

Letter from Fort Gaston.

Fort GASTON, June 26th, 1863.

MR. EDITOR TIMES—*Dear Sir*:—According to promise I now employ my pen, briefly, in giving you a few items from this lovely region, full of a truth Hoopa is almost—as the first settler would have had it—an "Eden." Our company arrived at this post on the evening of the 18th inst., and on the 19th the command was transferred from Lieut. Col. Olney, to Captain Ousley, since which time the public property has been turned over by Lieut. Theodore C. Winchell to Lieut. Edward Hale, A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S. Owing to the press of duty naturally devolving upon us in consequence of taking up a new station, we have, thus far had but little time to attend to our legitimate business—Indian hunting—but as is usual with our Captain, he is constantly on the alert, both by day and by night, and you can assure the people of Humboldt county that by the time this is in print movements will be on foot which will result to their permanent good. At the present there are but few Indians in the valley; the cause of their leaving seems to be in doubt; some argue that fear, because of the coming of the "W. ugie soldiers" is the cause; others more consistently maintain that a majority of the "two braves" are now in arms and have enlisted themselves with their dusky brethren of Redwood, to aid them in murdering and plundering. Be this as it may, everything looks mysterious and suspicious. In the meantime Capt. Ousley has instituted, with the few remaining Indians, strict, but honest and plain measures; they have been fairly warned that their presence within the garrison limits is not desirable, and will under no circumstances be tolerated. The leading Indians, since our arrival, profess to be "plenty inquis" and say they do not wish to fight the "White men soldiers;" previously they were extremely insulting and impudent in their demeanor and often threaten to "clean out" the whole valley, Ft. Gaston not excepted. As a natural consequence the white inhabitants became much alarmed, and at once erected strong fortifications around their several homes; Capt. Ousley's activity has produced a material change, and now affairs wear a very different and brighter aspect.

Mr. John A. Fairchild has just arrived at this post and informs that while he and three other white men, accompanied by four domesticated Indians, from Klamath, were out on the Bald Hills, hunting cattle, they were fired upon by a band of Indians in ambush—number unknown—

cattle; they were fired upon by a band of
Indians in ambush—number unknown—
only nine showing themselves. Mr. F.
and his party were but poorly armed and
consequently could make but little resist-
ance. The red scamps kept up a contin-
ual fire, both at the whites and the ani-
mals, killing two horses and wounding
one mule belonging to Mr. William Mor-
ton. One of the Klamath Indians was
finally prevailed upon to go and have a
talk with the assailants; he did so, re-
turning with a permission for Mr. Fair-
child, in consideration of his being a
Klamath wagie, to remain and hunt two
days for his cattle, at the expiration of
which time he must leave. They at the
same time asserted in positive terms, that
"no Uniontown or Trinidad white man"
would be permitted to show himself
around there, because they had lately
stolen some of their squaws. Each Indi-
an seen was armed with a good rifle and
seven of them had revolvers also. They
were extremely insulting in their lan-
guage, defying the whites to come out
and give them battle. This occurred on
the 18th inst., at the Harry Williams'
old place, between Trinidad and Klam-
ath. The squaws referred to are doubt-
less the ones lately captured by Capt.
Ousley, and as they were identified as be-
longing to Hoopa, it is made apparent at
once that, at least a part of the band are
Indians of this Valley. There can be no
doubt but these are some that made the
late attack on the house near Trinidad.
A painful accident occurred at the Post
this mornig. Our ammunition and fire-
arms were being removed from the mag-
azine in order to be exposed to the sun.
In opening the door a portion of the
wooden tressels had to be taken out; im-
mediately upon doing so the masonry
works gave way and the whole west por-
tion of the frail and foolishly arranged
construction fell, burying beneath its
crushing weight our friend and fellow-
soldier, William H. Wall. With light-
ning speed he was rescued, and I am
happy to say that his injuries are not of
a dangerous character. His foot was
thrown out of joint, and he is otherwise
considerably bruised. His foot has been
carefully set by Capt. Ousley, and he is
now quite comfortable. In a few days
he will be out again.
Of course we are waiting in all pa-
tience for orders to return where we prop-
erly belong. We want to fight for our
homes, and the homes of those we dearly
love. When will the time come? When?
All of Company "B" join in saying, "We
hope soon." Ever thine,
NEELY,
Of Company "B," Cal. Mountaineers.

"Letter from Fort Gaston Weekly
Humboldt Times, July 4, 1863, p. 1,
col. 4.

THE HUMBOLDT TIMES.

EUREKA, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1863. NO. 40.

The Old Cause. Letter from Fort Gaston.

Published Weekly at Eureka, California, by J. B. RICHARDSON.