

Our Indian Matters.
As the promontions of another winter begin to gather about us, the old and oft-repeated inquiry of "what's to be done next winter" is frequently asked. After the many blunders of those having our Indian matters in charge in conducting "vigorous winter campaigns" against the Indians in this section, we do not care to predict great results for the coming winter, but we hope, and have reason to believe, that results will follow the snow-fall of the approaching winter, that will plainly foreshadow the dawn of a better day. It would seem, indeed, that after so long a season of bitter Indian hostilities as we have experienced, that the old maxim that the red man must give way on the approach of the pale-face and civilization, had become obsolete. This, however, cannot be. No difference to what extent we have in times gone by been neglected by the general and State Government, nor how great may be the inclination of some military men to throw cold water upon every appeal for help, the time must come, and we believe it is close at hand, when a "power behind the throne" will speak in our behalf, and place sufficient men and means at our disposal to put a speedy termination to this accursed Indian war.

With the force at present operating in this district—or we might say in Trinity, Klamath and Humboldt counties—we cannot see as they could be better employed than they are. They are so disposed as to protect, to the best advantage, what little property remains in the hostile regions, and give some little protection to the remnants of our depleted population. For the last month the Indians have confined their operations almost exclusively to Trinity river. News reaches us this week that they have made a clean sweep of every house on the river between Big Flat and Hoopa valley, the last demonstration being the burning of the fine property of John Moffatt, at the mouth of Willow creek, eight miles above Hoopa, Barham's saw-mill, store, barn and other buildings, on the opposite side of the river, being burned about the same time. It is probable that the Indians in the vicinity of Redwood, upper Mad river and Grouse creek are preparing winter quarters and drying beef, which accounts for their having been so quiet lately. Their haunts are well known, and if many of them do not visit their "happy hunting grounds" before next June, we miss our calculation. We are disposed to view the bright side of

burn and other buildings on the opposite side of the river, being turned about the same time. It is probable that the Indians in the vicinity of Redwood, Middle river and Grouse creek are preparing winter quarters and drying beef, which accounts for their having been so quiet lately. Their habits are well known, and if many of them do not visit their "happy hunting grounds" before next June, we miss our calculation. We are disposed to view the bright side of the picture as long as there is a ray of hope left; and notwithstanding the fear of loss of life and property that we have been compelled to submit to through the criminal mismanagement of former military commanders and Indian agents, we do not despair of a final termination of our troubles.

That we have not troops enough is apparent to all. Four companies of the battalion are full and in active service, with a fair prospect of the other two, being enrolled soon. At present we have scarcely enough to do garrison duty—a kind of service that these companies should be relieved from as soon as possible, and placed in the field for the winter. When this is done we may expect to hear of some hard fighting, for the Indians will be prepared in their winter quarters, and the whites must not expect to rout them without taking some chances, or involving the loss of some men. When the Indians are found they must be fought without regard to the probability of a man or two being wounded.

With a strong force at Gaston, a post at Redwood and one at Luqua, the Indians will have but a small chance to move in the winter without being observed, and we believe that most of them between those two points can and will be captured next winter. With those on the lower Trinity we are not so well acquainted, but it is a sure thing that they cannot winter in the high mountains, and can be found by proper management.

Another important object to be attained is for Government to provide some place for us to send our prisoners. Neither one of the reservations on this coast will answer the purpose. The former is well known—the Indians will not remain there any longer than suits their convenience.

We have now on the peninsula, opposite this place, about one hundred Indians, most of whom have been there more than one year. It often happens that in attacking a ranch, squaws, children, and old and crippled bucks are made prisoners. These the men do not wish to kill, nor can they be turned loose. The squaws are used in Indian raids to pack off the plunder, and are indispensable to the warriors as beasts of burden. As the general Government has unwisely separated the Indian from the military department in this State, it is but justice to ask that they not only provide for their wards, but furnish them quarters south of San Francisco, which will preclude any chance of their return.

