

**"The Savage Re-possessing his Hunting Grounds."**

Under this head the San Francisco *Evening Journal* submits some remarks in reference to the Indians in Mendocino county, and the conduct of the government generally touching Indian affairs in this State, and as they apply equally to our own case we subjoin some extracts from the article alluded to:

It is the manifest policy of a wise government to afford the utmost protection to the outguards of civilization. It should jealously care for the lives and property of the adventurous ones who are enlarging its borders at the extreme peril of everything that is dear in life and household. Such has not been the practice of the United States Government; great sums are annually expended in the management of Indian affairs, but too generally under the immediate direction of individuals destitute of any knowledge of Indian character, without humanity, and unpossessed of any fitness for the trust. Reservations are put under control of stipendiaries who transform them to territories of speculation, and whose dishonest exactions become apparent even to the savage, who becomes aware that goods originally designed for his own comfort, are made a commodity of unauthorized commerce. The great highways to the border are unsecured by fort or block-house, or else are the rallying places of razy troops and inexperienced officers whose generalship is held in contempt by the Indians. Immense fortifications are constructed where there is no danger, while the perilous border is left to whatever protection can be offered by the settler's rifle.

The writer then alludes to the fact that many settlers in the northern part of Mendocino county "having besought protection in vain, are preparing to abandon their improvements, leaving a rich and inviting country to be re-claimed by savages"—"all must be given up after the hard labor of perilous years to the men-acing Indians whose unrestrained mar-

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ishment."~~

Many of our people, we regret to say,  
have been quite impoverished by the "un-  
restrained maraudings" of the miserable  
diggers that have infested portions of this  
county. It is to be hoped, however, that  
~~the combined efforts of the regulars and  
volunteers now engaged against them will  
drive the last one from our borders, and  
thereby render the settlers in future safe  
and secure in their possessions.~~

The article concludes with the follow-  
ing reflections :

If Government is possessed of humane  
~~consideration for the Indian, its policy  
is to protect the settlement from his  
plundering, else the red man's extermi-  
nation is inevitable. The aim of the back-  
woodsman's rifle is sure, and his purpose  
is fixed to possess the rich lands which  
the other is so reluctant to leave. The  
restless, wandering tribes cannot be kept  
on Reservations, near their old haunts ;  
there is but one course to pursue—to re-  
move them a great way off, whence they  
cannot get back without observation and  
resistance. If this be not done, they will  
waste away before the rifle and knife of  
the explorer. There is irrepressible ex-  
terminating war between the races, and  
the Indian's annihilation, sooner or later,  
is ordained.~~

