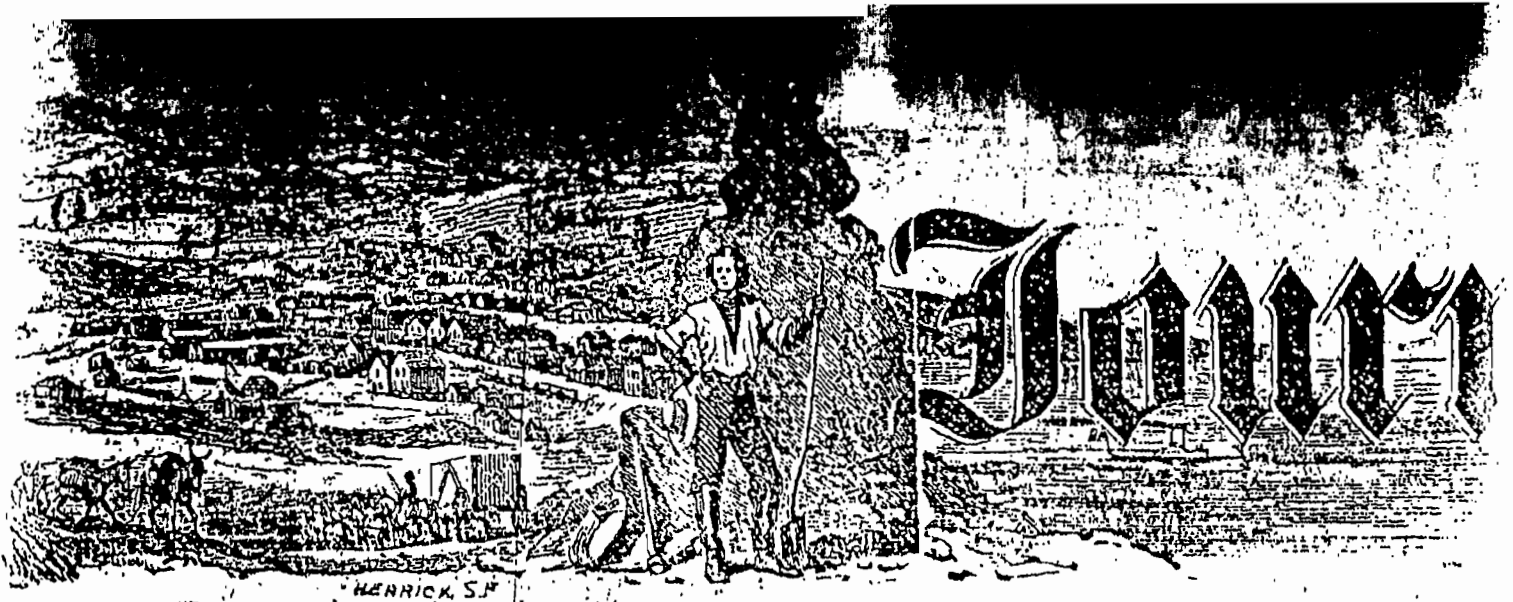
Many of the lower country papers have pronounced the northern Indian wars unnecessary and cruel. A few days ago Mr. Lawrence, of this county, made a speech in behalf of the Pitt River Indian war bill, in which he presented facts which the opposing press cannot gainsay. One remarkable feature of this Indian war controversy is that newspapers published in the localities where these Indian wars have been carried on, and who know the facts, never condemn them. But the wise ones who do the pen work of city journals know of a certainty that all these Indian campaigns are unnecessary and cruel. Mr. Lawrence said:

There has been so much ridicule of late made through the columns of our journals, and so many carleque, buncombe, anti-"Indian war" speeches pronounced in this Assembly during the present session, that, as an advocate for the payment of this most just claim, it becomes absolutely necessary, sir, that a clear and succinct statement should be made to this House of the causes which led to the necessity of this Indian war, and consequently the claims which we are asked to pay, as specified in the bill. Ever since the settlement of the upper portion of Sacramento Valley, the Indians known as the Pitt River Indians have been the cause of continuous fear and trouble to the settlers in that region. From time to time they have committed innumerable depredations and murders. It is estimated that since the year 1849, the number of white persons—men, women children—murdered by them, amount to one hundred and fifty, and the aggregate of property destroyed by fire and loss of stock, to two hundred thousand dollars. Small parties of settlers have frequently gone in pursuit of these Indians, chastising some and driving others into their mountain strongholds; but never having been any large, regular force, or concert of action against them, they have been enabled to retain, unmolested, their mountain fastnesses, from which, periodically, they make forays into the adjacent valleys, indiscriminately burning and murder-

