



powered by



A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present

Daily Alta California, Volume 4, Number 234, 3 September 1853 — The Isi.i.. Hwa>tllttt(s)-.a<<<thw Banie. 1 [ARTICLE]

**The Indian Hostilities—Another Battle.**

[SEE ADAMS & CO.'S EXPRESS.]

The Indian difficulties in the North appear to be unmitigated; and we find the following account of another battle in the *Mountain Herald*:

JACKSONVILLE, Aug. 25, 1853.

Another battle was fought with the Indians yesterday. There were 10 Indians killed and 30 wounded. The whites lost 3 men killed and 8 wounded. Among the killed was Capt. Armstrong, of Yam Hill; the other two men were from Yreka, but I have not learned their names. Col B. R. Alden is said to be mortally wounded; the ball entered his neck and came out under his arm. Gen. Lane was also wounded in the shoulder, slightly. The battle lasted four hours, at the end of which time chief Sam proposed an armistice, which was granted; and both armies agreed to meet at Table Rock to-morrow, to have a council.

The Indians numbered 250 men, and the whites 96. The battle came off at the head of Evans's creek, in a canyon, about 55 miles from here. The whites surprised them. Gen. Lane and Col. Alden were wounded while making a charge. It is generally supposed here that it is the intention of the whites to make a treaty with the Indians, on account of their agreeing to meet them at Table Rock; but for myself I have no such idea, and I think there is some other object in view, as the people of this country would not submit to it for a moment.

Three Spaniards were shot this morning, eight miles from here, near Applegate Creek. One mule was shot; and the cargo carried off by the Indians: the Spaniards were on their way from Crescent City, with a pack train.

Robert L. Williams arrived here yesterday from Althouse Creek, for the purpose of getting a commission to raise a company of rangers, which was granted him. Capt. W. J. Terry arrived last night from Crescent City, with a part of his company, the balance being behind with their provisions, ammunition, &c. His company numbers 30 men, well armed.

There had been other fatal difficulties with the Indians, which we find detailed in the supplement to the *Herald*.

It appears that Capt Smith, Mr. John Gibbs, and others, a short time ago had a fight with the Indians, when Dunn and some others were wounded. They killed 4 or 5 Indians and took 7 or 8 of them prisoners, and kept them under guard for the purpose of inducing the remainder of the tribe to come in; and were under the impression that they were good Indians.

On the 21st the Indians crawled in upon them, charged on the guard, and rescued the prisoners. They then burned some haystacks. John Gibbs, of the Mountain House, was standing guard at the time, and had his arm fractured by a rifle ball, and shot in the groin. Mr. Carroll, of Eureka, was one of the other men wounded.

An emigrant who had just come across the plains to the

An emigrant who had just come across the plains, by the name of Smith, while lying under his wagon asleep, was shot dead with ten rifle balls. Another emigrant, who had just arrived with his wife and several children, from some place near Burlington, Iowa, was shot. He died on Tuesday last. At the time he was shot the Indians had seized his wife, and he was trying to rescue her. She escaped unhurt. Mr. Gibbs received two wounds, one breaking his left arm, and one ball passing through his groin. Dr. Shulte thinks he will not recover.

One man has his thigh broken by a rifle ball, and another wounded in the thigh by a ball; another wounded by arrows, the names of whom we have been unable to learn. None of the Indians were killed or wounded. They drove off one American mare, and shot two oxen and one mule belonging to the ranch.

We have just received news from Capt. Smith, who is on his way in from Port Orford with a company of forty dragoons. They came in on the new road east of the canyon. They fell in with a party of Indians at the canyon, near Table Rock—had a fight with them—killed ten Indians, but lost one man.

General Joe Lane arrived last Saturday night, at headquarters, with fifteen men, to participate in the existing war with the Indians. Col. Alden prevailed on him to take command of the forces, which he has done, and marched in pursuit of the Indians at 5 o'clock this morning. The people here have great confidence in the General's knowledge of Indian fighting.

We look for sixty or seventy Clicatat Indians and half-breeds, in from Oregon, in a few days, who have been anxious to come here to fight these Indians for a long time.

A white man was killed on Applegate night before last, by another white man who was standing guard. The guard heard him in the bushes and hailed him three times—the only answer he made was "nika." He was shot dead.

Since the two conventions have performed what they undoubtedly supposed to be their duty, in selecting from the great body of our citizens those who are capable of filling the county and municipal offices, (vide speeches of the members of the conventions, *passim*,) it now devolves upon the citizens of San Francisco, as sensible men, to choose whom they shall serve, or who shall serve them, as the case may be.

