

MOUTH OF SALMON, April 18, 1856.

EDITOR TIMES:—In your paper of March 29, I saw an article, apparently editorial, on the Reservation and other Indian matters.—~~As I must take a few exceptions to your position on the Indian question, I trust you will insert the following remarks, which I will endeavor to render as brief as possible.~~

~~The principal point upon which peace or war depends, is the removal of the Indians. I firmly believe that allowing the Indians to remain in statu quo, is the only guarantee against a warfare which will have the effect of putting a stop to all mining operations on the Klamath.~~

In every rancheria there are old Indians, influential men, possessed of property, and as much attached to their homes as it is possible for a *white man* to be. When any trivial depredation is committed by the few Indians at present in the mountains, these old men evince every disposition to compromise matters, and to live at peace with their white neighbors. These Indians say that in the event of an attempt to remove them by force, ~~they will not be responsible for the consequences;~~ but as long as they remain unmolested, there is no fear.

A war of extermination may be resolved upon by the whites—but it is easier talked about than carried into effect. Burn the ranches and destroy property the military authorities may, and instead of a dozen hostiles we have hundreds. Every person who knows how successful the whites were last year, can easily guess the results of a conflict with ten times the number of Indians, rendered desperate. In this rugged country, regulars would be next to useless, and how could volunteers act when their mere subsistence is a matter of caprice with the powers that be. Ask the traders. Nine out of ten, if they told the truth, would acknowledge that another war would be ruinous. Few of the miners are more than making a living, whatever your Orleans and Salmon correspondents may say to the contrary. How are ~~they to carry on a~~ war? I say, as far as the Indians here, let them alone. Conditions can be made with them that will effectually prevent the so called hostiles from committing any further outrages. Any flagrant act of cruelty by a white man, punish in a fair spirit of justice. Remember

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~~It perhaps may be advisable to station troops at this and other points, but not solely to intimidate the Indian. Let their officers have an eye to white men—let them prevent, if possible, all traffic in arms and ammunition, and prevent the law on that subject from being the dead letter it is at the Forks of Salmon and other places in that neighborhood. Let them look out, as far as may lie in the line of their duty, for the welfare of both white man and Indian.~~

The disturbances here last year originated in brutal outrages committed on the persons of Indian women by *white men*. That was the original cause of trouble, whatever may have been the immediate one. Let such things be looked into, and such cases as a white man killing a harmless squaw, through mere wantonness, be properly punished—then the principal causes of war will be removed.

As far as regards the distribution of arms among the miners, that is highly desirable. Let the arms, if obtained, be placed in responsible hands at convenient points for distribution when necessary.

There is no danger of an outbreak here at present, as the fishing season is about commencing. As far as I can judge, the trifling robberies committed by the hostiles, are to induce the whites to suffer them to return to their homes—for permission to do which they have made several ineffectual applications.

Your obed't serv't, A. BRYAN.

