

★ VOLUNTEERS—INDIANS.

Not much of late has been heard from the volunteers up north, who were called out to suppress Indian hostilities between Trinity and Humboldt. The probabilities are that they are walled in with snow, and not able to march any distance from camp. Their presence was doubtless required in that section, but we shall not be surprised to learn, when the accounts are balanced, that the expenses have far exceeded the original estimates. These Indian expeditions have, heretofore, been found very costly, and we know of no reason why the present should prove an exception.

In most of the outrages and thefts of late charged upon the Indians it is to be feared that they have been induced to perpetrate them more from the gnawings of hunger than from hostility to the whites. Savages as they are, it would be expecting too much of them to starve—men, women and children—when they could steal a sufficient quantity of food to support life. Hunger renders men, whether white, red or black, desperate. The Indian is no exception to this rule, and hence he steals to save the lives of his women and children, as well as his own, rather than lie down and wait quietly the approach of death by starvation. But he pays dearly for preferring stealing stock to starving. It is missed by the owners, who pursue and shoot down the innocent and the guilty wherever they find them. Indeed, it not unfrequently happens that the innocent suffer and the guilty escape. Exasperated stock losers are not apt to be any too particular in their investigations when they come upon an Indian suspected camp.

The Government has organized a system of

been so connected.

able numbers are left to roam over the mountains unprovided for. The system has never yet embraced, as intended, all the Indians in the State. Whether this is owing to want of means or want of energy in Agents, or the opposition of the Indians, we are unable to decide. We do, however, know very well, that unless the Government does provide food for the Indian tribes not on Reservations, they must either steal or starve. Until provisions are made for feeding and clothing Indians not on Reservations, outrages and Indian robbing may be expected.

Before the whites settled in California Indians had game and fish in abundance, and for years and years had been able to provide themselves with an abundance of stores for consumption in the Winter. The game has been driven by the white man from the Indian's hunting grounds, or destroyed by the unerring rifle, until he finds it impossible to procure food for his women and children by his bow and arrows. He could once send his arrow through the deer within sight of his lodge; now he finds himself unable to approach a deer or antelope sufficiently near to enable him to use his arrows successfully. His hunting grounds, too, are occupied by miners, graziers, and farmers, and he driven forth a wanderer and stranger in the land of his fathers.

Indian laws do not permit one tribe to hunt upon the territory of another, and whenever attempted is pretty certain to terminate in hostilities and bloodshed. The doom of the Indian is fixed whenever the white man fairly invades his country. The vices of civilization, which the Indian readily adopts, with the diseases which follow in their train, work steadily and inevitably to the one end, and that is total annihilation of the race. But this end is being accomplished with a rapidity that ought to be satisfactory to their most implacable foe

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