

In consequence of the impossibility of supplying the demand for the paper issued upon the sailing of the opposition Steamer Isthmus, we have concluded to republish an account of the fire of *May* the 4th, with a diagram of the burned district. In addition to this, we have employed the services of Mr. Eastman, the artistic and talented wood engraver, who has furnished us with a graphic and elegant view of the burned district, drawn the day after the fire. The usual variety of intelligence from the mines, California news, correspondence, full and accurate Prices Current, and a correct Shipping list will also be found in the Steamer edition. It will be ready for delivery on Friday morning, the 31st inst., at 8 o'clock, at our Counting Room. Persons wishing papers reserved for them, can do so by application prior to the day of publication. Price 50 cents per copy.

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#### The Indians--Important Movement.

The aspect of our Indian affairs, the practicability of averting the calamity of a general disaffection among the tribes towards the white inhabitants of California, and the policy applicative in their present condition, necessary to the restoration of tranquility where embittered feeling now disturbs the public peace, are subjects which day by day are deepened in importance, and rendered more and more difficult and involved as events progress. There are few among our own people, we are willing to believe, who have the moral hardihood to invoke an appeal to strength in the matter of subduing the Indians of California, or who will preach Indian extermination until the arts of peace are left unpractised in all the expedient plans to be devised for remedying the evil which is began. A little reflection will serve to convince all of the temerity with which such a proposition must be offered, and what must follow its practical operation. Consequences which California in these, the incipient stages of her prosperity, may not, calculatingly for her welfare, encounter.

To conciliate the Indian tribes of the North, by such a course as wisdom and experience may suggest proper, and the action of the general government towards offenders, through its military agents here, as exhibited in the terrible deeds of retributive *justice* recently witnessed at Clear Lake, is among the first steps to be taken. Another is to terminate by immediate inquiry

into their *real* cause, the existing differences between the whites and Indians in that section of country lying adjacent to Feather river, near its confluence with the Yuba. Here acts of aggression have been retaliated by deeds of bloodshed, and open violence is meditated with every morning sun and executed ere evening has closed in, to hide the face of heaven from scenes of cruelty and crime. To thoroughly acquaint themselves with the origin of these difficulties, punish the offenders, and restore law, order and quietude, will be the task of our State authorities, providing they do not choose rather to view the excited state of public feeling "as through a glass, darkly." They will next then have need of a conciliatory policy to effectually adjust Indian affairs in the San Joaquin country, after which, the State may turn its attention to an active and determined display of warlike skill and courage, by the well-merited chastisement of certain Indians who have annoyed our immigration *via* the South Pass through the lower country, and forfeited all claims to our friendly consideration.

But tidings of a movement in the Indian interests of this coast, which promises to involve still more largely our attention, have just reached our ears, and we sum up the facts in the case as authentically as they can be derived.

A Dr. Whitman and family were murdered about three years since in Oregon territory by the tribe of Cayuse Indians, and it was this distressing occurrence that involved the country in a protracted war with several of the most warlike and powerful tribes of Indians inhabiting Oregon. It was for naught that company after company of volunteers proceeded against these well mounted and equipped warriors, and the attempt to visit vengeance upon the savage foe pitiably failed; not only from want of means to prosecute the war, but because there was no considerable force of the enemy to oppose the whites, where battle would have given to superior generalship an easy victory. The insatiated thirst for revenge about this time became converted into inordinate thirstings for *gold*, such as California had just been discovered to possess. The chase of Dr. Whitman's murderers was given over, and the aged men, and their sons whose cupidity could not be attracted by our glittering wealth, returned to their

homes, but the ardent, the ambitious and the greed of gain, started in companies for California. Those who came through by land had difficulties with Indians all along the route. Disdaining to treat otherwise with the most friendly in pretension than through the muzzles of their rifles, it is well known their trail was marked with Indian blood. The ire of the savage was stirred, and "Indian outrages" alarmed the quiet diggers on the American river, but a short time after the Oregonians arrived in California. Here may be dated the commencement of disturbances between our people in the Placer, and the Indian tribes of the North.

For the truth of the following extract from the *Sacramento Transcript* we are not prepared to vouch. It is all news to us, and if its authenticity is not a matter of doubt, it is important. We are aware of hostile preparations having recently been made by the numerous Indians in the region of Trinidad, to receive the white emigration to those parts, and it is not unlikely that the spirit of animosity is still alive among those tribes who fell in the way of the early Oregon gold immigration, for it is well known that these Indians are none other than those at present threatening to molest the Trinidad settlements. These facts must not be lost sight of in the perusal of the following extract.

The *Transcript* speaks of the search for the murderers of Dr. Whitman.

"In March last, he (Gov. Lane) formally demanded of the Indians the remainder of the murderers, and nine of them, including two Catholic priests, have been delivered into the possession of the government of Oregon. By proclamation of the Governor, the Legislature of the territory was convened on the 13th of May instant, at Oregon City, to give the prisoners a trial, and our informant thinks that ere this, they have been convicted and put to death.

The chiefs of the Clatamas and Calipoos have tendered the services of their tribes to Governor Lane. When our informant left, they were encamped at Linn City, opposite Oregon City, awaiting the sentence of the murderers on trial before the Legislature. They are to join the force of the territory, and march under Governor Lane over the land route towards California, till they reach the neighborhood of Rogue River. It is known that there are hostile tribes of Indians in this

country. It was infected by them last season, and several helpless companies of Oregonians were murdered while on their way to California. Lately, some friendly Indians have given information in Oregon, that the wives and children of some families who journeyed over this route last season, are now prisoners among the Digger Indians—the men having been murdered. The Oregonians are highly incensed at these outrages, and it is thought they will not be satisfied, until the offensive Indians are exterminated. The energetic steps taken by the Governor, will doubtless be the means of opening a safe communication between California and Oregon.”

We shall take an early opportunity to resume this subject.

#### Common Council.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN—*May 29.*—This Board met this evening, the President, Mr. Greene, in the chair—a quorum present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A petition was received from Mr. Edgerton, injured at the December fire, asking for relief and compensation.

A communication was received from the city Attorney, Mr. Holt, asking for the appointment of a committee of conference in relation to the suits commenced against the city and judgments already obtained.

Mr. Gillespie moved that the communication be referred to the Mayor and a joint committee of one from each Board, which was adopted.

A message was received from the Board of Assistant Aldermen, transmitting a number of ordinances.

An ordinance providing for the payment of the reward of \$3,000 for the arrest of Reuben Withers, originating in this Board, was adopted.

An ordinance to create a city Hospital, and directing the city Treasurer to receive any moneys or fines coming to the institution, was also adopted in concurrence.

Also an ordinance authorising the Mayor to take measures for the protection of the city property upon judgments and injunctions, arising