

Official Dispatches. -- Indian War.

We give below the letters of Capts. Graham and Tracy, concerning the battles with the Indians in El Dorado County, and also the letter of Col. Kewen.

HEAD QUARTERS, Johnson's Ranch, }  
May 23th, 1851. }

Brig. Gen. WINN :

Dear Sir--Pursuant to orders, I proceeded by express to this place, and reached here yesterday. I came in company with Col. Rogers, and Capt. Tongelin's command of 60 men, which, with Capts. Graham, Tracy, and Buckley's commands, make the effective force now ~~under~~ <sup>under</sup> the command of Col. Rodgers amount to one hundred and eighty-five. These men are all in fine condition, well armed and provisioned, and are the most effective force ever paraded in California.

Enclosed I send you the reports of Capts. Graham and Tracy, from which you will derive more particularly an account of the affair of the 23d, with the Indians on the North Fork of the South American.

From a personal knowledge of the troops, many of whom were engaged in the most active operations of the Mexican war, I can understand the obstinate character of the contest, and the warlike spirit of the Indians, when it was found impossible for our men to carry off their dead. The efforts to do so

understand the obstinate character of the contest, and the warlike spirit of the Indians, when it was found impossible for our men to carry off their dead. The efforts to do so were only abandoned when the dead body was repeatedly shot while being carried off, and in the arms of our soldiers.

I have to report, sir, that but one sentiment seems to obtain through this community, and that is, that this war is necessary, and rendered so by the repeated incursions of the Indians, whose temerity becomes greater as their depredations are more frequent and alarming. The entire country, from the South American to the Calaveras, is in a state of war, and this embraces the largest territory and richest placer diggings in California. The necessity of this war is no longer susceptible of debate; authentic reports reach us almost daily of miners being murdered and driven from the placers; and the only important question is to determine the most effective means to drive the Indians from the country, and by treaty to prevent the further recurrence of difficulties. It becomes me to state, in reference to the practicability of treating with the Indians, that I but repeat the sentiment of our most intelligent citizens and officers who are well acquainted with their character and habits, that I think it nearly impossible, and utterly impracticable at present. I believe with our present efficient force, that we will be able to compel the enemy to a decisive battle, which will break up their organization, demonstrate our superiority, and coerce them to enter into treaty.

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Until some decisive action, flushed as they are with success, and embittered with a protracted war of twelve months duration, they will listen to no terms, and the first efforts of our Commissioners must consequently prove abortive. I would say, however, that officers and men are anxious to welcome the Commissioners, and will heartily co-operate with them in every effort to induce the enemy to treat.

The Indians are encamped upon the recent battle-ground to the number of at least 700 warriors, which number is being daily increased by recruits from the neighboring tribes. They are fortified, and their position rendered almost impregnable by the natural strength and inaccessibility of the mountain steeps.

They are sanguine of their ability to resist our troops, and are said to be quietly awaiting our approach. We are engaged in active ~~and~~ preparations, and at day-dawn to-morrow will make a forced march to the scene of action.

The great rendezvous of the savages is Red Lake, at the head of the South American, where their women and children and herds are collected.

It is at present designed, if we dislodge the enemy, to proceed thence to their rendezvous, destroy their ranchos and take their stock. This will deprive them of their substance, disqualify them for pursuing war, and incline them to listen to terms of treaty. In the last engagement they had at least 150 guns, and evinced a spirit equal to that of the Camanches.

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The Coloma Indians have been detected in furnishing these with guns and ammunition. Col. Rodgers promptly sent a party to deprive them of such dangerous property, and to hold the chiefs in custody at Coloma until the arrival of the Commissioners, prudently judging that as hostages they may be successfully used as interpreters to communicate with the Indians engaged in open hostilities.

Trusting that in a day or two I may be able to report the success of our troops in a decisive engagement, I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Your obed't serv't,

G. D. HALL, Maj.

Head Quarters, 2d Battalion of Cali- )  
fornia Volunteers, May 25, 1851. )

Maj. WM. RODGERS:—

Sir:—On the morning of the 22d, I took up my line of march for the South Fork of the American River, where I arrived and encamped about 2 o'clock P. M. I had a slight brush with the Indians while in the act of making a crossing; the Indians kept firing from the opposite side, until I returned to camp. The next morning I dispatched two men to Capt. Graham, of Co. A, to let him know where I was. He sent word that he would be on the opposite side of the river the next day at 12 o'clock on the morning of the 24th. I crossed the river without provisions, and commenced ascending the hill. I ordered my 1st. Lieutenant with 25 men to take the right of a ridge whilst I took the left and met Capt. Graham. After

# DAILY UNION

SACRAMENTO CITY, MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1851.

BUSINESS CARDS ADVERT