

Daily Alta California.

E. O. Kemble & J. E. Durieage, Editors.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 1.

The Clear Lake Indians.

A few days since, we published a brief account of an expedition of the United States' forces against the Clear Lake Indians, furnished us by a gentleman whose veracity we have never had any occasion to doubt, nor ever heard impugned. Coming from near the region where the affair took place, we deemed the information as explicit and accurate as it was possible to obtain, inasmuch as it was without our power to obtain any intelligence from head quarters, or from any of the officers connected in any way with the expedition. Reports similar to that to which we gave publicity in the columns of our journal were current throughout the city, derived from various sources, and it was our duty to our readers to furnish the best obtainable information upon the subject.

In publishing this account it was clearly expressed as particulars derived from information, and the mere fact that it was published in our columns was no endorsement of its correctness and accuracy. Our informant was Capt. J. B. Frisbie, a gentleman well known and universally respected in this country. It seems that this account has caused a great commotion in camp, and excited a great deal of indignation. In an accidental interview with General Persifer F. Smith yesterday, that officer took occasion to pronounce our account *false*, in the very strongest possible language, and with a very decided evidence of anger, and also to question, indirectly, our motives for its publication. This general disclaimer of the statements contained in that account is

~~all the statements contained in that account is all we have to go upon, for no one who had official information has deemed it of sufficient consequence, it would appear, to the public, to afford them an inkling of what has transpired. We have no desire to question the orders of General Smith, or to bring that officer into any false position, although, if we deemed his course arbitrary and unwarrantable, we should exercise the same right to express our views in relation to them as we would of any other public officer connected with the administration of our laws, either civil or military. We have upon all occasions been ready to correct any error into which we may have fallen or been led inadvertently, upon its being made apparent to us. The only other account of the Clear Lake affair which we have is the following, which we copy from the *Herald* of yesterday: - From what source the information of our new contemporary was derived we are of course ignorant. It will afford us much satisfaction to believe it true.~~

~~Among the accounts of Indian disturbances, we have published an article from the *Alta California*, of this city, giving the particulars of a rumored massacre of the Clear Lake Indians. We thought, at the time of its publication, that it must be greatly exaggerated, and upon applying at the proper source for information, we find that we were not only correct in our surmises, but that the affair has been wholly misrepresented. The facts, derived from a source the accuracy of which is unquestionable, are as follows: A party of Indians, living in and about the Sonoma district, after committing many murders and other outrages, in November last fled to Clear Lake which is a sheet of water forty miles long and from six to eight miles wide, lying some fifty miles north of Sonoma. Having been pursued by the troops, they took refuge in one of the numerous islands of the Lake. This they have made their abode ever since, setting the troops at defiance and maintaining an attitude of hostility towards all the whites. Until recently the condition of the roads rendered access to the Lake im-~~

~~tion of the roads rendered access to the Lake im-~~
~~passible for an armed force. About ten days~~
~~since, however, Captain Lyon was ordered to pro-~~
~~ceed to Clear Lake, and to punish and dislodge~~
~~the Indians from their stronghold. The latter~~
~~had fortified their position, and had provided a~~
~~quantity of provisions sufficient to enable them to~~
~~sustain a twelve months siege. They defied the~~
~~soldiers on their approach, and invited them to~~
~~come on if they wanted to fight. The men ad-~~
~~vanced in boats, (which they had transported~~
~~with great labor across the mountains,) and were~~
~~received with a shower of arrows. In the com-~~
~~bat many of the soldiers were seriously wound-~~
~~ed, and a number of the Indians killed. The~~
~~statement that women and children were massa-~~
~~cred, is wholly unfounded. Some of the squaws~~
~~were drowned in attempting to swim away, and~~
~~it is said that some of the children were put to~~
~~death by their own mothers; but the accuracy~~
~~of this statement cannot be vouched for. Capt.~~
~~Lyon has proceeded up towards the head waters~~
~~of the Sacramento, in pursuit of the murderers~~
~~of Capt. Warner. This is the true history of the~~
~~"horrible slaughter of the Clear Lake Indians."~~

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