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Los Angeles Star, Number 52, 7 May 1853 — Indian Depredations. [ARTICLE]

Indian Depredations.
 EDITORS OF THE STAR:—Indian depredation, so common in this Southern portion of our State, is a matter of such frequency and importance, that any light upon the subject to the community would no doubt be of interest. About a month ago, when the Indians from the Tejon were here on a visit, I made all the inquiry possible to get information relative to the supposed horse thieves. They then told me that they knew the Indians that annoyed us so much. I asked them to make a visit to those Indians, as they said they were friendly with each other, which they promised to do. On the second of the present month, one of those captains came in to advise me of the result of these visits, which was as follows:

These horse thieves inhabit the region of country bounded on the north by Owen's Lake, and on the head branches of Kerne river, about three days' travel from the Tejon, in a north-easterly direction. They are a small tribe, not supposed to number over fifty warriors. The captains of these thieves told the Tejon Indians that the parties which steal horses, are headed by two renegade Indians who have each about seven or eight young men that follow them, and that these two divide their time so as one can come every new moon; and that they always take animals. They kill a large portion of these, and sell the balance to Indians living north of Owen's lake. They also sell to the American emigrants, for blankets, &c.

The Tejon Indians assure me that the captains of these thieves, are opposed to these Indians' stealing; and are, as they believe, disposed to give up the principal thieves for punishment. And the Tejon Indians have now promised to go, in a large body, on another visit, and try to capture the thieves. They say if they fail that they would like to join a party of Americans and go and take them. They say by going by the Tejon that they will go as guides, and that there is good grass and water every night. That the Indians are easy of access, and can be easily captured by a small party. That the way they have usually been pursued, down the Moave river, is much farther and a bad country, neither water nor grass, and on that route they always manage to elude their pursuers.

I am satisfied that the above statement is about correct; and I am also satisfied that any treaty made with these Indians, without their first feeling our power, would be of no avail.—How easy for those interested to make up a party and pay them a visit, and convince them that they can no longer steal with impunity.

B. D. W.