

A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE.

THE BUSINESS OF KIDNAPPING INDIAN CHILDREN. — A day or two ago, a couple of gentlemen of this city were out near the tules in Colusa county, when they came across a party of men, who had in charge five Indian children, about three or four years old, three of them being girls, and two were boys. The Marysville gentlemen were asked if they could not provide homes for these young heathen, their holders saying that their parents had been killed in battle, and they were without any one to care for them. The parties referred to said that they would see what could be done, and went out again, yesterday, having found homes for two, but the men who had them said they must have some pay for their trouble, and put the amount at which they would part with the children at \$50, or such a matter. This, of course, showed that these men were selling the children, and the gentlemen, who would have placed the young ones where they would be taken care of, came over to town and lodged information with the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the district, and he went out in pursuit of the party with an officer. The men were arrested and brought to Yuba City, with the children, who were taken in charge by Mr. Hanson. Subsequently it was found that these fellows had been in possession of nine children, of various ages, a day or two before, and were seen coming out of the Coast Range with them, and one of the three, which had been disposed of to a Mr. Carmen, who lives eight or ten miles below Yuba City, was found in his possession, driving a lot of hogs to Washoe. The other two were on his ranch, and he testifies that he had contracted to pay \$80 for the hog-driving boy, eight or ten years old, and \$55 for a younger one. The third was left in his possession until a purchaser could be found.

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disposed of to a Mr. Carman, who lives eight or ten miles below Yuba City, was found in his possession, driving a lot of hogs to Washoe. The other two were on his ranch, and he testifies that he had contracted to pay \$80 for the hog-driving boy, eight or ten years old, and \$55 for a younger one. The third was left in his possession until a purchaser could be found.

The men arrested for this crime, gave their names as Laurie Johnson, *alias* Lewis, formerly of Texas; James Wood, of Green County, Illinois, and James Freak, of New York State, born in Canada. They gave a confused and contradictory account of themselves, and claim to have brought the children from Humboldt County. They were brought before Judge Keyser, of Humboldt County, and on the affidavit of Mr. Hanson, were sent to Humboldt County, where the offence was committed, for trial. The children, having been kidnapped, as is supposed, in the vicinity of Spruce Grove, Eel River County, it is likely some persons in that section may be able to furnish some information respecting them, or kindred matters, to the Superintendent; if so, they are requested to do so. And parties who are engaged in this nefarious business may as well understand that the present Superintendent is bound to put a stop to their trade, and they will be prosecuted and pursued to the uttermost. Parties who have propositions made to them by these kidnappers, or their agents, will do well to reject them and give information to the Superintendent. It is enough to chill the heart of man to know that these vile kidnappers in human flesh are making a regular business of killing the Indians in the mountains, or running them off, and kidnapping their children, packing them about the country, like so many sheep or swine to sell, at retail or wholesale — *Marysville Appeal.*

"The Business of Kidnapping Indian Children," Alta California, October 21, 1861, p.2, col. 1.

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SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 21, 1861.

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