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Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 141, 21 May 1852 — Trinidad C'a-rrwaMMselem'c—Klamli Indians. [ARTICLE]

Trinidad Correspondence--Klamath Indians.

MESSRS EDITORS: Your correspondent, T. J. R., has been misinformed about the building of "a government store-house," by my order at Durkee's Ferry, on the Klamath. No such order was ever issued; no such store-house has been built. A squared log house was in process of erection when I was there in November last, but it was a private enterprise of the owners of the Ferry.

Your correspondent also labors under a mistake in representing the late killing of some forty Indians at the Upper Crossing as occurring in "a fight." It was a cold-blooded, unprovoked massacre. An Indian, sometime in the early part of March, had been shot by a white man at Happy Camp. The Indians on the rivers above were exasperated, and perhaps threatened retaliation. At all events some miners were alarmed, raised a party, surrounded the Rancheria at the Ferry, and killed every man and some women; then proceeding up the river two miles, surrounded another village and killed every man but one, who escaped wounded, making a total of some thirty or forty killed. All accounts agree in stating that the attack was wholly unlooked for by the Indians, who from the date of the treaty at Scott's Valley in November, had been perfectly quiet and inoffensive. The facts are given on the authority of the Special Indian Agent in that neighborhood, who investigated the sad affair in connection with Captain Charles McDermit and Mr. Owens, who resides in the immediate vicinity. It is quite too common for letter writers and editors in California to represent every difficulty which occurs on the frontier, as an aggression or outrage on the part of the Indians, and in justifying the most severe punishment, even their downright butchery. Like all wild, untutored nations, they may be revengeful and treacherous; but it is a most remarkable fact that all the tribes with whom treaties have been made by the United States Agents during the past year, have so far, most religiously observed their engagements. No single case of murder or other outrage upon the whites can be traced to any of these tribes. Where difficulties have existed, the whites have been the aggressors, or the Indians were of the tribes not yet visited by the Agents. This statement may be denied, but it cannot be disproved. I wish for the credit of the whites that the facts were different. Very Respectfully,
R. McKEE.

THE INDIANS ON THE FRESNO.—We are indebted to Dr. Wozencraft for a copy of a letter received by him from a gentleman in whom confidence can be placed, containing information relative to the Indians in the Fresno country. The letter is dated Hailer's Ranch, Fresno, May 9th, and commences as follows:

"I have been spending a few agreeable days with Lieutenant Moore and his accomplished associates, at Fort Miller, near the head of the San Joaquin River. Having a leisure moment, I employ it in scratching you a line, and as it is on the subject of your mission, I know it will be acceptable, particularly when I inform you that I found Major Savage, to my surprise, teaching your Indians agriculture. He employs men, women and children with his own family. As an evidence of their capacity to labor, I would state that he, with some 25 or 26 hands, large and small, dug a ditch four hundred yards long, five feet deep by four in width, cut down the banks of a ravine some three hundred yards, built a brush fence, which formed the ends while the river and the ditch protected the sides, of a piece of ground some ten or twelve acres in extent. The preparation above described, the ploughing and planting of the land in potatoes, melons, pumpkins and beans, with a variety of other vegetables, occupied the short space of four and a half days only. The Indians appeared to labor with uncommon spirit and cheerfulness, the Major leading the van. In the operation of ditching, each man was tasked, which appeared to stimulate their ambition to excel. Major Savage appears as their great benefactor or chief, each obeying his commands with promptness, and at the same time with apparent affection and respect.

"Since the arrival of their cattle (provided by the Government) they appear to be satisfied. The Major has dispatched couriers to bring the Four Creek Indians to the San Joaquin, which circumstance will be very gratifying to a large number of citizens of this county, who are very desirous to locate that country. Mr. Pool, with a party of ten men, has left with the intention of establishing a ferry on King's River, which will doubtless be of great convenience to the emigration this fall. Maj. Savage and Capt. Haler are preparing for harvest; they will cut some two hundred acres of as fine barley as ever grew, and are now engaged cutting hay. With them, every thing moves like clock-work, and next year they calculate to plant on a very large scale. There is but little doing in the mines as yet, the water being too high."