

The Indians of California are divided into two classes, the mission, and wild, or uncivilized Indians.

Down to 1820, when Mexico declared herself independent of Spain, great numbers of California Indians were attached to the missions of San Jose, Santa Clara, San Juan, &c. During the troubles between Mexico and Spain, many of the padres or priests at these missions were assassinated, and others driven from the missions by the Mexican troops, in consequence of their adherence to the mother country; and the Indians were dispersed. At these missions were manufactured various of the necessary articles, such as soap, leather, *serapas*, *frisadas*, or blankets, and coarse woolen cloths, since which revolution none of these articles have been made to any considerable extent, and the rooms for conducting such manufactures are now occupied for stables, yards, barns, &c. Upon the breaking up of these missions, most of the cattle belonging to them were driven off down the coast and slaughtered for their hides and tallow, leaving the Mission Indians with little or no food; and without spiritual advisers such as the Jesuits were, they dispersed to the mountains and plains of California. These Mission Indians joined the wild ones, carrying with them the Spanish language and Catholic religion, the former of which they still retain, but the latter of which has been forgotten, or at least is now neglected in all of its observances. There is scarcely a tribe this side of the Sierra Nevadas but that more or less of its members speak the Spanish as we know from personal travel and experience among the Indians of whom we are writing. These Spanish or Mission Indians usually fill the subordinate offices in the tribes or rancherias and are usually the interpreters and business men of the tribes in their intercourse with the whites.—Those Indians living on the San Joaquin and its tributaries are more civilized than these on the Sacramento and its tributaries and have generally adapted the

American dress and use the more common culinary utensils, while these on the latter rivers, go nearly or quite naked, and subsist upon seeds, roots, acorns, grass hoppers and a species of clover.— The former are comparatively industrious, made necessary to supply themselves with the articles used, and the latter are intolerably lazy, having no motive for exertion and usually spend most of the day and night in gambling. The former cultivate the soil and raise corn, melons and potatoes, while the latter content themselves with the wild productions of nature. Both are usually well formed and athletic, and almost every tribe speaks a different language. Those Indians near the sources of the tributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin are much addicted to horse and mule stealing, both of which they steal for the purpose of food. The Indian men, for the most part, summer and winter, go entirely naked, while the squaws wear only a sort of petticoat extending from the waist to the knees. They live in houses built partly under ground and oven shaped, in the tops of which are small apertures for the escape of smoke. The entrances to them are small and require the inmates to get in them on their hands and knees.— Within they sleep on lofts or scaffoldings built of poles and reeds, and have less of the simple conveniences of life than perhaps any Indians on the Continent. On the San Joaquin and its tributaries, they have few canoes, while on the other river and its tributaries they are generally supplied with mere dug-outs, evincing little skill in their construction. In both quarters of the State they have dams and racks for catching salmon.— In the former, when the fish go up the river, and in the latter when they come down. In the former part of the state, the Indians are comparatively industrious, and many tribes have placed themselves under Mr. Savage, who is at present on the Fresnoe engaged in mining and other tribes are working under the direction of Judge Marvin on the Tuolumne, while in the latter Capt. Sutter

and Capt. Yates are almost the only men
who have turned Indian labor to any ac-
count, and here but to a moderate ex-
tent. Gaming seems to be the chief
amusement of the Indians in both of the
aforementioned parts of California. On
the San Joaquin and its tributaries they
play monte, like the Mexicans, and usu-
ally for money, while on the Sacramen-

to they gamble with sticks for beads and clothing. One of the modes of gambling with sticks is for four Indians, two on a side, to contribute an equal amount of beads or clothing, when two go on one side of the lodge and two the other. The parties being seated, a white, smooth bone about the size and length of a man's thumb, is brought forward, and another bone of equal dimensions, with a black ring around its centre. Before each party is placed a small pile of fine dry grass, a portion of which is wrapped around either bone with great dexterity, sometimes both bones being wound in one ball of grass and sometimes separate balls.—The party guessing in which hand the marked bone is, wins, and is entitled to shuffle the bones in the grass, giving the opposite party an opportunity of guessing. There are, in addition to these bones, twelve or fourteen rods, as counters, one of which is passed over to the party guessing rightly, and if wrongly the party loses and passes over a rod. In this manner they set and play till one party loses all of the sticks, and then they finish the game by playing a rubber, and the party winning takes the articles played for. During the whole of the time the party shuffling keeps up a continued shouting, or chant, on a high key, which is exceedingly exhausting when continued. We witnessed, the other evening, in one of their lodges, together with two chiefs, a gambling contest in which all of the Indians present were naked, and those engaged in the contest were dripping with sweat, and at the last of the game nearly fainted from exhaustion. We shall resume this subject at some future time and give some further account of the California Indians.

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 COUNTY SEAT OF BUTTE COUNTY.—

There was an Election on the 21st inst., which, as far as heard from, resulted as follows :

For Hia
 For Oph
 For Bid