

The Indian Reservations.

In an article upon "Indian Reservations," published on Saturday, we gave expression to our fears, that the system adopted in California would turn-out a failure. In answer, Col. Henely, superintendent of Indian Affairs in this State, has transmitted to us the accompanying documents. They represent the Nome Lackee and Tejon Reservations as being in flourishing condition; the Indians quiet and happy.

This we presume to be a truthful statement, for we have had no reason to suppose that the present superintendent, was not doing his utmost to give satisfaction. But our views were expressed under a full conviction that Indian Reservations cannot long be held in populous neighborhoods, for whenever the Indian comes in contact with the whites, he must give away.

We have believed for some time past, that there were reservations in this State in such locations as to invite encroachments, which would ultimately require a removal. These views still remain unchanged. But it may be asked what can be done with the Indians of California, if they be not allowed to remain where they are? We say let them remain so long as the whites do not interfere with them, but the moment this occurs, they should be taken beyond their reach. The Indian does not require populous neighborhoods for his residence. He is much happier where the white

should be taken beyond their reach. The Indian does not require populous neighborhoods for his residence. He is much happier where the white man comes but seldom, if at all.

The policy of the general Government has been heretofore, to place the Indians upon the frontiers—beyond the confines of civilization. In such a location they can have their hunting grounds.—They are there to some extent exempt from those influences which so quickly debase them.

The assistance rendered the Indians of California, we doubt not, has had a most beneficial effect, but the time will soon come, when they cannot well remain where they are. Then they will have to be removed. But this will be no wrong to the Indian; on the contrary, a great blessing, for he does not find happiness amidst the crowded thoroughfares of civilization.

The General Government has endeavored to ameliorate the condition of the Indians within its borders, by giving them annuities. This we believe to be the correct policy, and the one which suits their circumstances best. They are too improvident to admit of any other course but that of a continual guardianship. It matters not where they live, so that it be in a healthful climate, and where they can roam over uninhabited fields, and through dense forests.

If the United States will hereafter pursue the policy which it has, almost uniformly, up to the present time—grant annuities, and keep the Indians as much out of the influence of white men as possible, it will have accomplished a high and holy mission. It will have done more good in our opinion, than in any other way.

But we have already said more than we intended, so we will close by giving the documents referred to.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 13th, 1855.

EDITORS "ALTA CALIFORNIA."

I admit the difficulties attending any system for ameliorating the condition of the Indians. I know that the expenditure of millions heretofore appropriated to that purpose, has resulted in accomplishing comparatively very little, and it may perhaps be considered safe to predict a failure in all future efforts.

ameliorating the condition of the Indians. I know that the expenditure of millions heretofore appropriated to that purpose, has resulted in accomplishing comparatively very little, and it may perhaps be considered safe to predict a failure in all future efforts. But I entertain the belief that when you have made yourselves acquainted with the policy now in operation you will be of a different opinion.

It may be true that all that the philanthropist could desire will not be accomplished by this system. But if this is to be abandoned what shall we do? Shall the old system prevailing upon the Atlantic side be adopted here, and shall the money intended for the benefit of the Indians in California, be paid to them in annuities or given to them in goods? or shall they be left without assistance with their proneness to adopt the vices of the whites, to drag out as they inevitably must a miserable existence in their present locations. Indians are amongst us and we are compelled to select some policy which we will pursue towards them. And in the discussion of this policy I apprehend that with the most enlightened information you can obtain, you will, like many others, find considerable difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion.

I do not wish to speak myself of the prosperity which has attended the Reservation system since I have had charge of the Department in California. — But for your information I enclose you an extract from a report made by Capt. E. D. Keyes, U. S. A., to Adj't Gen'l Townsend, by order of Gen'l Wool. This is an official report made by an officer of the army and is certainly entitled to the credit of being fair and impartial.

I enclose you also a copy of a letter from Col. Hays, relative to the Tejon Reservation.

Very Respectfully,

Your obt servant,

THOS. J. HENLEY.

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. }
August 15th, 1855. }

MAJ. E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

SIR:—In obedience to the instructions of Maj. Gen. Wool, of the 21st, July, I proceeded to the Nome Lake Indian Reservation, in company with the Hon. T. J. Henley, Superintendent of Indian affairs, and after a thorough examination, I have the honor to present the following as the result of my observations and enquiries.

After counting the Indians in the three camps which have been established carefully, and afterwards counting again in several groups of lodges, I concluded 1,000 to be a fair estimate of the number of Indians actually present on the Reservation.—The proportion of women and children being larger than I had heretofore observed in California, when I had reason to suppose whole tribes were assembled together, I could easily believe what I was told by gentlemen in charge of the Reservation, that a large number of the males were absent hunting, or for other purposes.

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together, I could easily believe that the gentlemen in charge of the Reservation, that a large number of the males were absent hunting, or for other purposes.

At the time of my first visit to the Reservation in the beginning of last October, no labor had been done, and only about 200 Indians were assembled there. The Indians presented at that time, a meagre, squalid appearance, and were almost without clothing, or any means to acquire subsistence. At the present time the Indians have the appearance of being well fed, are the better off in regard to clothing, and nothing I could see among them indicated discontent. Besides the wheat and barley raised the past season, I found about the lodges immense amounts of wild oats, grass seeds, and roots, cleaned and stored up in sacks and baskets, and every thing to indicate a disposition to remain on the Reserve.

