

# Daily Evening Bulletin.

THOS. S. KING, Editor.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, 1857.

## The Indians in California.

The condition of the various Indian tribes in our State is a subject of interest to both the statesman and the philanthropist. According to the report of Col. Henley, made to the Department at Washington, there are about 61,000 of these people within our limits, sunk lower in the scale of humanity perhaps than the same number of human beings anywhere else on our continent. The Digger tribes of California, we believe, have always been ranked lowest among the aborigines. They are less warlike, less ingenious in catching and killing game, and in building lodges; less cleanly in their habits, and exhibit less intellect than the Indians generally inhabiting the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Instead of being brave and expert in the use of weapons, and cunning in trapping game, they are timid and idiotic, feeding on roots, snakes and insects, and on the grasses of the fields, like beasts. They have no skins to clothe themselves, but remain naked even in our chill climate. Their lodges are but holes in the earth, or crevices in the rocks; and their existence is the most miserable that can be imagined, being a constant struggle against cold and starvation.

The government, soon after the acquisition of California, set on foot various endeavors to ameliorate their condition. Many of these tribes have been gathered together in various parts of the State, upon what

are called "Government Reservations, and there has been effort has been made to teach them to cultivate the soil, and thus to supply themselves with food—for as the land in our State is taken up by the whites, and the forests destroyed, even the sources of subsistence formerly enjoyed by the Indians, are cut off. Their roots and scorns are now more scarce than ever.

As a general thing, the Diggers have been found tractable, and easily managed. They learn very readily to cultivate grain; and with simple implements of husbandry are very expert. Speaking of one tribe, (the Nome Lackees,) the Superintendent, in referring to the harvesting of the last year's crop, says:

Nothing in the pursuits of industry could have been more satisfactory or interesting. The harvest was cut entirely with small German reaping-hooks, used by the Indians with extraordinary dexterity. About two hundred men, furnished with these sickles cut the wheat and threw it into bunches, followed by a sufficient number of women and boys to bind it into sheaves and put it into stacks ready for threshing. In this way, and at their leisure, in about ten days, taking it as it ripened, the entire harvesting was completed, all the labor having been performed by the Indians, only three or four white men being engaged as overseers. It was estimated by the white men in charge of the work that one hundred of these Indians could be selected who would cut and take care of as much grain as any fifty white men not regularly accustomed to this description of labor. Considering the fact that these Indians eighteen months ago were entirely wild and totally ignorant of everything connected with industrial habits, the labor they have performed, and the skill and dexterity they have exhibited, are alone a sufficient answer to the question so often asked, "Can Indians be made to perform labor sufficient to provide for their support?"

Besides their agricultural productions, the Government expends, yearly, a large sum of money for the purchase of food for these Indians, and in paying officers to superintend them. It will take time to redeem them from their old habits of indolence and improvidence, but, in the course of years, they will, doubtless, under the protection of our Government, be greatly raised in the scale of humanity. There are now established in the State seven Government Reservations, upon which Indians are settled, as follows:

At Klamath.....	2,500
At Nome Lacke.....	2,000
At Mendocino.....	500
At Yrebo.....	900

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At Klamath.....	2,500
At Nome Lacke.....	2 000
At Mendocino.....	500
At Fresno.....	900
At Tejon.....	700
At Nome Cult Valley (attached to Nome Lacke).....	3,000
At King's river (attached to Fresno).....	400
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>10,000</b>

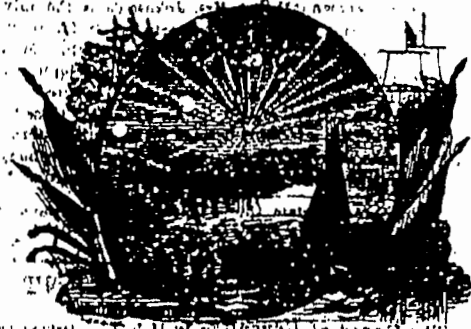
Besides these, there are in the State many other Indians not connected with the Reservations, whose number the Superintendent cannot correctly ascertain. From the best sources of information he, however, reaches the following estimates:

In San Diego and San Bernardino counties.....	8,000
In Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties...	2,000
In Tulare and Mariposa counties.....	2,500
In Tuolumne, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Alameda and Contra Costa counties.....	4,100
In Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer counties.....	3,500
In Sutter, Yuba, Nevada and Sierra counties.....	3 500
In Butte, Shasta and Siskiyou counties.....	5,500
In Klamath, Humboldt and Trinity counties.....	6,500
In Mendocino, Colusi, Yolo, Napa, Sonoma and Marin counties.....	15,000

Thus making, with the ten thousand on the Reservations, the total number of Indians within the Superintendency, about 61,000.

Some people have seriously doubted the expediency of collecting the Indians upon the Reservations; and others have recommended that the children be distributed among the white families of the State, to be reared as servants. In such a condition they would doubtless receive more physical comforts than they can ever expect on the Reservations—while their opportunities for mental instruction would be also greater. But there are objections to the plan which present themselves to our mind that far outweigh any advantages that could accrue.

**Evening**



**Bulletin**

**SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, 1857.**

**EVENING DIVERSIONS.**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**WANTS.**