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Daily Alta California, Volume 4, Number 4, 4 February 1853 — SAN JOAQUIN NEWS. [ARTICLE]

**SAN JOAQUIN NEWS.**

**Indian Difficulties—Fight on the Chowchilla.**

A slip from the *Stockton Journal*, by Todd's express, has a letter from Mariposa, giving the details of a fight between the Indians and some miners.

MARIPOSA, JAN 31.  
It appears that parties living on the lower Mariposa, and on the Chowchilla, have lost, during the winter, a considerable number of horses, and mules, without being able to discover the marauders.

At last a large fine horse was stolen, and being well shod, his large deep footprints in the soft earth led the party in search of him to the rancherias of about one hundred Indians, men, women and children, situated near the Chowchilla.

The Americans, five or six in number, before approaching the village, dismounted and hitched their horses, and advanced on foot. The Indians seemed indisposed to parley, *no sabe, no sabe*, being their only reply to the questions propounded to them.

One of the party by the name of Starkie, perceiving some belligerent movements on the part of the savages, fired his rifle killing their leader, and fell himself almost at the same instant pierced with several arrows. The fight then became general. Dr. Westfall was severely wounded in his pistol hand, and, discovering that the Indians were about to cut them off from their horses, they retreated, leaving Starkie on the ground. A day or two after this event, another party returned.

And the Indians, who had taken alarm at their approach, had fled from their village. The party burned the village, with all their provisions, traps, &c., and retired.