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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 6, Number 904, 14 February 1854 — Indian Difficulties in the Jforth.
[ARTICLE]

Indian Difficulties in the North.

The *Yreka Herald* of the 4th instant, contains quite a long statement of the Indian difficulties in that section, signed by many citizens, which represents a state of affairs there very unsatisfactory—and which reflects rather severely upon the conduct of Capt. Smith, U. S. Army, in a recent encounter with the Shasta Indians. We copy the statement :

MESSRS. THORNBURY & Co.—The unfortunate Indian difficulties now existing with the Shasta Indians are a subject of common remark. In order that the public mind may not be misinformed in regard to the true position of affairs, and the light in which they are viewed by the people of Cottonwood and those best acquainted with the manner in which these difficulties have originated, their management, and the recent inglorious affair at the “Cave,” in which Capt. Smith drew off and returned to Rogue River Valley, contrary to the wishes, advice, and urgent solicitations of the volunteers and the citizens of Cottonwood generally, thereby virtually acknowledging himself whipped by a small party of Indians, and leaving our citizens and their property wholly unprotected from the ruthless and murderous incursions of these savages, and in order that the blame may rest where it should, we submit the following statements :

That immediately after the unfortunate occurrence in which the Indians fell upon a party of our citizens who were in pursuit of their stolen stock, murdered four of their number, and robbed them of about \$600 in cash, wounded several others severely, wholly defeating our small party, killing and taking six of their horses, capturing the provisions and blankets of the whole party, eight rifles and six revolvers, compelling them to retreat and leave the dead on the field, whom they stripped of their clothing, scalped two of them—immediately after they arrived at Cottonwood, a meeting was called and a messenger dispatched to Capt. Judah of the U. S. Infantry at Fort Jones, and he repaired with his command without delay to our assistance. Upon his arrival at Cottonwood, the citizens raised a com-

his arrival at Cottonwood, the citizens raised a company of volunteers who joined him, and they marched immediately to the Cave, when, after exchanging a few shots with the Indians and reconnoitering their position, it was thought advisable by Capt. J. to withdraw to camp and send to Fort Lane for a mounted howitzer. The Captain found the four naked and mangled dead bodies, and sent them back to Cottonwood for interment. Capt. Smith of Fort Lane, accompanied the howitzer, and being a senior officer, took command and proceeded with the regular force and about 75 volunteers to the Cave, and commenced an attack both with the howitzer and small arms, but without any other effect than the loss of Capt. Geiger, one of our most estimable citizens, who was in command of the volunteers. Fighting continued during most of the day, and in the evening Capt. Smith drew off the force and encamped near by. On the next morning had a talk with the Indians, effecting nothing with them; and immediately started back to Rogue River Valley, without assigning any sufficient reason for so doing; and ordered Capt. Judah with his command back to Fort Jones.