Correspondence of the Union.

Placerville, May 29, 1851.

Mr. Editor,—Nothing of especial importance has happened in this vicinity since I last wrote you. Since the affair of the 24th inst., our troops have lain quiet in camp. Yesterday, Major Rogers returned to this place, having raised an additional force of 60 men in Georgetown, and 30 in Coloma. The whole number now in the field is about 300. The forces are now encamped about 20 miles eastward from this place, on the south side of the South Fork. The Indians are very strongly impenetrable; and it is the intention of Major Rogers to cross the river this morning with all his forces, take over his provisions and baggage, and camp right alongside the Indians stronghold. It was found that after our forces had crossed the river and marched up the South Fork mountains on the 24th inst., that they were little prepared to attack very effectively. The incidents of the affair of the 24th are as follows: At 10 A. M., Capt. Tracy's company crossed the river, and commenced the ascent of the mountain which rises at that place some two miles from the bed of the stream, and is very steep, rocky, and rugged. While climbing the mountain, they saw three horses tied in a ravine some distance below them. The men were all eager to rush down and secure the horses, but Capt. Tracy commanded all to keep the ranks, excepting three whom he allowed to go down after the spoils. No indications had yet been seen of any Indians in the vicinity, and the three pushed down the hill fearlessly, but just as they were about to untie the horses, the whistle of a dozen bullets warned them of danger, but before they could escape one of
pushed down the hill fearlessly, but just as they were about to drive the horses, the whistle of a dozen bullets warned them of danger, but before they could escape one of them was killed. A sharp fire was now kept up from all quarters, although it was impossible to see an Indian, except when one pushed his head from behind a rock to fire. A desultory fight was kept up for some time, and once there was danger of our men being surrounded, as the Indians were very numerous, but they secured their retreat. It is thought that the Indian loss must have been twelve or fifteen. As Major Rogers has determined to cross the river, we may expect to hear of a warm engagement within a day or two.

I remain in haste.

[Handwritten note: 10/21]