

### Summary Execution of Indians at Humboldt Bay.

About two weeks ago the body of James Casebeer, a man living in the neighborhood of Arcata, on the Bay, was found dead. It was believed at the time that he had been murdered by the Indians, which belief was afterwards confirmed by the voluntary confession of an Indian known as "Jack," who had been arrested on suspicion. He acknowledged that another Indian, "Big Jack," with whom he was in company at the time, went to Casebeer's house while he was at work in the woods, stole his gun, and creeping upon him shot Casebeer through the breast, then covered him up with brush. One Tewksberry had the first intimation of his having been killed by Indians, from a friendly squaw. Both Indians were arrested and confined in the Humboldt jail, a rickety concern, on the 27th ult. That same night, after citizens became aware that the murderer of Casebeer (while quietly at work on his own premises,) had been arrested, summary punishment was resolved on. The old building was broken open and both Indians taken to a convenient tree and hung. In regard to the execution the *Times* says:

"We sincerely deplore such lawless proceedings as were enacted in this place, in the popular execution of the two Diggers Thursday night. To allow self-convicted murderers—Diggers at that, to lie in jail till March next, awaiting the slow proceedings of a trial according to the forms of law, was asking a great deal from any community—more particularly one situated as we are in regard to Indians. Still we regret such deeds of violence. They have a baneful effect on the morals of our own people, and are seized upon by those at a distance, ignorant of our situation or the circumstances of the case, and represented greatly to our prejudice."

That is sound, worthy reasoning, and as little as could possibly be said in reference to the affair. For our part, we consider the punishment an hundred times more justifiable than the summary and wholesale murder of women and chil-

deed which took place at the Bay several months ago. In fact we doubt whether there is a community in the State which would not, under similar circumstances, and with like opportunities of rescue, have done just as the people of Arcata did. The self-acknowledged murderer, with no other excuse than hatred of the whites, was in their midst, and sooner than give him an opportunity to escape from his unsafe place of confinement, they chose to administer the deserved punishment at once.

We do not uphold such transactions, as a general thing, but if there is a community in the State of California that may be justified in such proceeding, it is the one where this summary execution occurred. It is the duty of men everywhere to protect their lives and property, and punish the murderer. For near ten years the people of Humboldt county have suffered such, grievances as the one above narrated, and we cannot wonder that forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. The people who did this deed are not as guilty as the source from which they reasonably believe they should look for and receive protection. The history of that county since its first settlement, is a continuous recital of massacre, pillaged homes, desolated farms and infernal barbarity and waste at the hands of these same offenders. Even at this late day, though under the very nose of the power to whom it should look for protection, Humboldt county is not as well protected as most of the settlements on the extreme outskirts of civilization. That is a truth which cannot be denied. Last spring the Indians of the Bay country were gathered up and taken to the Klamath reserve, and now the local paper announces the return of nearly all again. Of course the Reservation agent is not to blame; like escapades from Government Reserves are winked at now-a-days. The *Times* has learned that on account of the small appropriation made by Congress for the Indian service on this coast, the agent is unable to subsist the Indians there any longer. Nobody will have the temerity to urge that the people of Humboldt can reasonably blame Congress or General Government for so trifling a matter.

Under these circumstances we see only one course for the Bay people to pursue; that is to protect themselves. They alone must be the avengers if their dwellings are burned over their heads, or their neighbors shot down while engaged in their industrial pursuits. A hard row the people of that county have had to hoe, and we cannot see that the end is yet.



WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1860.

CE, CHURCH & CO.,

NEW ARRIVAL

—OF ELEGANT—  
FALL AND WINTER  
DRY-GOODS.

The Trinity Journal.

WEAVERVILLE, CAL.,  
Saturday Morning, October 6, 1860.

Letter from "Justice."

RAIL DEROT, Oct. 3, 1860.

FRED GORDON:—My friends are wondering why I do not chronicle some of the doings of the Douglas club of this place. My reasons for not doing so are, firstly, a fellow might get his skull cracked; (it's dangerous, 'you bet,') and second-