

FORT JONES, CALIFORNIA,
August 7, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the command of this post was relinquished to me by Brevet Major Wise, 3d artillery, this morning, and that shortly thereafter I received a copy of the *Yreka Union* of this date, an extract from which I take the liberty to enclose.

As a truthful statement of occurrences, I cannot believe the article referred to is at all to be relied on, its inconsistencies being too prominent to require notice, particularly that which makes a large body of Indians, flushed with victory, and through which twenty-three volunteers were forced to cut their way for several miles, retreat before General Cosby and ten men. The statement that the volunteers pursued and endeavored to attack *the first body of Indians* they encountered is significant, and entirely sustains me in my opinion of the character of the entire expedition. I communicated to Colonel Coffee, pay department, while on his recent official visit to this post, my views upon the objects of, and necessity for, the military movement of General Cosby, and would respectfully refer to him, should the commanding general desire it, for information inappropriate to an official communication. That the expedition was unauthorized by the circumstances upon which the necessity for it was based, is the opinion of every candid and honest citizen with whom I have conversed upon the subject. It was possible, through the exercise of a proper discretion and judgment, to have ascertained the perpetrators of the murders upon the Siskeyon mountain (two white men) as of that in the Shasta valley (one white man), the more readily so through the assistance of the chief of the Klamath Indians, Alsk, who has always evinced a most friendly disposition towards the whites, and an anxious desire to maintain peaceful relations with them. When last in Yreka, he stated to Mr. Rusborough (late Indian agent) that among so many Indians as he attempted to control, there were necessarily some who were maliciously disposed, and, as I was informed, evinced a desire to assist in bringing them to justice should they ever be guilty of any outrages against the whites. From all the information I possess, it is apparent to me that the volunteer force, under General Cosby had

no intention of discriminating between Indians; neither would it have been possible to have done so, in view of its character, had its commander been so disposed. The Indians in the vicinity of Klamath lakes are numerous, and if forced into a permanent hostile position towards the whites, would be unusually difficult to subject, through the vast extent of marshes or tule in which they are enabled to conceal themselves, and which are almost unapproachable. Destined as the volunteers are to meet with reverses, or at least with inconsiderable success, it is possible that they may relinquish any further prosecution of hostilities. Should this not occur, their prompt recall, or at least a temporary cessation of their operations, with a view to a peaceful settlement of existing difficulties, which I believe to be practicable, and can be made satisfactory, is necessary to avert an Indian war of a serious character. I have resolved to take no action in reference to the disturbances referred to, without instructions from the general commanding, believing that in this incipient stage of hostilities the satisfactory and peaceful termination is possible, could the volunteer force be rendered inert, at least until an attempt at negotiation has been fairly made.

The detachment of my company recently operating under Lieutenant Colonel Buchanan, 4th infantry, in Oregon, has not yet returned, but is daily expected.

Should it be decided to attempt the settlement of the difficulties referred to by peaceful means, I would respectfully suggest that Judge Rusborough, of Yreka, formerly Indian agent, be empowered by the Indian Department, if possible, (should he be disposed to undertake the duty,) to co-operate with the commander of the United States troops. His assistance would be invaluable, and go far to insure success.

H. M. JUDAH,
Captain 4th Infantry.

The first engagement.—The next morning, whilst on the march from Lost river to Camp Martin, on Clear lake, the advance guard descried a body of Indians about two miles distant, in the direction of Tule lake. The guard started in immediate pursuit. On arriving at the lake they found a rancheria on an island about six hundred yards from shore, and about fifty or sixty Indian warriors drawn up for battle. The guard here dismounted, and charged on foot through the water, which was about three feet deep. Before reaching the island, the Indians made their escape in canoes. Their village, together with a lot of provisions, was burnt and destroyed. One Indian in this skirmish was killed.

Second engagement.—On regaining the road, a body of mounted warriors were seen descending from the mountain on the east, doubtless attracted by the burning of the island. The main command overtook the guard at this place, and Captain Martin with twenty-seven men started in pursuit. The Indians were well mounted, and for a distance of about fourteen miles the chase was hotly contested. They finally succeeded in gaining some high bluffs, where they concealed themselves among the rocks, and the chase was abandoned—not, however, until Captain Martin's command had killed one Indian and shot the horse from under another.

A man missing.—On reaching the encampment on the evening of the 30th, it was ascertained that John Alban, of company B, was missing. He had separated from the main command, and had been cut off by the Indians. Scouts were immediately despatched to the mountains, and during the following three days and nights the most diligent search was made for the missing man. On the 2d instant his body was found horribly mutilated, his gun and revolver lying by his side broken to pieces.

Third engagement.—On the afternoon of the 2d instant a detachment of twenty-three men, under command of Lieutenant Warman, were surrounded near Bloody Point—where the lamented Coats lost his life in August, 1852—by nearly two hundred Indians. The savages immediately opened a heavy fire upon Lieutenant Warman's command, who were compelled to cut their way through them for a distance of several miles. The loss in this engagement was: killed, Second Lieutenant H. Warman; wounded, N. C. Miller and A. McAllister. The Indians lost eight killed, and several were supposed to be wounded.

Fourth engagement.—General Cosby, whilst on his way from Yreka to rejoin the command, with an escort of ten men, discovered the Indians named in the preceding engagement returning from the battle. General Cosby and party gave them immediate chase. They broke and fled to the mountains, but, finding they were being rapidly gained upon, they took up a position in a small grove of cedar near the base of the mountain. Here they maintained their position until they were driven to the bluff of the mountain. In this engagement one of Cosby's command was badly wounded. Eight horses were captured from the Indians, and several of their number wounded. The Indians were well armed with rifles, and mounted on fine horses.

On the 3d instant General Cosby reached the camp on Clear lake,

named Camp Martin; here he found Captain Williams and the detachment that was sent from Willow creek to Clear lake. These had travelled five days around the lake, and during the expedition found a large body of Indians on the north side; but as they were near the water, and supplied with boats, they succeeded in making their escape to an island. Two horses were captured at this point.

Incidents of the fight.—Dennis Fitzpatrick shot the Indian who killed Lieutenant Warman.

General Cosby took from the Indians Warman's hat, and also the gun of a Mr. Miller, which was lost when his horse was shot from under him.

General Cosby was shot through his pantaloons and shirt, in front, near the thighs.

A private letter received from Major P. Murray states, among the eight horses that were captured, one was found belonging to Mr. Howland. The saddle of the person murdered at the head of Shasta valley a short time since was also found.
