

Letter from Neely.

Fort Gaston, August 6th, 1863.

DEAR EDITOR TIMES:—The heat, the toil, joys and troubles of the day are past, and in the refreshing cool of evening I employ my pen in noting a few more items for the benefit of your readers.

Again it becomes my painful duty to record the untimely death of two more persons—victims to the murderous hands of the sneaking and cowardly Diggers. About ten days ago an Indian arrived in the valley from the upper country, and represented that while he was staying at the house of a white man, an attack was made by the Redwood Indians, and the man and a woman killed, himself shot through the leg, and the house destroyed by burning. It was but in vain that this Indian was sought for; he kept well out of the way, knowing it would be bad policy for him to expose his wounds, for doubtless he is one among the wounded in the attack made by Lieutenant Hempfield, some time since at the mouth of New river. A few days later the report of the murders was confirmed by a Chinaman who had passed near by the blackened ruins of a once beautiful country home. Accordingly a detachment of thirteen men under Corporal J. H. Underwood was dispatched by Captain Ousley, to the scene of death and plunder, to inter the dead, and pursue the Indians if their trail could be discovered. The detachment returned Saturday evening last, having found and buried the charred remains of the murdered woman. She was a woman known here as Madani Weaver. The house seems to have been strod in the rear, the brave but erring woman perishing miserably amid the burning and falling ruins; beyond a doubt she defended herself to the last, for by her remains was found the fire-proof parts of a rifle, a shot-gun and a Colt's pistol. The man of the house, whose name, I believe, was Merrick, was undoubtedly killed while away from home as his body could not be found. He was known to have a good rifle and pistol with him which are now in the hands of the Indians.

From all appearances this murder was committed at least a month ago, and of course pursued by Corporal Underwood's detachment was utterly vain. Major Taylor left us last Tuesday night, to pass along over a dangerous and, to him, unknown mountain trail, on his way to Yreka to see to filling up the company being raised there. During his brief stay here, he has gained a high standing in the good will of Company B. Dr. Phelps, who will hand you this, will be at Fort Humboldt for a few days on business connected with his department; I commend him to your hospitalities, and you will find him in all respects worthy of kind offerings.

By the last mail from Arcata a large bundle of the Times came safely to our eager hands; I found one marked "Neely" for which I thank you; it was quite welcome.

I noticed a mistake in your paper in reference to Lieut. Geor's detachment coming into this Post; the Lieutenant alone, and not his detachment, came in.

I am right well pleased by the flattering compliment paid me by my noble friend Tian-Mysticos; I am glad also to know that in all goodness of heart he has undertaken the slippery task of forwarding us more butter; this spreading article and all other good things will be most welcome. O fading friend Mysticus. Already, as per request, I have advertised for proposals and will soon have a sufficiency of water-melons on hand to supply every woman, child, editor, correspondent and other gentlemen of Humboldt county. But as for the peaches, unfortunately they have, like yourself, in the Times, "dried up."

Unfadingly yours,

NEELY.

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