

The Clear Lake Indian Massacre.

In the June number of the *Watchman*, a religious paper published in this city, we find the following account of the recent Indian disturbances and outrages perpetrated near Clear Lake:—

Indian Difficulties.—Under the most plainly justifiable circumstances, such fearful destruction of human life as that which recently occurred in the case of the Clear Lake and Russian River Indians, cannot be thought of without a shudder of horror. If a deserved retribution, surely it cannot but be regarded as a most deplorable retribution. After a conflict, between power and weakness, of some hours' continuance on an island at the head of Clear Lake, no less than one hundred slain bodies of the Indians, out of about three hundred warriors, were counted; many more were wounded mortally, and not a few women and children, as well as warriors, were drowned in their attempt to escape from the entire ruin which threatened them. In the engagement the work of death was quite confined to one side, the Americans suffering only in the wounding of two of their men.

The order to exterminate the tribe appears to have been given to the expedition; and, in pursuing further this object, a party of Indians was overtaken in the valley of Russian River, which, however, proved to be a distinct tribe of that region, yet, as was ascertained, concerned with others in committing offences against the whites. These Indians raised the yell of defiance, a signal for fighting, and the engagement commenced, which, like the former, proved most destructive. In this battle about one hundred of the red men were killed.

In reflecting, with painful emotions, upon these scenes, we do not overlook the necessity of securing to our people protection against the predatory and murderous assaults of the savages; nor the well-known Indian character, in the deep-seated treachery and revenge of their hearts, nor the demand, in certain circumstances, for the proper punishment of offences. Yet, knowing that provocations leading to acts of savage depredations have often originated with the whites, and having reason to believe, even in these recent oc-

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currences, remotely, this may have been the fact,
~~we cannot refrain from an expression prompted~~
by humanity, if not a sense of equity, of deep
regrets that so summary a vengeance should have
been visited upon these ignorant though deprav-
ed men. Often have we had occasion to observe,
in the treatment which the Indians of California
have received at the hands of individuals or
small parties, a most reprehensible disregard of
their value, rating them no higher than the
inferior animals. We refer here to instances of
cold-blooded murder of these people, by those
claiming the reputation of civilized men. May
such things be no more repeated, for civilization
and humanity's sake, on the soil of California.

What shall be done for the preservation and
welfare of the Indians of California? We can-
not for one moment entertain the thought that
they *must be* at once and entirely *exterminated*.
We think much may be done, and with good ef-
fect, to save them, both from the vices of our na-
ture and a violent extinction. Let the sugges-
tions made by the Presbytery of California, at its
sessions in Benicia, in February last, which also
accord with the views and recommendations of
Mr. Ewing, Secretary of the Interior, be prompt-
ly and efficiently carried out, and the results, we
confidently believe, will be most happy. The
plan proposed contemplates the gathering of the
aborigines into ranches, with the patronage of
the general government, and under the immedi-
ate control of persons qualified to train them in
the principles of Christianity and all the useful
arts. But as to wholesale butchery, the univer-
sal cry of our people is, or should be, Shame, oh
horrid!

ly Alta California.

SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 3, 1850.
