

Indians.

The subject of paramount interest to the inhabitants of this county, at the present time, as in the past, is the outrages of the Indians and the measures to be adopted for the protection of life and property. At no time since the county has been settled by white people have the Indians been so bold and active in their villanies as during the past six months. Week after week our columns have been filled with details of their aggressions upon peaceable citizens. Murders and robberies have been of more frequent occurrence, and nearer the dense settlements than formerly. Travelers are attacked upon every trail and in all parts of the county, except in the villages, our citizens live in continual danger of predatory visits from the merciless savages.

This state of things cannot continue; the tax is too heavy, the risk too great. The country must be abandoned by the white men, or the Indians must be disposed of. The pioneer settlers of California are not in the habit of deserting their homes for the menaces of native diggers, and will not be likely to now.— The white man will remain and occupy the country, the Indian will disappear. If not removed to the Reservations, and retained there by the officers of Government, a bloody retaliatory warfare will continue until the Indians of this coast are exterminated. This has at last been admitted by the leading papers in San Francisco. In commenting upon a plan submitted by Dr. White, Special Indian Agent, for the education and moral training of the Indians on the Pacific coast, the *Alta* of the 26th ult. remarks:

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But we have no faith whatever in the attempt to civilize the wild Indians of California. They are beyond the reach of teachers and preachers. They will die and "make no sign." Nothing, save the history of the white man, and a few stone mortars, pestles and arrow-heads will bear witness to distant times that they once lived. We may lament it, but we must confess it. No doubt great wrongs have been done to the Indian, but destiny has determined that he can not live with the white man, and since the existence and persistence of one race implies the annihilation of the other, we are content that the red men should be that "other."

The California Indians are far inferior to the red men who, fifty years ago, filled the valleys of Ohio and Kentucky, and how many of all their thousands remain? They have disappeared like a thin snow before a warm sun.

The *Bulletin* of the 25th ult. publishes a communication from a citizen of this county, at that time in San Francisco, — which we publish in another column — and says:

While we believe the manner in which the Indians are being exterminated is perfectly horrible, we are disposed to make every possible allowance for our own people. Throughout the region of the State referred to by our correspondent, the Indians are undoubtedly very annoying. — ~~They are becoming more and more accustomed to live on what they can steal, and it is almost impossible to settle the country and bring it under cultivation in consequence of the constant depredations of these natural enemies to civilization. The sentiment is steadily gaining among the people who have repeatedly had friends slain, or suffered loss of property, by Indians, that extermination of the aborigines is the only safety of the whites. This will certainly become the prevailing sentiment, and the Indians between Clear Lake and the Oregon boundary, on both sides of the Coast Range, numbering probably several thousands, will all be killed within a short time unless Government assumes the task of saving their lives. — In a few weeks the accumulation of snow~~

In a few weeks the accumulation of snow on the mountains will again force them into villages on both slopes of the Coast Range. Of course, they will depredate on the whites—drive off cattle, steal anything that will make food, and occasionally burn the houses of the settlers and commit murder. And, on the other hand, they will suffer fearful retaliation, as we have seen, until they are swept from the face of the earth. * * * *

There is an alternative before them that cannot be avoided: either they will be killed by the enraged settlers as speedily as possible, or else they must be gathered from the wilderness to learn the rudiments of civilization, to the end that they may continue to live without provoking constant aggression. If Government fails to act in putting into operation its humane policy of reclaiming the savages, its inactivity must be regarded as constructive license to the horrible butchery which is rapidly becoming an organized system.

The indiscriminate slaughter of Indians we have never indorsed or apologized for; but we cannot fail to recognize the fact that nothing short of removal will prevent an exterminating war upon the digger tribes, in which the lives of many of our own race will be sacrificed. To prevent this bloodshed should be enlisted the best efforts of officials and citizens. In thirty days the Indians may be classified, so that all may know which are friendly and which hostile. An officer of competent authority should have an offer made to them, which they may not mistake, for all disposed to submit to come in and go upon a Reservation, and they will be provided for; those refusing these terms, to be deemed enemies and treated as such. This course would soon put a stop to the "slaughter of innocent Indians," as well as the murder of whites and the destruction of property.

