

THE DIGGER INDIANS RESER- VATIONS, &c.

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.

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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,

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 that 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 without resorting to the agency of starvation. Humanity demands that the General Government shall provide these miserable people with food and blankets, to satisfy hunger and cover nakedness. It is cheaper to feed Indians than to fight them, and we hope the agents of the General Government will take the same view of the case and act accordingly.—*Sac. Union.*

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