

The Mountaineers.

From the letter of our Fort Gaston correspondent, published in another column, it would seem that the pacific policy adopted by former commanders of that post in the management of the Hopa Indians, has been cast aside by Major Taylor, and such stringent measures resorted to as will teach them that they must accept terms in the place of making them. It would have been desirable, and would, moreover, have been in strict accordance with the programme of the coming winter campaign, if the step which Major Taylor has taken could have been deferred till the first fall of snow; but, under the circumstances, the Indians having thrown down the gauntlet, had that officer pursued a different course the result would have been to further establish confidence and defiance in the breasts of the Indians.

There are now four full and efficient companies of Mountaineers in service in this portion of the District, and every means which can be devised are being used to fill the other two companies.

Wm. O. Martin, of Arcata, has received a commission as Captain of company D, and gone to Del Norte county to commence recruiting. He will, we are informed, have permission to recruit out of the District, and will doubtless have his company full in a few months. Movements for the disposition of the men at present under Col. Whipple's command are being made, with a view to a vigorous prosecution of the war during the winter months, and at the same time give all possible protection to the frontier settlements and mail routes. Fort Baker has been abandoned and Company A, Capt. Long, ordered to go into quarters at "Luqua," between Kneeland's Prairie and the head of Yager. There is the spot where the post should have been established in the first place, as it is well located to watch the movements of the Indians passing between Yager and Van Duzen and upper Mad River. Capt. Long will have that section of country to look after, and from the central position which he will soon occupy, and the efficiency of his officers and men we expect

before next winter shall have passed, that but few red-skins will be left in upper Mad river and Yager creek. We also have reason to believe that Company B, Capt. Qualey, will make his head quarters for the winter on Redwood creek, in the vicinity of where Fort Anderson formerly stood. Looking to decisive blows against the hostile Indians, we can conceive of no point so important for the location of an effective body of men as Redwood creek, and there is certainly no company in the service so well acquainted with that section of country as company B. That place here should have been abandoned, as in its immediate vicinity more property has been destroyed,

all possible protection to the frontier settlements and mail routes. Fort Baker has been abandoned and Company A, Capt. Long, ordered to go into quarters at "Laqua," between Kneeland's Prairie and the head of Yager. There is the spot where the post should have been established in the first place, as it is well located to watch the movements of the Indians passing between Yager and Van Duzen and upper Mad River. Capt. Long will have that section of country to look after, and from the central position which he will soon occupy, and the efficiency of his officers and men we expect before next winter shall have passed, that but few red-skins will be left in upper Mad river and Yager creek. We also have reason to believe that Company B, Capt. Ousley, will make his head quarters for the winter on Redwood creek, in the vicinity of where Fort Anderson formerly stood. Looking to decisive blows against the hostile Indians, we can conceive of no point so important for the location of an effective body of men as Redwood creek, and there is certainly no company in the service so well acquainted with that section of country as Company B. That place never should have been abandoned, and in its immediate vicinity more property has been destroyed, and more lives lost by Indians than in any other place where hostilities exist. It was within a few hundred yards of where Fort Anderson stood, that the severest battle of the campaign has been fought, and it was in the immediate vicinity of that post that three trains have been captured and several men murdered. We hope to see Capt. Ousley located there soon as possible.

Company C, Capt. Miller, will probably garrison Gaston and look after the Trinity border, while Company E, Capt. Simpson, will most likely look towards the line of the mail route stretching towards the northern boundary of Mendocino county. A detachment of men will, we are informed, go to Mattole Valley next week, and remain there so long as their presence is required. Permission has been granted Col. Whipple by Gen. Wright to establish a Post on the coast above Trinidad, to protect the coast mail and look after the Indians in the vicinity of Redwood creek. This will be done at an early day.

All things considered, we think that the affairs of the Battalion are being managed as well as the circumstances of the case will admit, and should the disposition of the forces be made as we have indicated, and as we have reason to believe will be done, and that speedily, we give it as our opinion that the dawn of the spring of 1864 will find Humboldt county in a better condition, so far as Indian hostilities are concerned, than she has been for years. At least so let us hope.

"The Mountaineers," Weekly
Humboldt Times, September 12,
1863, p. 2, col. 1.

