

### Indian Troubles.

The Sacramento intelligence which we have within a day or two past presented to our readers, paints in no very pleasant colors the state of existing affairs in certain sections of the Placer, where disturbances with the Indians have been produced, by a combination of circumstances that we confess to scarcely understand. It has been the good fortune of this country, since the discovery of the mines, to avoid the harassing and truly lamentable consequences of a general Indian war, and it has been because of the rational and temperate course in most instances pursued toward the natives by the white mining population of California. To the intelligence and readiness to reason of the mining classes are we as much indebted for the exemption of prolonged Indian strife, from our past history, as for the maintenance of order and the preservation of the pitiful shadow of law affecting to have been in force since the period of the gold discovery on these shores. Common perception has taught our people that we must not despise the numerous native born children of the mountain and forest land, however poor their gifts, or unworthy consideration of common respect, a succession of generations of physical and moral decline may have made them. When, therefore, the retributive lash has been applied for their offences, not only motives of compassion but of absolute policy have dictated the punishment, and tempered the stroke. When by aggravated

and tempered the stroke. When by aggravated instances of criminal culpability, the desire to do violence to the persons and property of the Indians, has grown strong among the miners, and prompted summary proceedings of vengeance, it has been fortunate that judgment and reason have swayed the mass, and interrupted the rash designs of the intemperate in thought and impulsive in action. For by this have we been spared all the evils which a general disaffection of the Indians of the Sacramento and San Joaquin would have entailed upon our country, and especially on our mining community. It would be impossible for our people to prosecute successful operations in the Placer, in the face of implacable hostility and hatred from a numerous savage foe; wily in the arts of mountain warfare, and assiduous in the practical application thereof, to resist the encroachments of an enemy.

The difficulties on Deer Creek, however, have received the encouragement of certain parties of unprincipled white men, and whatever may have caused the existing embittered feeling, there cannot be a doubt that appearances are highly unfavorable to an immediate adjustment of the troubles. That there are those among the Indians who will by every possible endeavor fan the flame of excitement, until, if not subdued, the whole district will revolt, and declare, perhaps, a war of extermination against the Indians.

This is to be feared the more, because of the predisposition on the part of a certain class of Americans in that neighborhood, who would make the hue and cry of Indian slaughter the cloak of heinous and the basest crimes. The Sacramento papers contain accounts of Indian depredations, and punishment inflicted by the whites; but in all they have published we have not yet been enabled to discern the spirit of the excitement. The Indian war in which Oregon was

been enabled to discern the spirit of the excitement. The Indian war in which Oregon was involved a few years since, was prosecuted not for mere retributive purposes, but for *spoils*, and this is too well known to cause us to fear contradiction. It is barely possible that the Door Creek disturbances may have equally unholy objects to accomplish, for the friendship of the ignorant, degraded Indian is much more easily secured than is the enmity of the watchful, revengeful savage to be with impunity incurred and endured. We cannot, then, but eschew the hostile preparations so bombastically announced in the papers; they are impolitic, unnecessary and improper as we shall show at length in a few days.

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# Daily Alta California

SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1850.

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