

CAMP AT CAP-ELL,
Klamath, California, June, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to report everything quiet as yet in this section of the country. Since I have been here, I have been under the necessity of employing an interpreter to enable me to converse with and make myself understood by the numerous Indians who are continually visiting the camp. Through him, and by other means, I have endeavored to ascertain their wishes and feelings. This "point," at the head of what is called the "reservation," is about thirty-five miles from the mouth of the river. There are between here and the mouth

about two thousand Indians, men, women, and children. They can raise about six hundred good fighting men, armed with bows and arrows; as far as can be learned, there are not more than three or four guns among them. From here to the mouth of Salmon river, about forty miles, (including Hoopa valley, eight miles from the mouth of Trinity river, which is ten miles from here,) there are about fifteen hundred Indians in all. They can turn out full five hundred fighting men, with about one hundred guns in fighting order. The Indians in Hoopa valley nearly all have guns, and they know well how to use them. Since this has been called a reserve, there has not been, to my certain knowledge, a solitary Indian moved on to it from the country above here. A party of nearly one hundred from the mouth of the Salmon river came as far as Weitch-peck (ten miles above here) about a year ago, but finding no provisions, houses, or any preparations made to receive them, returned discontented to their homes. The Indians on this river are dissatisfied; they say that lies have been told them; that they have been told that this "reserve" had been chosen for them to live on; that if they came here they would be protected from the whites; that they would be given fisheries on the river to fish in, helped to build new houses, and that they would be fed until they could get well settled; but that no such thing had been done, that no preparations have been made, and that they (those who live above) will not leave their fisheries and ranches to come down here to freeze and starve; that they own no land on this portion of the river, and that if they fish at the fisheries of other Indians they will be killed. All the cultivation that has been done on the "reservation," that I am aware of, is a small piece of land at Wak-ell, near the mouth of the river, and the produce of which might support about twenty persons. The mule trail to the Klamath and Salmon mines crosses the river about six miles above here and follows the river up. The Indians live on or near it, and are continually exposed to the brutal assault of drunken and lawless white men; their squaws are forced, and, if resented, the Indians are beaten and often shot. So great is their dread, that upon the approach of whites the young squaws immediately run to the mountains to hide, and remain until the whites have left. A great many cases of ill-treatment might be mentioned, and they are so common here as scarcely to excite comment. I am satisfied that nothing but a want of combination among Indians above here prevents an outbreak; and that the death of a white man by an Indian, which would be immediately followed by the killing of some Indians, would create a war from which it would be almost impossible to prevent the Indians on the "reservation" from joining, which would result in a large loss of life and property, and cost a large amount of money to quell. The country about here is of the most mountainous character, and to pursue and fight Indians in it would be a task of no ordinary difficulty; whilst the Indians, by their superior knowledge of the country and quickness of movement, would waylay every trail, and materially injure, if not totally destroy, the business of a large section of northern California. The only course which I see to prevent such a result, is to make the necessary preparations and move the Indians on the reservation, which could have been done easily last summer,

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and may yet be done without great trouble, unless from the Indians of Hoopa valley.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. RUNDELL,

2d Lieutenant 4th Infantry, Commanding Detachment.

Lieutenant F. H. BATES, *4th Infantry,*
Commanding Fort Humboldt, California.