The amount of wheat and barley grown on the Nome Lackee Reservation this season is estimated at about 20,000 bushels. This estimate may be too high—but in consideration of the fact that nine months ago nothing had ever been done on the land, and that nearly the whole labor of plowing, sowing and harvesting has been done by the Indians themselves, it must be confessed that the result is highly satisfactory. Not less than 1,000 acres of ground were cultivated, all of which I rode over, and I inspected the grain in the ricks. In some places the stubble was rather light, in others very heavy. The grain was of an excellent quality—free from rust or smut; and from what I have seen in other places, I should judge the product would not fall far short of twenty bushels to the acre. It is probable that the next year's crop, on the same ground that has been cultivated this season, will be greatly increased, as it is observed that the more the soil is pulverised by repeated tillage, the greater the return. Much of the good land on the Reservation has not been plowed at all; and I have not a doubt that when all the ground susceptible of tillage shall be brought under cultivation, that one hundred thousand bushels of wheat and barley may be raised on the Nome Lackee Reservation.

At one of the camps several small wooden huts have been erected for the accommodation of the Indians, and it is the intention of the Superintendent to erect more. It will, without doubt, have a beneficial effect to accustom the Indians to live in houses, and to induce them to assimilate in their habits to the regularity of white people.

To supply the deficiency of water in the interior portions of the Reservation, a flume has been erected, and a ditch dug to bring in the water of Elder Creek. The flume was built with great labor for the distance of nearly half a mile along the edge of a precipice and over a deep canon, from which the water is brought by a ditch past two of the Indian camps, the most remote of which is but little less than five miles from the Creek. The water so brought serves for cattle, for irrigation, and for other purposes, in the dry season. Excellent water for drinking can be found by digging wells of moderate depth, at all the camps.

Most of the labor of cultivation, harvesting and gathering has been done, which a very great quantity has

gathering hay (of which a very great quantity has been stacked.) has been done by the Indian men and boys. After harvesting, the squaws glean the fields, so that not a head of wheat or barley is left.

Under the instruction of an American woman, the young squaws have been taught to plait straw and to make hats. This they do with great dexterity and apparent pleasure, and the hats they make are very good. The squaws have been also taught to sew, and they make their own clothing and such as are needed by the men and the children.

It will thus be seen that as much has been done on this Reservation to inculcate habits of industry among the Indians, as to provide for their comfortable subsistence. Beyond these, nothing appears to have been attempted with a view to elevate the character of the Indians in the scale of civilization. The course of conduct adopted by the Superintendent in the management of this Reservation appears to be founded on a wish to neutralize, as far as practicable, the evils attending the presence of the Indians in the country. He does not entertain the fantastic hope that he can civilize them, or Christianize them, or that he can prolong the existence of their tribes. An experience of two hundred and fifty years should satisfy all men that American Indians cannot be civilized; and the entire extinction of all those tribes which once inhabited the Eastern portions of this Continent is sufficient proof that they cannot be perpetuated, when in contact with the white man.

I am, Sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

E. D. KEYS,
Captain, 3d Artillery.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 4th, 1855.

DEAR SIR:—During my late tour of examination of the field operations of several of the Deputy Surveyors, my duty called me in the vicinity of the Tejon Indian Reserve.

Having for many years taken a lively interest in the welfare of the red man of the West, I extended more than a passing notice to the operations of this Reserve.

I confess that I was agreeably disappointed. Your gentlemanly and attentive agent, Mr. Ridley, appeared perfectly "at home" with every thing in order, and under his personal observation.

The short time I spent at the Reserve, the Indians exhibited that degree of quiet contentedness and industry, I was not prepared to witness.

In fact I left the Tejon highly pleased with the manager and the management.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOHN C. HAYS..

COL. T. J. HENLEY, Indian Agent for California.

CONCERT OF THE SABBATH SCHOOLS.—The First Congregational Church was filled last evening with the children of the various Sabbath Schools of the city, who had assembled to engage in the monthly Concert. There was also a large attendance of spectators. The exercises commenced with singing, by the children, accompanied by one of the best and most powerful church organs on the Pacific coast. After singing, the Rev. Mr. Brayton read a portion of the 21st chapter of St. Matthew and delivered an impressive prayer. The children again resulted in singing a sweet song, made doubly beautiful by the contrast of child-like voices with the deep tones of the instrument, and yet in such excellent time.

The Reports were next read from most of the various schools attached to the union, from which we learn that the average attendance of scholars for the past month has been eleven hundred, and of teachers, about two hundred. The classification into sexes, gives more girls in attendance than are boys; and the general prosperity of the schools is good. After reading the reports, and

The Alta Californian


SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 15, 1855.

and Notaries Public:
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 Notice is hereby given that arrangements
 have been entered into between the Royal
 Mail Steam Packet Company and the Pacific
 Mail Steamship Company, for the forward-
 ing of treasure to the Bank of England by the steamships of
 the two Companies, by means of through bills of lading to be
 granted by the commanders of the ships of the Pacific Mail
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 Agent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, to be
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 R. M. S. P. Co. All parties who may wish to forward of treas-

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