

Shasta Correspondence.

SHASTA, July 2, 1852.

Messrs. Editors:—Last week I sent you an account of the Indians stealing some twenty animals from this place. Since then I have learned that those were not all which were taken at that time, the people upon Whiskey Creek, French Gulch, and all that region, having lost nearly all the horses and mules which they possessed. The number driven off at that time was nearer one hundred than the number I first stated.

On Tuesday last a miner at work in a gulch between the Canon and Olney Creek, was killed by the Indians. When found he was lying in his hole, pierced with nine arrows, and his pick driven into his head.

Eight months ago, when I first came into this part of the country, I wrote you many particulars of the difficulties here, and have occasionally sent you an account of a few only of their murders and robberies. I had hoped that enough had been published to secure us here some protection as well as notice; but if we may judge the future by the past and present operations as a guarantee of what we are still to expect, then is our case perfectly hopeless, as there is now a rapid progression from bad to worse; and about the worst part of our case is that our Indian difficulties have become matter for political capital, as the columns of the *Union* and *Democratic State Journal* plainly show.

I do not wish to get into a controversy with any man, and have no desire or cause to find fault with the present Administration, for I am a Whig, a thorough Whig, and I cannot see what possible sanction there can be between Whiggery, or the present Administration, and the long neglect and neglect which we have suffered, and when at last noticed

the present Administration, for I am a Whig, a thorough Whig, and I cannot see what possible connection there can be between Whiggery, or the present Administration, and the long neglect under which we have suffered, and when at last noticed, the stupid blundering operations which are the effect of that notice, and now the system of "masterly inactivity" which is sustained. Could I believe that there was any connection between them, I would go as far as any man to cure the evil, by striking at its very roots, and in this I would be joined by nearly every Whig in this region. Divested of partisanship the simple facts of the case are these.

For full three years this section of the State has suffered everything from the Indians. Last fall I was assured by Josiah Roop, Esq. our Postmaster, that he knew of forty-seven men who had been murdered by the Indians in this neighborhood, and since that conversation with Mr. Roop, I can count ten more, making fifty-seven, and within my knowledge they have stolen upwards of two hundred head of horses and mules, besides neat cattle, and other property, which, valued at \$100 per head, amounts to \$20,000, in eight months! Now what has been done by our military authorities to protect us? We have been wholly neglected and unnoticed until within the last three months, since which time a body of troops has been sent up the Sacramento valley as far as the mouth of Cow Creek, and there have built a military post, or adobe fort, and I understand, planted cannon upon it, and there these troops are entrenched, no doubt waiting to be attacked by Digger Indians. At any rate, not a man of them has yet moved from there to redress a single wrong.

What surprises people most is the point chosen for this Fort, being at least *thirty miles* from the nearest hostile Indian, and more than *twenty miles* below the town of Shasta, towards Sacramento City. Now, if Gen. Hitchcock knows anything of the topography of this part of the State, he knows that, for all useful purposes, his troops might as well be at Sutter's Fort as where they are. If he knows what Indians commit these depredations, and in what part of the country they dwell, he knows that they are at least twenty miles from Shasta, upon the opposite side from his Fort, and that the Indians approach the town and its vicinage from the opposite side.

and never being nearer his Fort than the point where they commit their depredations. And then again, if Gen. Hitchcock knows anything of the Indians in this country, he knows that the Cow Creek Indians are friendly, seldom or never doing any harm, and that all the harm which is done by Indians is done by those living north and upon Pitt River and its tributaries, and upon the upper Sacramento. In short, if Gen. Hitchcock knows anything about this country he knows that these troops, if for protection, should be placed upon or near to Pitt River, so as to have command of their principal trails, the country below them, and thus hold them in check, which of course he must know, if he knows its topography, with the mountain passes; but if those troops were intended for mere show, or buccombe, then he could not have selected a better point than the one they now occupy. But if Gen. H. does really not know anything about these matters, it is a very easy thing by well directed inquiries, or examination, to learn it all.

These troops have now been fortified at their present point for some weeks, and men have been murdered, property stolen and destroyed, and hay burned, upon Cow Creek, a few miles above them, all by the same Indians, and yet not a movement is made for protection.

Some of the officers being upon Cow Creek, where Wilcox, Norton & Co. were cutting hay, were asked by Mr. Wilcox if, in case they should have any difficulty with the Indians, as they constantly expected, if they could call upon the troops for aid, when these officers replied that they could not possibly render them any assistance, as there were but fifty men of them, and they could not risk themselves.— Comment is unnecessary.

But Gen. Hitchcock informs us that he intends to adhere to his original plan of operations, and that he "refuses to place his troops in a position to witness the proceedings" of the people here, in protecting everything themselves. These cases of "indiscriminate slaughter" are rare, and as much deprecated here as by Gen. H., and we have no more desire to have his troops witness these things than himself. But what we do desire, is that Gen. Hitchcock will render "such proceedings" unnecessary, by distributing and placing the troops which he should use for our protection so as to secure the end desired. An

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MINER.

DAILY UNION

FRISCO, FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 9, 1852.

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