"The Indian Tribes of California."
Sacramento Daily Union,
October 19, 1857:
p. 2, col. 2.

THE INDIAN TRIBES OF CALIFORNIA.

With a view to prevent the otherwise inevitable absorbtion and extinction of the California Indians, the humane project of establishing Reservations was resorted to by the General Government, under the charge of a duly appointed agent, whose duty it was made to collect the scattered tribes together, and teach them the arts of husbandry. The amount of soil appropriated to this purpose was ample for the uses of the sixty-two thousand Indians within the borders of the State, and it was only necessary that they should be made aware of the numerous blessings which follow in the train of well-directed labor, to secure at least a partial degree of success for the enterprise. We are sorry to say, that so far as our observation extends, that success has been but partial. And what are the causes to prevent?

There are six Reservations in the State. Four of these embrace one hundred thousand acres of land—twenty-five thousand each; the remaining two, seven thousand acres—of valley and mountain, arable and grazing soil—suitable for every variety of cultivation, and yielding in abundance the fruits, fish, game and other natural products used by the Indians for subsistence. Notwithstanding these inducements for communism, many of the Indians have a decided repugnance to settling upon the Reservations; resisting all persuasion, and in some instances secreting themselves to avoid what many of them believe to be an imperative mandate of a government and people whose authority they have not the power to resist. There can be little doubt but they fear the contact of the whites. Between the two races there is no such thing as equality, either social or political. The Indian knows and feels this. The presence of

tle doubt but they fear the contact of the whites. Between the two races there is no such thing as equality, either social or political. The Indian knows and feels this. The presence of the white man is, therefore, a constant reproach to him, since it is not by love but coercion that he would rule, and his exactions are of a character for which the Indian has little natural taste, and not the least desire of cultivation.

The Indian has other good reasons for avoiding affiliation. From the earliest days of the white emigration to the present time, his inalienable rights have been ruthlessly infringed, His children are taken from him, his wife plucked from his bosom, his daughters prostituted in his very presence, and himself made the unwilling drudge of relentless and unfeeling masters. Let him fly to the declivities and gorges of the farthest mountains, and still he is not safe. The inevitable destiny pursues him, and he is compelled to submit, though his bleeding heart should burst at the monstrous wrong which is inflicted upon him.

These incidents are of daily occurrence in California. How far the authority of the Indian Agent has been exerted to prevent them, is more than we can say. Certain it is, that no longer than a few days ago, a hunter came in from the mountains bringing with him an Indian boy, and we are informed by other veracious parties, lately returned from the Indian country, that with two or three exceptions, out of some twenty ranches which they passed on their journey, every one of them was occupied by a white man (or men) each with his Indian squaw. It was a general topic of conversation among the different parties who chanced to meet in the mountains, that "Uncle Sam's man made himself scarce in that neighborhood;" and to no few of them, a matter of unqualified condemnation that the Indian's wrongs were not more speedily righted.

was a general topic of conversation among the different parties who chanced to meet in the mountains, that "Uncle Sam's man made himself scarce in that neighborhood;" and to no few of them, a matter of unqualified condemnation that the Indian's wrongs were not more speedily righted.

To render these Government Reservations effective for the ends designed, great care should be exercised as to the kind of men selected, and the liberties which they are permitted to take with the Indians. The severest penalties should be imposed for any, even the slightest improper advances towards the women. When this security is not afforded, what inducement is there held out for the Indian to resort thither with his family? Far better were it for him to seek a precarious livelihood from the acorns of the forest, and lie down in security under the sheltering trees which bear them, than to place his fortunes and his happiness in the hands of those who will thus basely betray him.

We commend to the attention of the Indian Agent of California, the tribes occupying the country between the Sacramento Valley and Eel river. If reports be not greatly exaggerated, he will find a series of abuses practised there towards the Indians, well worthy of being corrected, and which we sincerely hope he may feel it his duty to attend to at once.

NTO DAILY U

NTO, MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 19, 1857.

LET. | SACRAMENTO DAILY UNION. | community who entrusted their dearest interests to your charge.