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Daily Alta California, Volume 4, Number 224, 24 August 1853 — Froaa the T>j»" PaH-Eanaaltn will, the ■■*U*u-eliMa«rsU Trtatam •(Fricadl j T rites. [ARTICLE]

From the Tejon Pass—Encounters with the Indians—Shameful Treatment of Friendly Tribes.

TEJON, August 15, 1853.

MESSRS. EDITORS :—There was a party of Americans passed through here on the 9th of this month from the States, on their way to the mines, in company with a small party from your section of country. They stayed at my place all night, and the next day I went to pilot them through to Kern river, leaving one Samuel Lago at my camp in charge of the same. The next day after I left home Lago got a horse from the Indians, telling them that he was going after me, and that he would pay them for the same on his return. He overtook a portion of the party that had started from camp with me on a slough which leaves Kern river about six miles below the crossing, telling them that my companions, who had left some ten or twelve days before on a trip up the east side of the mountains, had returned; that they had been driven back by the Indians and would have been killed if it had not been for the interference of an Indian chief who went with them as a guide, by the name of Vizenty, from this place; and that they (my companions) had sent him to the four creeks for powder and lead, and that we were going up on the return to fight them, &c. And after telling them almost any quantity of falsehoods in regard to these Indians at the Tejon, he induced six or seven of the party to return with him from their camp on the slough, (without seeing me, as I had left before his arrival and went up to the crossing on the river,) with the express purpose of seizing all the horses that the Indians have at the Tejon, making a clean sweep of them all and running them up on the west side of the lake to San Joaquin and there dispose of them. The news of this expedition reached me at the crossing in the evening, and they had left in the morning, intending to commit their depredations that night. I immediately saddled a horse and started back with the intention of getting to the Tejon before they did I ran my horse until he fell under me, and then ran some fifteen miles on foot. I arrived at the first rancheria about 1 o'clock at night and sent runners to all the other rancherias, telling them to collect their horses and arm themselves for combat, and meet me at Vizenty's ranche

themselves for combat, and meet me at Vizenty's ranche-
ria, the place where they intended to commence opera-
tions. I then ran home, expecting to find my compan-
ions, and learned that they had not arrived. I then went
to Vizenty's and got there about fifteen minutes before
the row commenced, and in time to stop the shedding of
blood. The robbers fired at a couple of Indians, doing
them no injury, however. They stole one horse, found
out that we were ready for them and left.

Yours, &c.,

J. H. B.

P. S.—My companions have returned, but did not go as
far as they had intended. They intend to start again in
about four days from this time. On their return they
will give you all the particulars. There is a great deal
of excitement here among the Indians, and they state
openly that if the Americans had stolen their horses or
shot one of their men, that they would have killed me
immediately, and my companions on their return, which
was the next day. It will be some time before we will
be able to bring about that kind feeling which existed
with them towards the Americans heretofore. It was a
disgraceful act on the part of those who perpetrated it,
and I hope that the Government will use every exertion
for the purpose of bringing the offenders to justice, and
punishing them for their act. I do not believe that there
is an American in California who has passed through
this valley, in want of provisions, but what they have
accommodated them with the best they had; and are
ever ready to furnish them guides, and every other in-
formation as to roads, &c., that they might need. And
they think it is a poor return for all their kindness to at-
tempt to steal from and murder them.