

Humboldt County Indians and the Klamath Reservation.

When the Indians were taken from about the bay and coast last spring to the Klamath Reservation, it was a matter of almost universal congratulation with our citizens. Nearly all believed it to be a step in the right direction, and expressed their desire to co-operate with the officers of the Indian Department in the removal of the Indians and enforcing their residence on the Government Reserve. The Indians were told that they must not return to their old homes; and the Indian Agent was assured that should they at any time become restive and try the experiment of running away from him and endeavor to take up their abode in this county, they should be made to return to the reservation, and that in such a manner that a repetition of the experiment would be distasteful to them.

The principal reason which operated to convince our citizens that the removal and continued absence of these Indians was of primary importance, was that they were in communication with the mountain Indians, supplying them with ammunition, information and asylum, and that no peace could be conquered so long as these semi-domestic Indians were allowed to roam at will through our settlements and visit and trade with the hostile bands in the mountains near by. That this was the case, was firmly believed by those who had the means of knowing;—in more than one instance it was demonstrated that the Indians from the coast and the mountains were making common cause against the white settlers.

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moval of the Indians was, that there might
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scenes which were enacted at Indian Is-
land and other points last February. It
was evident to every thinking mind that
there could be no other security against out-
rages from the Indians, nor guarantee from
ill advised and hastily got up retaliatory
attacks upon the Indians, in which there
would necessarily be an exhibition endan-
gering the peace and welfare of the
community at home, and injurious to our
good name abroad. These arguments
were deemed good and sufficient last
spring, and with a singular unanimity
our citizens hailed the removal of the
coast Indians to the reservation as a ben-
efit of no small importance to both whites
and natives. That there has been any
considerable change in the public senti-
ment upon this subject we do not believe;
but people have allowed themselves to
become careless, until now the Indians
are nearly all back, and if permitted to
take possession of their old haunts, will,
so long as they remain in them, be a con-
stant source of annoyance and serious
trouble. Some few are anxious to have
the Indians live here; but they are not
the representatives of the true wishes of
the people of the county, and should not
have the direction of this matter, which
is of so much importance to the prosperi-
ty of all classes of our citizens.

When the Indians commenced to arrive
and expressed the intention of remaining,
they told a pitiful tale of hunger and des-
titution, and that they were here with
the consent of both the Indian Agent at
the reservation and the officer in com-
mand at Fort Terwer. Many were im-

titution, and that they were here with the consent of both the Indian Agent at the reservation and the officer in command at Fort Ter-wer. Many were imposed upon by their lying stories, and it was thought best to await advices from the Klamath. The letter from Mr. Terrill, which we publish elsewhere, disposes of all this wail about "starvation," which the Indians and their particular friends and associates among the white population endeavor to make the public believe.

As may be inferred from the letter, it rests entirely with ourselves to decide where the Indians are to live in the future. If the promise which was given to Col. Buel and fully understood by the Indians should be carried out in good faith, it will be but a short trouble to convince them that they had best hasten their departure for the reserve and be very careful never to come back. If, on the other hand, we tolerate their presence and permit them to again permanently take up their abode with us after the expense which has already been incurred in their removal, it will be long hence that the officers of Government will interfere; but we will be allowed to "regulate our domestic institutions in our own way." There certainly can be but one opinion as to the best course to pursue.

It is confidently asserted that the lower Col-river Indians are renewing friendly relations with their old allies in the mountains, and that the latter are renewing their depredations upon the property of the settlers.

