

INDIANS OF THE KLAMATH AND TRINITY.—  
A Reservation of public lands, for the benefit of those Indians, was selected by Mr. Whipple, the sub-Agent of Col. Hepley, and has been confirmed by the proper Department at Washington. This strip commences at the ocean, at the mouth of the Klamath River, and follows up that stream about twenty-five miles, and is two or three miles wide—the river being the centre of the strip. This is a very proper selection, inasmuch as it lies out of the way of the whites and offers no inducements for settlement; it at the same time affords a good site for the Indians, as the river yields an inexhaustible quantity of fish. This being the state of things, the Indians outside of this Reserve, on the Klamath, say as far as the mouth of Salmon and on the Trinity, to the South Fork, should, without delay, be gathered within the limits of this Reservation. They may object to leave their old ranches and move down the river; but in order to protect the white people, where they now are, this must be done, and the sooner the better. In Hoopa Valley, on the Trinity, along there are estimated to be two hundred adult male Indians. They have managed, since the settlement of this section by our people, to obtain a great number of guns and revolvers, and at this time are much better armed than the same number of whites, and they have also been taking lessons in the use of these arms ever since their contact with the whites. They have by this time, no doubt, good supplies of ammunitions, and all they now want is a good opportunity, and we will be called upon to chronicle the massacre of some of our settlements at the points we have mentioned. This is the natural tendency of things, up that way. The industrious settlers and miners vie with each other in the various pursuits of labor, bent only on the one object of improving the condition of themselves and those depending upon them. All this time these Indians, relieved by their customs from toil for the means of subsistence, by heaping the drudgery on their squaws, are daily gaining on our people. They are acquiring those instruments of power possessed by us, and are steadily becoming more conscious of their own strength and our consequent weakness. Their study is not to follow the paths of peace, but how to rid themselves of the great foe to their race who has intruded himself in their country. It is just as certain, as that an effect will follow an adequate cause, that the Indians will not allow the whites to live peaceably.

by in their country, unless they are impressed with a sense of their own weakness and inferiority. It is their nature, when they think they are the stronger, if they do not immediately commence depredations, to become so arrogant and insulting as to bring about a collision very soon. We hear that some of the Indians we have mentioned already begin to conduct themselves in this manner. Other suspicious signs have also been noted, such as the absence of some of the chief men who were supposed to be particularly friendly towards the whites. It has been rumored that overtures have been made by the Oregon Indians to the tribes on the Klamath, and the absence of some of their leading men, for long periods at a time, gives an air of probability to this rumor.

The Indian Agent should at once be authorized and required so remove these Indians on the Reservation, and a good military force should be at his disposal to enforce a compliance if they should refuse to go quietly. The two races can not live peaceably in close contact for any great length of time, and in the present state of the Indian disturbances on the Northern border of this State, these tribes should be removed from the settlements without delay, and taught their inferiority.

A strong military post should be kept at the upper end of the Reservation, and an abundance of arms and ammunitions constantly on hand at the post to supply the settlers and miners in case of need. Some such cautionary measures are the only means of preventing an outbreak of these tribes, particularly if the Oregon Indians continue victorious. What U. S. troops were stationed in this section are being continually drawn off for the Oregon service, and if an outbreak should occur on the Klamath, Fort Humboldt could not respond to the call of the whites for help, either in men or munitions of war.

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This state of matters should not long exist. The quiet now is ominous, and before destruction breaks forth on some of our settlements within the section of country alluded to, something should be done to ward off the danger. In the meantime our people up country can not be too cautious. It will not do to trust the Indians, although they may now appear friendly—it would be weakness to do so. They have betrayed and massacred those of your blood, whenever opportunity offered, from the first settlement of the Western continent to the present time, and will do the same thing to you whenever they consider it to their interest to do so.—We think that by adopting measures to carry out the suggestions we have thrown out, nothing need be feared from these Indians, but under the present aspect of affairs, we have thought it a duty to call the attention of the proper authorities to the danger hanging over our citizens up country, and to warn them of the same. We may be premature, but in such a matter we prefer to run that risk than be too late. The people up there feel very anxious that some such steps, as indicated above, should be taken immediately. We hope our members of the Legislature from the North will use their influence to have these preventive measures carried out,—at any rate, so far as furnishing a supply of arms and ammunitions for our own people on the Trinity and Klamath.

