

*My Dear Editors:*

Through the columns of your valuable paper I wish to state a few facts in relation to certain things that have transpired since I have been a resident of this valley. Every person who knows me at all knows that I came here with honorable intentions, and that I have ever maintained the same honorable course; yet there are those who are mean enough to charge me with the basest of actions. It has been reported that I have given the Indians poison; this charge I pronounce to be a base and malicious lie. I came to this valley to make it my home, and, up to last winter, invariably treated the Indians well. I left here to go to your place to transact some business, and when I returned I found everything in ashes, and a dear brother whom I loved as my brothers can love each other, most cruelly and foully butchered by the Indians whom he had fed, and I had fed, without hope of reward. Seeing all this, and feeling that it was my duty to avenge the death of my brother and our other neighbors who had shared a like fate with him, I raised a volunteer company, and did chastise them; and it is for this they blame me. And even those who have been sent by the Government to protect the valley have been very slack about punishing Indians for committing depredations. I cannot attribute this to anything but cowardice. I wish to state a few facts in relation to one Captain Gardner, that is in command of the post here, - when he came, Lieut. Crooks had command, and the people were secure both as to their lives and pro-

blame me. And even those who have been  
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mand of the post here, - when he came,  
Lient. Crooks had command, and the people  
were secure both as to their lives and pro-  
perty, but he was ordered away, and since  
that time we have no assurance of either.  
The Captain has even gone so far as to say  
that should the Indians kill all the settlers  
it would be no matter. There was an In-  
dian killed here some time ago with which  
I was accused; and I have been credibly  
informed that Captain Gardner issued ra-  
tions to the Indians in order that they might  
murder me. They remarked before leaving  
the Fort, in presence of Captain Gardner,  
that they would kill me before they came in.  
I leave it with the people to judge whether  
I am to blame or not, and whether he is a  
suitable person to preside over the safety of  
the people of this part of the country.

You will do me the favor to publish.

Yours, as ever,

S. R. LOCKHART.

"Through the columns of your..." Red  
Bluff Beacon, November 18, 1857: p.  
2, col. 1.

# RED BLUFF BEACON.

ED. BLUFFS. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1857.