

"Enslaving the California Indians."

The San Francisco *Bulletin* says that a correspondent of the *Boston Transcript*, writing from San Francisco, tells this story of the treatment of the Indians on the Pacific coast:

Since my last I have been home, and from there 200 miles northward to Humboldt Bay, where the Land Office is situated. I went up with a party of eight, on horseback, taking pack animals with us to carry our provisions. It was a rough, mountainous country we had to travel over, and uninhabited, save here and there by a rough mountaineer. The country is pretty thickly populated with wild Indians, who are now being hunted for their children—an assertion that will probably startle you—but such is the fact, disguise it as they may.

For several years different parties have attempted to locate themselves in those hills with cattle, to take advantage of the great range of feed. The Indians, being a miserable, improvident race, have now and then killed an ox, when they were hungry, and the whites in retaliation have killed them, and the Indians in return have killed some whites, when they caught them alone. The consequence has been one or two Indian wars, so-called, in that country, but in reality the war was all on one side, for the Indians are incapable of making a war. Well, during all this time there has been a reservation up in that country, where the Indians are supposed to be taken care of by the Government, and all captives were taken there—a good many orphan children among the rest. Experience proved them to be, when tamed, quite docile and very good servants, learning to work and to speak English very readily. Many of them were adopted into families, and our Legislature was induced to pass a law which by an easy process "apprenticed them out for a term of years."

The demand for these little fellows naturally increased, and to get one many persons living at a distance would willingly pay \$50 or \$100 for the trouble of

usually increased, and to get one many persons living at a distance would willingly pay \$50 or \$100 for the trouble of bringing them down. There are many wild, uncouth, reckless fellows living in the mountains with squaws they have stolen from the Indians, and to meet this demand they have to make war on the Indians; the Indians kill a few beavers to keep themselves from starving, and this affords a pretext. The Government itself is making war on the Indians at the demand of the settlers for protection, and the settlers make war for the young ones, so as to take them and sell them; that is to say, they make you a present of a little digger, and you make them a present of a hundred dollars for their trouble in catching him.

We stopped at one house on the trail in the deep gorges of the mountains, and saw six poor little naked urchins who had been recently captured, any one of whom we could have taken home with us by quietly slipping \$50 into the hands of their captor. The brutal rascal pointed to one boy, and said, with the greatest coolness imaginable, that he "had killed his daddy yesterday, and thought he was not quite big enough to kill, so he brought him in;" and showed us a huge knife with which he had slaughtered the unresisting native.

There are a few grains of truth in the above, but falsehood abounds throughout, and, taken as a whole, it is a piece of gross misrepresentation, so far as it applies to this county. The writer states that the country is thickly populated with wild Indians, who are now being hunted for their children. There are a good many wild Indians in the vicinity of the route traveled by this romantic individual, but it is not true that the white settlers are making war upon them for the purpose of capturing their children.

The Legislature of 1860 passed a law authorizing County and District Judges in the respective counties of this State to bind and put out as apprentices to trades, husbandry, or other employments, Indian

in the respective counties of this State to bind and put out as apprentices to trades, husbandry, or other employments, Indian children at the instance and request of the parents or other persons having legal charge of them. The law also provides that vagrant Indians may be indentured. Some of our settlers have availed themselves of the provisions of this law, but in no instance has force or stratagem been resorted to. Several months ago it was reported that a man in the extreme southern portion of the county had made use of unfair means to obtain possession of some Indian children, but it was denied at the time, since when we have heard nothing further of the matter.

The disingenuous communication to the Boston paper concludes with a frightful story of how an unresisting native had been slaughtered with a huge knife, that his little boy might be captured and sold into slavery. This part of it was a sheer fabrication by the writer, or he was "steamboated" by some of these "wild, uncouth, reckless fellows living in the mountains."

It is somewhat singular that it should be such a labor of love to the press of San Francisco, and some other places, to publish everything that may be said or written prejudicial to the decency and humanity of the white people of this portion of the State. Hundreds of white men have been assassinated by Indians in Northern California since 1849—a "startling assertion" truly—"but such is the fact." These frequent murders of white men have elicited but little comment from those far removed from danger and who know but little of Indian character, except what they have learned from books written by authors as ignorant as themselves of the true nature of the treacherous diggers of this coast. The other side of the question never escapes comment. If the white settlers, after fruitless application to the Government to give them protection, rise to punish the savages for their depredations and succeed in killing any of the miscreants, the country rings again with indignant newspaper reports of the "barbarity, brutality and inhumanity of the people of the Northern counties."

If the papers of San Francisco will direct their influence to the advocacy of some feasible plan for the removal of the

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Indians from the lands which have been
sold by Government to her own citizens,
they will accomplish more for the cause
of humanity than by assaults upon the
pioneer settlers of the State.

THE HUMBOLDT TIMES.

EUREKA, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1861.

Times,
Printed at Eureka,
Humboldt Co.

Business Directory.

E. L. WALLACE.

OUR SECRET DRAWER.

There is a secret drawer in every heart.

Seventy-Five Miles an Hour.

"I am a railroad engineer. In '61, she
door was red, and the steam would con-
signally; so that she kept her speed and

What a Yucca Can Do.
Colopasi in 1738, threw his staff rock.