

Our Indian Prisoners.

On Monday last, in company with Captain Gibbs, commanding officer at Fort Humboldt, and his lady, we paid a visit to the Indian quarters, on the peninsula, near the entrance. To a person who has never seen a band of 700 or 800 wild Indians, of all ages, together, the sight is truly novel. When we arrived on the ground we found Lieut. Monholland, with a detachment of twenty men, in command. This detachment, under the judicious and stringent management of Capt. Gibbs, are quite sufficient to take care of all the Indians now prisoners here, and as many more as may come. A line of sentries stretches from the Bay to the beach, above the camp and above which no Indians are allowed to pass. They are thus left at liberty to range over all the lower end of the peninsula, with the entrance on the south, beach on the west and Bay on the east. Here is an abundance of wood, and lumber, drifted on the beach, out of which they have managed to build very comfortable huts. At low tide they gather quantities of clams, crabs, etc., and at other stages fish for salmon, herring, white perch, etc. They have built their huts in a hollow square, each family or tribe, living together or adjoining. In the centre of the square are the supplies, which are sent over every ten days, and are issued to heads of families, or tribes, by an Indian. This Indian has been impressed with a great sense of his importance by Capt. Gibbs. He has a uniform equal, in his own estimation, to that of the renowned Falstaff himself; and, indeed, the general appearance of this "big Indian," forcibly reminds one of that imaginary hero.

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We found them in a very healthy and apparently cheerful condition. In looking through camp we noticed the somewhat noted chief, Lassac. He was stubborn, and would not speak; with this exception they all appeared communicative, and ready to answer any questions which we could make them understand. They were engaged in the various amusements and occupations of Indian camp life in the mountains—the bucks gambling, wrestling and jumping—the squaws performing the drudgery, carrying wood and water, cooking, etc. They are fed on beef, hard bread and flour. The morning report of Monday last showed 201 bucks, 319 squaws and 204 children—in all 724. Since then about 150 more have arrived.

Altogether, these Indians are better managed, and with them a better system of control has been inaugurated than any we have ever witnessed on a reservation. They are contented where they are, and unless they can be taken south, where all chances of return would be cut off, they ~~had better remain.~~ To take them to Smith River would only incur a heavy expense and fit them to return to their old homes, doubly injured against the whites and Indian reservations.

Capt. Gibbs and his lady have our thanks for the attentions shown us on the trip. No part of our visit was more amusing than to see the Indian children flocking around Mrs. Gibbs, who always goes prepared to distribute candy, nuts, etc., among them.

HUMBOLDT TIMES

HUMBOLDT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1862.

IN NEWS.

ST. 23RD.

Ohio Bridges Burned.—Exchange of Prisoners.

CINCINNATI, August 22.—Two bridges on the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad.

The country to the northward is ~~presented as~~ being considerably exposed in consequence of depredations committed by men claiming to be Federal soldiers.