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California Star, Volume 1, Number 7, 20 February 1847 — A PROCLAMATION to the Inhabitants of the Northern District of California [ARTICLE]

**A PROCLAMATION
to the Inhabitants
of the Northern District of California.**

It having come to the knowledge of the Commander in Chief of this district, that certain persons have been and still are imprisoning and holding to service Indians against their will, and without any legal contract, and without a due regard to their rights as freemen when not under legal contract for service.—It is hereby ordered, that all persons so holding or detaining Indians shall release them, and permit them to return to their own homes, unless they can make a contract with them which shall be acknowledged before the nearest Justice, which contract, shall be binding upon both parties.

The Indian population must not be regarded in the light of slaves, but it is deemed necessary that the Indians within the Settlement shall have employment, with the right of choosing their own master and employer; and after having made such choice, they must abide by it, unless they can obtain permission in writing to leave, or the Justice on their complaint shall consider they have just cause to annul the contract, and permit them to obtain another employer.

All Indians must be required to obtain service, and not be permitted to wander about the country in idle and dissolute manner; if found doing so, they will be liable to arrest and punishment by labor on the PUBLIC WORKS at the direction of the Magistrate.

All Officers, civil or military, under my command, are required to execute the terms of the order, and take notice of every violation thereof.

Given at head quarters in Yerba Buena.
Sept. 15th 1846.

(SIGNED,) . . . JOHN B. MONTGOMERY.
Commanding District of San Francisco.

Published for the government
of all concerned.

WASHN. A. BARTLETT.
Magistrate of San Francisco.