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periodically, they make forays into the adjacent valley, indiscriminately burning and murdering all within their reach. Such, sir, was the state of affairs existing in the upper Sacramento valley up to the commencement of the expedition known as the Pitt River Indian War. The immediate cause for calling out this expedition you will find set forth in the numerous petitions to Gov. Weller from the citizens of Tehama county. You will find them in appendix to the Quartermaster's report. To make the utter necessity of this expedition against these Indians plain, I will state that I have here a list of persons murdered and property destroyed, mostly in Tehama county, from the 1st of January to the 16th of August last. Most of these murders are fresh in the memory of many gentlemen upon this floor. Wells and McElroy, murdered on the road near Fort Crook; their bodies were stripped of every article of clothing. On the same day they made a futile attempt to take Lost Creek Station. On Payne's Creek, within fifteen miles of Red Bluff, Coffman, partner and son, were brutally murdered in their cabin. Two days after the murder of Coffman, the same band of hostile Indians murdered three lumbermen in the vicinity of Antelope Creek and horribly mutilated their bodies. A few weeks later, they killed Mr. Kapple at the residence of Dr. Eusky, on Payne's Creek; the family escaped; Kapple being sick, fell an easy prey to those fiends. About the same time, on Antelope Creek, they caused, through the instrumentality of an Indian boy, the residence of Col. E. A. Stevenson to be burned. This, sir, is one of the most fiend-like acts on record. The doors and windows all being fastened, in the quiet hours of the night the house was fired, and eight human beings perished in the flames—Mrs. Stevenson and her three children; Mr. Krank and his wife, who were employed on the farm by Mr. Stevenson, and their two children. Words, sir, fail to express the horror of such an act. Two nights later, on the same Creek, about one and a half miles distant from the house of Mr. Stevenson, the residence of Mr. Hooker was burned, the occupants barely escaping with their lives. The Indians drove off two valuable horses, took them twelve miles below and killed them. About the same time, about thirty miles from this, they burned the houses of Messrs. Gore and Sedrona. On the public highway, and within six or seven miles of Red Bluff, they murdered James Patrick and partner, whilst hauling a load of hay, drove off the team, and burned the wagon and hay. These, sir, are

On the morning of the 1st of July, 1858, at Red Bluff, Company Patrick and partner were brutally murdered in their cabin. Two days after the murder of Company, the same band of hostile Indians murdered three lumbermen in the vicinity of Antelope Creek and horribly mutilated their bodies. A few weeks later, they killed Mr. Kapple at the residence of Dr. Husky, on Payne's Creek; the family escaped; Kapple being sick, fell an easy prey to those fiends. About the same time, on Antelope Creek, they caused, through the instrumentality of an Indian boy, the residence of Col. E. A. Stevenson to be burned. This, sir, is one of the most fiend-like acts on record. The doors and windows all being fastened, in the quiet hours of the night the house was fired, and eight human beings perished in the flames—Mrs. Stevenson and her three children; Mr. Krank and his wife, who were employed on the farm by Mr. Stevenson, and their two children. Words, sir, fail to express the horror of such an act. Two nights later, on the same Creek, about one and a half miles distant from the house of Mr. Stevenson, the residence of Mr. Hooker was burned, the occupants barely escaping with their lives. The Indians drove off two valuable horses, took them twelve miles below and killed them. About the same time, about thirty miles from this, they burned the houses of Messrs. Gore and Sedorous. On the public highway, and within six or seven miles of Red Bluff, they murdered James Patrick and partner, whilst hauling a load of hay, drove off the team, and burned the wagon and hay. These, sir, are some of the murders and outrages that called out this expedition. Comment is unnecessary. I would not have deemed this statement necessary, but so many slurs have been thrown upon this war by many of our State papers, that many persons begin to think that the expedition was entirely uncalled for, and a ridicule to the State.



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