

## Important Intelligence from the California Indians.

Col. Redick McKee, one of the U. S. Commissioners for the State, writes a long and very interesting letter to the San Francisco "Courier," from Humboldt Bay, giving a full account of his trip throughout Northern California, from which we extract the following:

"Emerging from the head valley of Russian river, we addressed ourselves to the 'hill country,' which separates it from the rivers treading towards the coast, usually called 'the Coast Range,' but with about as little propriety as a thousand conical piles of cannon balls in the yard of a garrison could be called a 'palisade.' In point of fact, the Coast Range proper, ends with the Northern Range, at Cape Mendocino. From Sonoma to Humboldt Bay, the general course is N. W.; distance, not far from 250 miles. The trail, where we found one, instead of crossing a well defined range of mountains, and leading, as we expected, into and down a fine valley on Eel River, led our 'caravan' over hills, mountains, gulleys and gorges; through swamps, creeks and canons, of every conceivable shape, form and fashion; such as are to be found nowhere east of the Rocky Mountains, and but seldom even in California.

"With great caution, and greater good luck, we finally worked our way through in comparative safety, and, four weeks to-day after leaving Sonoma, descended into the bed of Eel River, on the south fork, a few miles above its junction with the east or middle fork, some 30 miles above the entrance of Van Dusen's fork, and 40 or 45 miles from the Bay.

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"For the last 30 or 40 miles, our route lay chiefly in the bed or on the bars of the river, now quite low, in order to avoid the mountains or the impassable undergrowth in the red-wood forests on its banks. Our loss on the route was only one horse, three mules, and six or eight cattle; not a man sick, for all which we have cause for gratitude and thankfulness to Heaven. The last white settlement on Russian River, is the improvement or ranche of Mr. Geo. Parker Armstrong, an honest, open-hearted English sailor, who, some fourteen years since, concluded to give 'a long leg' to one of her Majesty's ships of war on this coast, and identify himself with Alta California.

"About thirty or forty miles northward from his ranche we struck the head waters of the South Fork of Eel River, at a valley called Batum-ki, in which I found some four or five hundred Indians; and twenty miles further on, having crossed another range of high hills, we found the river again in the valley, called by the Indians Ba-tim-da-kai, in which there is perhaps 500 Indians—naked, independent sovereigns! We halted a day or two in each valley, to refresh our animals, make presents to the Indians, &c., and I think we left them with very exalted ideas of the great Americano chief at Washington, and a disposition to cultivate the most friendly relations with his white 'braves' in California.

"On the 10th inst. we encamped at the Big Bend of Eel River, twelve miles S. E. from Humboldt, (a city of ten or twelve houses), and six or eight miles from the coast in a direct line — In this neighborhood we found one of the most beautiful and fertile farming districts I have ever seen in any country; fine water and timber, interspersed with rich rolling prairie and from the appearance of vegetation in this, the dry season, as well as from the representations of the settlers, perpetual verdure reigns.

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"The country is fast filling up with settlers from the mining districts on the Trinity and Klamath, who have made their 'pile,' and now wish to fall back on agriculture, and make a permanent home. Several of our party, in the Quarter-Master's department, purchased claims and say they will remove hither as soon as they are through with the expedition. The hills and mountains all around this bay, and for many miles inland, afford from their rich black soil immense crops of grass and wild vegetables, on which 'the cattle of a thousand hills' might luxuriate the year round.

"Game of all kinds, especially elk, deer, black bear, grizzly bear, &c., abounds through the whole route, and a traveler with a good gun can, at almost any point or hour of the day, make breakfast, dinner or supper; occasionally we had rare sport hunting the grizzlies, and killing some six or eight.

"Many of the Indians on this route were extremely wild, and never seen a white man, a horse, or a gun before, and but few of them would venture to visit our camps. Some of those who did proved themselves adepts at stealing knives, hatchets, &c. For a knife, an Indian will give you his bow and quiver full of arrows, to make which may have cost him weeks and months of labor.

"Owing to the absence of the only two men who understood the Indian language, on this Bay and Eel River, I have not been able to enter into any formal written treaty with the numerous bands scattered along the River and on the Bay. They all live in the most independent, patriarchal style. Every rancheria has its own 'Mow-im-me,' or chief, generally selected for his age and wisdom—but each independent of all others. This, while it increases greatly the difficulties and trouble of negotiating treaties, operates I imagine favorably for the safety

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ies, operates I imagine favorably for the safety  
of the whites on the frontiers. The Indians are  
many of them said to be brave, and by no  
means unwilling to fight; and with an artful,  
courageous leader, and concerted action, they  
might easily extirpate the white intruders from  
their soil and country. I have endeavored to  
impress them favorably by pretty liberal pres-  
ents, and the promise of many more when I re-  
turn to make a formal treaty."

The Commissioner also visited the Mad River  
and Trinidad Indians, who live on the coast.—  
The tribes improved in size and appearance as  
he went north; and the settlers say also in  
bravery, and ability for war. The most hostile  
Indians are the Redwood, Trinity and Klam-  
ath tribes. The Commissioner's plan is to as-  
cend the Klamath to the Oregon line, and re-  
turn to this city, via the Sacramento Valley;  
though his movements will depend upon the  
weather, the willingness of his escort to remain  
in the field, and upon the issue of the Council  
to be held at Darkee's Ferry.

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# DAILY UNION

ACRAMENTO, SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18, 1851.

Local Notices