

Letter From Mattole.

MATTOLE VALLEY, Dec. 20, 1859.

FRIEND WILEY.—You have doubtless heard of the outrages which have recently taken place on the coast a short distance below this Valley, and as the murder of two strangers by Indians must necessarily create much speculation and enquiry, I hasten to lay before you what I know of the murder and what came of it.

A few weeks since two young men came into this valley, and from them we learned that a party of four—themselves making two of the number—had come to Bear Harbor, a short distance below this place, for a hunt. After they had been encamped there for a while, Jas. Cunningham, Esq., on his way up from the Mendocino Reservation, fell in with the party at Bear Harbor, and as they were short of provisions, Mr. Cunningham invited them to accompany him to Mattole; to replenish their stock, which they did. Some two weeks after they had left Mattole for their camp, Capt. Ford passed Bear Harbor, on his way up the coast, and was requested by the two hunters there to make inquiries for their missing companions. When Ford arrived it was soon surmised that the men had been murdered.

A few of our citizens immediately formed themselves into a company and went in search of the missing men. The company left here on the 14th inst., and was composed of Capt. W. L. West, R. Brown, S. Crippen, J. Clark, C. Clark, Mr. Holsey, and "Commodore." The second day out they took two prisoners and killed one Indian.—From their prisoners they learned full particulars concerning the murder of the men, and succeeded in recovering one rifle, a powder flask, some blankets and other articles belonging to the murdered men. They ascertained that the two men had encamped for

of Capt. W. L. West, Lt. Brown, S. Gripen, J. Clark, C. Clark, Mr. Holsay, and "Comodoro." The second day out they took two prisoners and killed one Indian. From their prisoners they learned full particulars concerning the murder of the men, and succeeded in recovering one rifle, a powder flask, some blankets and other articles belonging to the murdered men. They ascertained that the two men had encamped for the night when they were captured, their guns and pistols taken away from them, their bodies stripped when they were murdered, cut into small pieces and thrown into the surf. The party, after taking these prisoners and learning where and how the men were murdered, proceeded fifteen miles farther down the coast to the spot where the murders had been committed. Here an attack was made upon the ranch containing the guilty Indians, and fourteen of them killed. The balance of the property, excepting one horse and one gun, was found in the ranch. One Indian, who was killed in the fight, had on a finger ring belonging to one of the men.

I am sorry that the names of the two unfortunate young men are unknown, but I shall no doubt be able to give you their names and where they were from next week.

Yours &c.,
"MAT"

