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Weekly Alta California, Number 3, 18 January 1849 — AN INDIAN FIGHT. [ARTICLE]

## AN INDIAN FIGHT.

We learn verbally that a man named James M. Vail, a discharged volunteer of the 1st N. Y. Regt., and who was attached to Capt. Shannon's company of miners, is supposed to have been taken prisoner by the Indians, and fears are entertained that he has been murdered. It appears that a few mornings after the party reached Weaver's creek, Vail went out to fell trees for building a log house. As he did not return that night, a party went in pursuit of him the next day, but discovered no trace of him. The following day the search was continued, the party discovering the smoking ruins of a large rancheria, and finding tracks of shoes, among others, going farther into the mountains. This trail was followed without success, the party overtaking and killing one Indian. It is supposed that the Indians have murdered Vail, and fearing the consequences, have burned their wigwams and retired into the mountains. It is barely possible, however, from the shoe tracks, that they may have driven him with them into captivity.

We subjoin an account of other Indian troubles, from a correspondent at Sacramento City, viz:

SACRAMENTO CITY, Jan. 4th, 1849.

"Yesterday we were all agog with a report which came in, that some wagoners, (some eight,) were fighting with some Indians at the fork of the road between here and the "dry diggins," three or four miles this side of the log cabin at the "Green Spa." Some say a wagon broke down, and that while one of the teamsters went to get help or another wagon, the other stopped to guard the broken one—that some Indians came about and a fight arose—that the other teamster and some other men came up, and a general fight took place—that the Indians ran, and that the whites burnt their rancherias, which it seems were near. Others say that the Indians had stolen an ox, and that the whites wished to punish them. The proof that they stole the ox, is, that his tracks were found leading to the rancheria but were not found

leading to the rancheria, but were not found going away from it.

To-day when I came in from work, I found the people all astir, in consequence of an express having arrived from Leidsdorff's ranch, saying that some Indians had been to a camp near, and driven off eight white men, (Oregonians.) Every body who could raise a horse turned out to go to their relief—They were just returning. They said the excitement was caused by the following circumstances :

Yesterday an old Indian, well known in this neighborhood, and who had a good character, came to a camp of Oregonians, and one of them claimed one of his horses. The Indian said he had bought the horse from a white man, and did not like to give him up—showed the fresh "rent," &c. The white man persisted that he was his horse, and took him away from him. The Indian was enraged, and rode off, making use of expressions which were not agreeable to the Oregonian, and he took up his rifle and shot him. The Indian's horse went home, his saddle covered with blood, but without his rider. To-day, some time, armed Indians came to the camp of, or met some eight Oregonians, and the latter knowing the occurrence of yesterday, presumed they had come to take revenge, and gave them battle, and were whipped. One of them came in to the

Fort and told his story, and the whole garrison turned out to their rescue; but when they returned, having heard other stories, they were pretty generally sorry the Indians had not whipped them worse."

"Notice was given, that to-night there would be a meeting to take into consideration the propriety of organising a provisional government."

**THE WEATHER.**—On three days during the last week, we have been astonished by a snow storm, and on every day we have had copious showers of rain.—The high grounds in all this vicinity, and as far as the heavy clouds will permit us to see, have been covered with snow continually, and therefore it has been extremely cold, the thermometer having been as low as 35°, Fahrenheit, with a keen, cutting north wind. The travelling is very bad, and colds, coughs and rheumatisms are largely patronised. Thus far the winter has been an unusually severe one.

**THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION.**—In pursuance of the action of the old town council, an election was held on the fifteenth instant for a *second* new council. More than two-thirds of the legal voters of the town did not attend the polls, thus condemning in a most decided manner, the factious course of the old town council. The official canvass gives the following result :

Stephen Harris,	86	I. Montgomery,	80
Lazarus Everhart,	84	John Serrine,	73
Stephen A. Wright,	83	C. E. Wetmore,	66
Daniel Starks,	81	Scattering,	53

Whole number of votes polled, 95.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**—In the London Times of the 31st August, under the head of "America," we find the following paragraph :

"Mr. Trist, late United States Commissioner to Mexico, had written a letter to the speaker of the House of Representatives, impeaching President Polk, and requesting that the impeachment might be laid before the House."

We do not believe it, inasmuch as we find nothing corroborating the statement in the late American papers in our possession.

**THE WORKING GIRLS.**—The sempstresses of New York City are about holding a general meeting for the purpose of expressing their indignation for the treatment they now receive from many of their employers, and also, if possible, to obtain remuneration commensurate with the amount of labor they are compelled to perform.—[*N. O. Pic.*]

We would advise a colony of these same working girls to come to California as soon as possible. They can earn from \$5 to \$35 per day in the manufacture of clothing; and if they be anxious to do still better than that, they will find hundreds of young, good-looking and enterprising men ready to embrace an opportunity which promises a good wife.