

~~Mattole Valley Again - The Reservation  
Swindle.~~

Now that Congress has convened, and Gen.  
Denver is again at the head of the Indian

Department at Washington, the citizens of  
this county are about making another effort  
to rid themselves of this abominable swindle -  
this so called extension of the Mendocino  
Reservation. A petition will be circulated  
the coming week which will set forth in plain  
but truthful terms the total disregard which  
has been paid to the rights and privileges of  
American citizens, by the State Superintend-  
ent of Indian Affairs, in hanging on, under  
the false color of law, with bull dog pertinac-  
ity to the lands of the bona fide settlers in  
Mattole, a considerable portion of which had  
been taken up and was occupied by citizens  
intending to avail themselves of the right of  
pre-emption, long before Col. Henry or any  
of his employees knew of the existence of  
this fine body of land.

Since Mattole Valley was first claimed  
and occupied as a Reserve there has been a  
certain mistification about the workings of  
the concern which has created a general im-  
pression that there is something behind the  
curtain, some concealed motive, which is in-  
tended eventually to inure to the benefit of the  
descendants of a different race from that for  
which Indian Reservations are usually es-  
tablished.

When the citizens of that valley were first  
informed that their lands had been appropri-  
ated for the benefit of the diggers, a public  
meeting was held in the county, and with  
one voice a remonstrance went forth, stating  
good and sufficient reasons to satisfy any rea-  
sonable, honest man, or men, that this exten-  
sion could be of no possible benefit to the In-  
dians on one hand, while it sacrificed the  
rights of citizens on the other; but all to no  
purpose; and while the Superint of Indian Af-  
fairs presumptuously styles it a Reserva-  
tion and persistently declares that it has been  
established "according to law," not a citizen  
of this county, or of this State, that we are

rights of citizens of the United States, but all to the  
purpose; and while the Superintendent of Indian Affairs  
presumptuously styles it a Reservation and persistently  
declares that it has been established "according to law,"  
not a citizen of this county, or of this State, that we  
are aware of, has ever seen any other authority for  
the establishment of this nuisance than the manifesto  
of the great Mow-eh-mah, Col. Henley himself.

It appears, however, by comparing a letter written by  
H. L. Ford, Sub-Agent of the Mendocino Reservation,  
dated in July, 1857, with one written by Col. Henley  
in June 1858, that a portion of the land first claimed  
has been abandoned. Wonder if that was done "according  
to law?" In Mr. Ford's letter of the date above  
mentioned, to Mr. Bynton, of Mattole Valley, he says  
that he was informed by Col. Henley and Senator Gwin  
that the lands to the mouth of Bear River on the north,  
extending three miles back from the coast had been  
appropriated by Congress for an Indian Reservation,  
and in Col. Henley's letter to Mr. Cunningham the  
following year he informed that individual that the  
lands extending four miles north of the mouth of  
Mattole river, and three miles back from the coast  
had been retained for an Indian Reserve, and that  
the same had been established "according to law."  
Thus we see that an area of land eleven miles in  
length and three in breadth, over which the Indian  
Department originally spread its protecting wings  
has been abandoned.

Now, if Col. Henley had ever taken the pains  
to show the citizens of Mattole any authority, or  
shadow of authority, that Congress has given him  
to appropriate their lands, much of the ground for  
complaint would have been removed. They could  
then have looked to higher authority for redress,  
and no doubt obtained it. The fact is, he has  
no such authority.

Now is the time for citizens to strike a death  
blow to this land-grabbing scheme. Let the  
petition be numerously signed, and let interested  
parties see that it is forwarded to Gen. Denver,  
at Washington.

