

### The Indian Side of a War Question.

As the cold weather and its consequent privations comes on, the Indians in the northern part of the State appear to become more troublesome, and reports are constantly reaching us of murders, depredations and deeds of violence, said to have been committed by the redskins, whose character for peaceableness seems to have suddenly been forfeited, until they have come to be regarded as predatory and sanguinary as were ever the fiercest tribes who were the aboriginal occupants of the New England States and New York. In the Humboldt Bay country they appear to have been especially violent; dreadful murders have been committed, cattle have been stolen and grain-stacks fired by these marauders, until the patience of the whites appears to have been quite exhausted. The Humboldt Times remarks:

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.

It is worth while, however, before inaugurating a war of extermination against these native heathen, to inquire into the facts in the case, and see if a sufficient *casus belli* has not been offered them by our white brethren, who seem to be burning with a desire to sweep the last remnants of a once numerous and peaceable people from the face of the earth.

The Indians may be properly divided into two classes, the mountain or "savage" Indians, and the "tame" tribes, who dwell among the white settlements, and of whom no complaint is made. These are all in communication with each other and are related, so that whatever comes to the cognizance of the tame Indians is probably

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made known to their mountain relatives,  
who, fearful of the whites and pursued by  
a dread of punishment for their misdeeds,  
hold themselves aloof from the settlements.  
But it is from these mountain tribes that  
white settlers draw their supplies of kid-  
napped children, educated as servants, and  
women for purposes of labor or of lust, and  
in many instances, the "tame" Indians who  
live peaceably in the settlements, are the  
matured growth of earlier conquests from  
their savage progenitors. It is notorious  
that there are parties in the northern coun-  
ties of this State whose sole occupation has  
been to steal young children and squaws  
from the poor Diggers, who inhabit the  
mountains, and dispose of them at hand-  
some prices to the settlers, who, being, in  
a majority of instances, unmarried, but at  
housekeeping, willingly pay fifty or sixty  
dollars for a young digger to cook and wait  
upon them, or a hundred dollars for a like-  
ly young girl. Recent developments in  
this vicinity are sufficient proof of this, a  
party of white men being found with a  
choice lot of youngsters which they were  
they were peddling about the country at  
prices ranging from fifty to eighty dollars.  
This shameless and wicked state of things  
has been countenanced and encouraged by  
the illegal procedure of a late Agent of In-  
dian Affairs in this District, whose conduct  
in binding out, for a long term of years,  
amounting to a sale, in effect, the Indians  
committed to his charge by the Govern-  
ment, will be remembered with indignation.  
Another fruitful source of difficulty has  
been the thoughtless severity with which  
the Indians have been treated by the offen-  
ded whites. The stealing of a steer, worth,  
perhaps, five dollars, by a party of half-  
starved Indians, who, gradually crowded  
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perhaps, five dollars, by a party of half-starved Indians, who, gradually crowded from their once-happy hunting grounds, have ventured to make a reprisal to sustain life, is generally deemed sufficient cause for a bloody raid upon the flying fugitives, who, exasperated in turn by the indiscriminate slaughter of their kin, seize upon the very first occasion that offers for retaliation; and it is easy to see how, under such a state of things, the Indians and the whites should live in constant dread of each other, and breaking out into bloody wars upon slight and frequent occasions.

That the white settlers have carried things with a high hand is evident, and is to be expected when we consider the lawless and ungoverned condition which obtains in the sparse, outlying settlements, where the people are a law unto themselves. A short time since some of the citizens of the northern part of Shasta county, took it upon themselves to organize a meeting and pass a set of resolutions, blaming the Indian Agency, and declaring a war of extermination upon the Indians unless they were removed by a certain time, and calling upon the citizens to turn out and join in the instant despatch of this "little affair." A special agent was dispatched by Superintendent Hanson, an investigation of grievances made, and, as a result, the officers of the war meeting receded gracefully from their hasty action, declaring, in a published card, that they would not be responsible for any action taken under the resolutions.—

Those who know more about the matter than we do, affirm that an Indian war, countenanced and aided by the State and involving the necessity for fat contracts and supplies for a volunteer service, would have been a desirable consummation to some of the controlling spirits of that extraordinary meeting.

As the heartless kidnapping from the Indians of their kin, their bloody chastisement for theft, and the fomenting of troubles by restless or speculative spirits, appear to be the real causes of the much-deplored Indian difficulties, of which we hear so much, it does not seem impossible that patience on the part of the whites, a fair trial of the Reservation system, not yet fairly tested, and a determination on the part of settlers

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"The Indian Side of a War Question,"  
Marysville Daily Appeal, December 7,  
1861, p. 2, col. 2.

# Marysville Daily Appeal.

MARYSVILLE, CAL., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1861.

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Hotels and Restaurants.

Miscellaneous.

Special Notices.

The Daily Appeal.

MCCLELLAN AND CO.