

General Sumner Doubts.

It is a well-known fact here that the settlers on lower Trinity, and on the Humboldt and Shasta borders of this county are in hourly peril of their lives at the hands of hostile and revengeful savages. The mail carrier between Humboldt Bay and Weaverville is furnished with a military escort for protection. As far as possible families have been removed to the settlements, but there are many who are yet unprotected. At the time Wheelright was killed at Big Bar, the Governor was petitioned to call out a company to chastise the Indians, and afford protection where it was needed. So far as we know, no response was ever received from his Excellency, and matters growing worse all the time, on the 6th of the present month the following telegraphic dispatch was sent to Governor Downey:

Gov. Downey—Sacramento City.—The Indians in our county are committing depredations daily—burning dwellings and murdering citizens. The women and children have been removed to the settlements, and everybody lives in dread of attack. A company of twenty-five men is absolutely necessary for the protection of life and property, and should be ordered out immediately. Will your Excellency afford us this protection? The Humboldt company will not be sufficient, as the Indians will be driven from that county to this. We want protection for our own people. Please answer immediately.

[Signed,] I. G. Messic, Sheriff,
E. J. Curtis, Co. Judge,
C. E. Williams, Dist. Att'y,
M. G. Griffin, Co. Clerk,
R. T. Miller, Ex. Co. Judge,
J. F. Chellis,
A. C. Lawrence.

The Governor received the petition and forwarded it to Gen. Sumner, whose reply was received a few days since by Sheriff Messic. It ran as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, Sept. 9.

Governor:—I have received your letter of the 6th instant, in relation to the Indians in Trinity county. I doubt very much these Indian reports. If twenty-five men would be a sufficient protection, it would seem that those people should take care of themselves, just at this time, when we have so much on our hands. It is impossible to send regular troops there now, as I am obliged to reinforce the

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Very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

E. V. SUMNER,

Brig. Gen. U. S. Army.

There you have it, citizens. Nobody asked Gen. Sumner for troops, as they are of very little account to fight Indians, anyhow. But our people were laboring under the delusion that the Governor might order a small volunteer force into the field, as he has lately done in Humboldt county. Comment is unnecessary. The truth is, people have no business to settle in an Indian country.—*Trinity Journal.*

The above correspondence we clip from the ~~Trinity Journal of the 6th inst.~~ The dispatch to Governor Downey is respectful in language, easily understood, and subscribed by citizens of Trinity county known in all parts of California as reliable men. His Excellency enclosed this in a letter to Gen. Sumner, as the best way to place him in possession of the facts. If able and willing to send assistance to the people of Trinity, the Governor naturally supposed that the General would do so; if, on the contrary, the Federal troops were required in other places, a statement to that effect would be expected in reply. But Gen. Sumner "doubts very much these Indian reports." General Sumner seems to be troubled with "doubts."

Immediately upon his arrival to take command of the Department of the Pacific his mind was filled with "doubts" of the loyalty of the people of the State, and he called in from the frontier nearly all the troops, to render Forts Point and Alcatraz safe beyond a "doubt" against a successful attack from Secessionists.

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When informed that Indian depredations would result from the removal of troops, he "doubts" such a consequence. Still later, when the Indians had actually commenced a murderous warfare, and the facts had been demonstrated to him so plainly that it would seem impossible they should not be credited, he yet "doubts very much the truth of these Indian reports." General Sumner seems determined that conviction shall not reach him through any other channel than that of the Circumlocution Office. It is said of General Sumner that he is a gallant officer. This is to his credit, and will insure him the admiration of all who are cognizant of his gallantry. It is conceded on every hand that his devotion and loyalty to the Union is intense and pure; for this all patriots respect and praise him. His apparent indifference to the welfare of American citizens and the cavalier manner with which he treats their memorials for relief, must lead one to "doubt very much" the propriety of advising application for Federal troops to quell an Indian outbreak, while General Sumner commands the Department of the Pacific.

