

Eel River, May 20, 1856.

MR. EDITOR:—An attack was made upon a pack train a few days ago, and a friendly Indian killed that was with the train. The circumstances, as well as I have been able to learn them, are about as follows: The pack train, belonging to Mr. Scott, accompanied by Messrs. Ben. Smith and Hamilton, and two friendly Indians, were coming across the mountains on the Eel River trail, and had encamped near a place on the road known as Shower's Pass. When they started the next morning, one of the friendly Indians wounded a deer near camp, and the two Indians went in pursuit of it, carrying with them a rafter and revolver, being all the arms the party had. Scott waited with a mule for the Indians to bring in the deer, while Smith and Hamilton started on with the train. They had not proceeded far, however, before they perceived that they were completely surrounded by Indians, who were approaching with evident hostile intentions. Scott perceiving this, started to rejoin the party, which he succeeded in doing; the three then, after a short consultation, decided that their only way to save themselves, was by a hasty flight. They accordingly started on the *khan jump*, and making their way through the band of Indians, they continued on in that gait until they arrived at the edge of the Redwoods, a distance of about fifteen miles, (closely pursued by the Indians all the while,) and arrived in the valley that evening. After they had been in an hour or two, one of the Indians came in, bare-foot, bringing the rifle and revolver with him. He stated that when the white men broke from the Indians, he and the other one were coming towards camp with the deer, and perceiving that part of the band of diggers turned from following the whites and came towards them, he threw away the deer, pulled off his boots, and thus prepared himself for the forlorn hope of saving his life, by outrunning the multitude of his enemies. He succeeded in doing so, by running the gauntlet, as it were, for fifteen miles, and arrived safely in the valley as above stated. He says that the last he saw of his companion, he was running into a thicket, closely pursued by 15 or 20 diggers, and has no doubt that he was killed there.

Two parties left the valley, since the occurrence, to cross the mountains; and perhaps before this they have come into close quarters with the band of hostile diggers, and if so, we may safely calculate that the latter have learned a lesson which they will remember.

One of the parties, spoken of, went out for the purpose of opening a new trail to the mines, which will be much nearer and better than the old one.

Yours, truly,

ERR. RIVER.

[The above, as will be seen from the date, was written in time for last week's paper; but we did not receive it till Saturday, after the papers were struck off.—ED. TIMES.]

