

*The Indian difficulties.*— Considerable excitement is manifest in several of our Indian districts, in consequence of the recent Indian outrages, to be reported in the next number while we, in common with a community, deplore these unhappy events, and feel truly and justly indignant at the perfidy and barbarity exhibited, there are yet motives, the best of motives, based upon the soundest philanthropy, as we shall prove, that have induced us to reserve for ourself space for a few words upon the subject of our Indian difficulties.

Seven of our most worthy and inoffensive citizens have been suddenly murdered—treacherously and brutally murdered, by a party of Indians belonging to a degraded, ignorant and depraved tribe; murdered, too, without apparent cause, by a people whose well-known thievish propensities, have upon more than one previous occasion brought their backs to the lash. Of course our countrymen are greatly exasperated against their Indian neighbors, and in the absence of all law, civil and military, to procure retributive justice, nothing remains but to hunt down the offenders and deal with them as common law or usage directs. In this coolly-drawn and correct determination it is, perhaps, unnecessary to say they were sustained by every intelligent and sober-minded man in the mining region. But how are the perpetrators of the outrages to be apprehended? Their own people will not deliver them over to justice. The whites daily become more incensed, and the Indian Agent of this Department to whom an appeal is made, declares himself powerless, through the negligence of our government in furnishing means for exercising the functions of his office. It is now that the cry of extermination is raised—a thirst for indiscriminate slaughter rages, and men, women and children, old and young—vicious and well as used of

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slaughter rages, and men, women and child  
of old and young, vicious and well-disposed, of  
the Indian race, wherever met with, are  
to be straightway shot down or knocked on  
the head; their villages plundered and burned,  
and the frightened fugitives forced deeper in  
to the mountains, to starve—or to steal and  
plunder as shall henceforth appear.

In all this we have but a display of natural  
passions; says one; blood for blood, exclaims  
another; 'human nature,' says a *Stapleton*—  
but let us perfect the picture; let us make ap-  
parant with its lights, its shades—in a word,  
let us hear another story of our Indian diffi-  
culties.

It is not long since an Indian rancheria near  
Bear Creek was pounced upon by a small  
party of whites, and twenty-five of the unsus-  
pecting inmates, of both sexes, taken and cru-  
elly murdered. Why was this? It was be-  
cause numerous thefts had been committed by  
Indians in that vicinity, and it was necessary  
to make an "example." But traced to cause  
more remote, a murder had been committed  
last fall by Indians in that neighborhood.  
(though still anterior to this, a fact scarcely  
worth mentioning however, several Indians  
had been killed by whites coming through  
from Oregon.) In connection with the above  
we hear that a man residing near the mouth  
of Feather River imperilled his life, in en-  
deavoring to preserve that of a valuable In-  
dian boy attached to the rancheria of his  
grounds. The reason assigned for the act,  
was that he had been suspected of crime, and  
'must be a great scoundrel.' Three Indians  
were shortly afterwards hung, in justification  
of which act we are sorry to say we know  
nothing.

From these instances — facts fresh in mind,  
for we have not sought after argument — it

may be readily believed the Indians have wreaked vengeance for deeds of blood, the bloody and cruel murders recently committed on the American River. And having witnessed the shedding of blood of either race, it now waits with our countrymen to determine whether security for life or property can hereafter exist among the Gold washers of the mountains in which these events have transpired. To talk of extermination, is to reckon without the host, for all who are intimate with the Indian character, and acquainted with the mountainous country inhabited by these tribes, can attest the extravagance of this idea. If, as is insisted upon by many, they are to be destroyed wherever met with, they will seek refuge in the mountain fastnesses, from which their frequent descents upon small parties of miners, for purposes of plunder and revenge, will be more to be dreaded than their continual presence and intercourse with our people. They will cut off the wanderer from his camp, and attack the camps by night, destroy and drive off animals, and in short create more mischief and become a source of greater annoyance to the miner than if their detestable arts were practiced in our midst and under the eye of the Law. What we most desire to impress upon the minds of our countrymen, however is a more humane and christianized

however, is a more humane and a  
course of action. It does not be-  
lightened Americans of the nineteenth  
to sally forth against a weak and ignorant  
ple, burn their villages, butcher women and  
children and return at night with our sad  
horns loaded with scalps. Let us ferret out  
the perpetrators of crime, by ingenious en-  
deavour, as will suggest themselves to intelli-  
gent active minds, and thereupon visit the  
severest penalty the Law affords. Let it be  
borne in mind we do not render ourselves a  
whit more secure from Indian depredation by  
indiscriminate slaughter, than by pursuing a  
humane method of treatment. A check upon  
the vicious inclinations of the worst, will arise  
with the rapid growth of society, and gradu-  
ally they will recede before the advances of  
the white man, as is destined the Indian race  
in general. Thus shall a degraded and worth-  
less people vanish from the face of the land;  
it is in vain to attempt their extermination by  
other means—let us not think of it.

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The Placer.

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*Salutatory.*—We are at length enabled to  
usher into the presence of our worthy friend