It is a difficult task for a plain man, unacquainted with the abstruse mysteries of political tactics, to determine the ticket he is to support. The phosphorescent light from the bleaching bones of the two old political parties is insufficient to guide us through the putrescent slough of political corruption which the two conventions have commanded us to pass. The moral force of old political precedent does not apply to present affairs. We could once support a few incompetent men and debatable characters upon a ticket for the sake of vital principles of public policy which they were supposed to represent. These principles, being waived by common consent, unhalters every citizen from the party hitching post, and give him free air and free pasturage. The reasonable substitute for old principles may be found in the personal fitness and integrity of the men who aspire to official position.

It is a difficult task for a plain man, unacquainted with the abstruse mysteries of political tactics, to determine the ticket he is to support. The phosphorescent light from the bleaching bones of the two old political parties is insufficient to guide us through the putrescent slough of political corruption which the two conventions have commanded us to pass. The moral force of old political precedent does not apply to present affairs. We could once support a few incompetent men and debatable characters upon a ticket for the sake of vital principles of public policy which they were supposed to represent. These principles, being waived by common consent, unhalters every citizen from the party hitching post, and give him free air and free pasturage. The reasonable substitute for old principles may be found in the personal fitness and integrity of the men who aspire to official position.

We do not deny that there are many gentlemen who have received the dubious compliment of a nomination, against whom no objections can be urged. On the contrary, we find the names of gentlemen upon both tickets whom it will afford us much pleasure to aid in securing an election. They are men of integrity, sagacity and prudence. Men whose interests are and have been long identified with our community; who have grown up with the city, are acquainted with the wants and sentiments of the people, and desirous of promoting the public good. From such men, therefore, we purpose to make our selections.

At the outset, then, we must express our astonishment at the intellectual pauperdom of San Francisco. In the simplicity of our hearts we had supposed that there were many old and long-trying citizens who could be found sufficiently capable of filling with credit the highest municipal office of the city. But we were laboring under a mistake. The nomination of Mr. Garrison by the Democratic convention (such as it was) confirms us in that opinion. Our old townsmen, Messrs. Harris, Meiggs and Middleton, have not the honesty or capacity, it seems, which have been accorded to the agent of a line of steamers. We might inquire into the propriety of Mr. Garrison's nomination, were it not that the alleged influences which were brought to bear upon the members of the Democratic convention relieve us from the necessity. We might ask what Mr. Garrison has done for our city, which compels us to seek relief from the burthen of gratitude by conferring upon him the highest honor, were it not that the query might subject us to the imputation of rudeness to strangers. We might ask why Mr. Garrison's poor friends propose to expend thirty thousand dollars to secure his election, were it not that it might give the gentleman much annoyance to find out where those friends procured the money. Besides, it is always painful to the noble mind to behold others making ruinous sacrifices for us. We might further institute certain inquiries as to the prospects of the Extension scheme, were it not presumable that Mr. Garrison has not as yet plunged into the depths of California speculation. We might inquire what extent of basin and wharfage, carved out of extension lots, would suffice to accommodate the steamers of the Nicaragua line, were it not that we might be accused of intermeddling with business arrangements foreign to present political issues, (such as they are.) We would also (with that deference which is due to a millionaire) respectfully inquire of Mr. G.

whether the Democratic convention, in his own nomination, became Whig, or he Democratic; or whether, upon the broad basis of philanthropic self-interest, they had met half way to laugh at themselves and each other—were it not useless, from the fact that " Dr. Robinson " is authorized to furnish the farces whilst the conventions have contributed follies for the amusement of the town.

It would be ungenerous to urge such inquiries or others of like character, and we therefore forbear. The only question as between Mr. Garrison and his competitor Dr. Gray consists, not in their personal qualities as gentlemen, (for the high business position and wealth of the one and the practical sense and sterling integrity of the other are alike undisputed), but in the social and political propriety which should govern citizens in their selection of a man to preside over their municipal affairs. Whilst, therefore, we give no heed to the commonly accredited report that Mr. Garrison's residence among us is so recent that he knows scarcely five streets in the city, and until lately was entirely ignorant of the location of the City Hall; we nevertheless insist that his election to his nominated position, upon a four months residence here, would be repugnant to the feelings of those who have struggled with the vicissitudes of fortune and proved their devotion to the interests of the city.