

Murders by Domestic Indians.

Bowles' house on the Upper North fork of the Mattole, on the 2d inst. was occupied by John Briceland, Thomas Griffiths and E. M. Sprówl; also a squaw with which Briceland was living and two "pet" Indian boys, "Billy," about fourteen years old, and "Frank," about 6 or 7 years old. Billy had been living with Briceland and squaw three years and Frank two years. Briceland had given Billy a rifle some time since and allowed him to go out hunting with it. A short time previous to the murders Billy went out hunting and was gone some four days, and when he returned he said he had been lost and Briceland condoled with him for having had such a hard time. On the night of the 2d, the three white men slept on the floor. In the night Briceland was suddenly awakened by two shots being fired close to him. He jumped up and commenced feeling about when he felt the blood of one of his comrades. Upon this he struck a light and it had no sooner blazed than Sprówl roused up, and as he did so, he was shot through a crack of the door and killed instantly. At this Briceland darted out doors and ran to his nearest neighbor, John Cathy, being about half a mile, and stayed there till morning, when a number of neighbors returned to the house, and found Briceland's squaw there unhurt, Sprówl dead and Griffiths just alive. He spoke incoherently, although apparently a pistol had been placed under his chin and fired, the ball coming out at the top of his head, his brains being scattered about over his blankets. The two boys were gone, with the rifle, a six shooter and some amunition. Briceland's squaw

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doors and ran to his nearest neighbor, John Cathy, being about half a mile, and stayed there till morning, when a number of neighbors returned to the house, and found Briceland's squaw there unhurt, Sproul dead and Griffiths just alive. He spoke incoherently, although apparently a pistol had been placed under his chin and fired, the ball coming out at the top of his head, his brains being scattered about over his blankets. The two boys were gone, with the rifle, a six shooter and some amunition. Briceland's squaw ~~now for the first time disclosed the fact,~~ that Billy had said some time before that he intended to kill Briceland; showing that although the squaws may cohabit and live with white men still their sympathies are with their own race. Three days after this, as Cathy was going to his hay stack early in the morning, he discovered Billy and Frank emerging from under it, where they had been concealed. He was able to secure them both; but as he was conducting them to the house Billy slipped away from him and took to his heels. Cathy immediately fired upon him, killing him instantly. Frank now tells the whole story. He says that when Billy pretended to be lost, he was with a large band of Indians on the head of Bear river, who had many guns and much amunition. That Billy had agreed with those Indians to return and kill Briceland, get more amunition and then go back and live with them; and the reason they did not immediately go to those Indians, was their desire to kill Briceland; but they had given up killing him and were just starting for their future home when they were taken by Cathy. On examination it was found that they had tried to kill Briceland and had fired a ball through his blankets but

kill Briceland; but they had given up killing him and were just starting for their future home when they were taken by Cathey. On examination it was found that they had tried to kill Briceland and had fired a ball through his blankets but had missed him.

We have frequently had occasion to point out to the citizens of our county the danger to be apprehended from these domesticated Indians. If experience is worth anything it would seem as though it taught them to beware. It is through them that wild and warlike Indians are enabled to watch all the movements of the whites for their suppression, and to plan and execute their murderous incursions successfully.

