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Correspondence of the Sacramento Transcript.

THE PRINTERS AND THE COUNCIL —

GENTLEMEN: I have recently been into the mountains, and would give a description of the towns and mines through which I have passed, had not your numerous correspondents covered nearly all the ground before me.

I stopped over night at Pilot Hill, some fifty miles from here. Accidentally meeting a friend after sun-down, he proposed visiting an Indian war-dance. Having heard much of the treachery, cruelty, thievery and murders of the Indians, and having no faith in the reports I had heard, I determined to go to the dance and judge as best I could on the subject. Unarmed and alone, Gardner Loveitt and myself started on a trail over as rugged a country as I ever travelled, and that is saying something, for I came to this country over the Plains. After

travelling up and down ravines, gulches and canons for about four miles, we suddenly came upon the fires of the yelling and whooping Indians. Here I stopped my companion, and asked him if he thought danger was to be apprehended from the Indians, as we had no arms. Loveitt said he did not know—that he had heard of the treachery and it might be true, but he did not believe it—said he knew some three or four of the Indians—that they visited his camp in the woods at all times, and that although his camp apparatus was constantly exposed he never lost anything. Go on, I said, and I will follow where you lead. We entered an inclosure of tall bushes set in a circle about twice as large as an ordinary circus, forming a most lovely bower, through which the moon struggled hard to send her rays, until she had got high enough to look down perpendicularly upon us. In the centre of the bower was a large blazing fire of faggots, and near it what might be termed a Liberty Pole, around which were about sixty Indian men, some entirely naked, and all very nearly so. Around the edge of the circle were small fires, about which

the circle were small fires, about which gathered old male and female Indians, young squaws and young sanopes : in fact Indians of all ages, from three months old up to seventy years. I judged there were near one hundred full grown Indian men, and another hundred old men, females and children. Beside Mr. Loveitt and myself, there soon arrived C. S. Cooper, Jos. Murphy, Morgan O'Brien and William Wright, making not a very strong posse of whites, but as many as I desired ; for, as I said before, I have no faith in unprovoked Indian murders. The dancers gathered around the pole, and one with sticks commenced beating on the pole, making a small clattering noise, at which all commenced singing or chanting in slow, measured words, with but little variation. At this all commenced dancing, which was nothing more than bending their bodies a little forward and stepping or stamping right up and down. In a few moments they would gradually begin to move from the Pole to encircle the fire, and there remain stationary, stamping or dancing, when, at once, all would ejaculate something like "ah ! yah ! hab !! yoo !!!" The dance was then ended, and all returned to encircle the pole. This sort of amusement was enacted, with but slight variation, for three or four hours. Sometimes they would

four hours. Sometimes they would dance or stamp, in time with a noise like that made by a high pressure steamboat. It was curious to see how all gave the steamboat sound at the very identical instant. Four Indian females danced, standing behind the men. The female dancers were entirely nude above their hips. Many other females were naked to the hips,

but generally their forms were not as perfect as the men. I never before saw, nor do I ever again expect to behold, so much beauty of symmetry. Not one ill-shaped limb was there.

With one Indian girl I was greatly struck. She had a blanket, but it was usually dropped from her shoulders to the ground on which she sat. I thought her, from face, features and size, about eleven years of age, yet was she a most perfectly developed female of the years of ripe puberty. She had a child; the little fellow, like its mother, was a picture. I had a long silk handkerchief, with flowing red ground work, which I drew forth and enveloped the child with. You can judge, I was longer than was absolutely necessary in wrapping up the babe.

I could fill many sheets with just such uninteresting matter, but presume even this much will be rejected.

Yours, R.

P. S.—In this country, in my opin-

on, are some hundreds of men, so brave, bold and high-minded as to shoot a naked and defenceless Indian woman, for the noble and praise-worthy object of trying their rifles. If the Indians should steal a mule or ox in retaliation for such acts why exterminate the whole race of them, and then pass a vote of thanks to the individuals and wholesale murderers, but never censure a white man for merely sending a little cold lead through a poor ignorant, unarmed, naked Indian woman or child.

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The following remarks are so just that we extract them from the Journal of Commerce, for the benefit of whom it may concern:

We listened with some interest last evening to a discussion in the Council, whether the "Daily Herald," a newly started paper in our city, should publish the city ordinances, and it was strongly opposed by three members of the Board, mainly because the editors of that paper had published some severe strictures against the City Council. We were in doubt, well knowing the effect of such opposition, whether the gentlemen opposing said paper were its friends or enemies, and for the very reason that we have long watched the effect of such opposition. We know no surer way to build up a

paper, and give it wide influence, than for a city body to condemn its freedom of speech; every citizen who thinks he has cause of censure or quarrel against the Council, is sure from that moment to rally as the friend of such paper, and the consequence is, that the paper is strengthened, and the corporate body that opposed them is weakened.

On the score of economy, and our fathers have no right to be particular on this subject, the greatest economy is a wide dissemination of their acts; but if they become savage on the subject, the best way is to appoint an organ, which will print at the lowest paying prices, and defend their acts at the same time. We advise this as a friend, and we are the friend of the present Council. It would seem, from the acts of last night's Board of Aldermen, as if the gentlemen composing the same, were by every word arming those opposed with a strength which would eventually result in the discomfiture of the Council.

Public opinion is all powerful, and the press that is successful in this country is but the echo of public opinion; therefore, any of these public ebullitions against members of it who express freely their opinions, only put the parties who indulge therein into an antagonistic light in which they must suffer without at the same time

must suffer, without at the same time  
injuring; nay, while they do a benefit  
to the parties they attack.

Freedom of the Press is the only  
safeguard of the American people,  
and they (the people) know it so well,  
that on all occasions they support the  
freedom of the press.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS.—The French have  
entirely withdrawn their military and naval  
forces from this group—abandoned their  
dwellings and fortifications, reported to have  
cost \$4,000,000 of francs.—[Alta. Cal.