

California 1849  
Mrs J. Cranklin  
Waverly Valley, Cal.  
German, 15. 59

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Enc. copy of petition of  
citizens of Humboldt  
County and Newspaper  
clerk protesting against  
the extension of the Man-  
damin Reserve

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Rec'd April 24, 59

Land 3.

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17.

Mattole valley, Humboldt Co  
California Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1859.

To the Hon J. W. Denver, Esq  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington City D.C.

Dear Sir

You will please excuse the liberty I take in addressing you this long letter, it is your well known love of Honor, Justice & Right, that has prompted me to write you on behalf of Myself and the Citizens of this valley,

Knowing & feeling as we do that we have no friend at Court but you, to defend and protect us from this abominable humbug & swindle, the so called extension of the Mendocino Reservation,

Enclosed I send you a copy of a petition which is now being circulated through the County for your Honorable Consideration, every word of which is true,

First I will give you a short history of our valley, This fine valley, unsurpassed in beauty and fertility, is situated in the lower end of Humboldt County about 35 miles from Eureka, Within the last year the number of our settlers has doubled, and there will without a doubt be at least one hundred votes at the next election (And every man is your warm friend politically and otherwise) And the population would have bin much larger if it had not bin for the location of this Reservation among us, which has prevented the growth and settlement of the valley by Men of Families and a serious drawback to the improvement of the valley.

There is fifteen families in the valley, my family being  
the pioneer, as my wife was the first white woman in the  
valley. The first settlement was made about four years  
ago, since which we have made considerable improvements,  
and would have made much more if it had not bin  
for the total disregard which has been paid to our rights  
and privileges by Col Henly and others, by hanging on  
to the lands of bona fide settlers, for a ridiculous reservation  
which is of no manner of benefit to the Indians or any  
one else, as I can say without fear of contradiction that  
there has not been half a dozen Indians on this reservation  
since it has bin established, and we have been  
compelled fight the Indians and defend our families  
without help or any assistance from government or  
it's agency.

When we were first informed that our lands  
had been appropriated for the benefit of the diggers,  
public meetings were held in the valley and county  
and with one voice a remonstrance went forth,  
stating good and sufficient reasons to satisfy any  
reasonable honest man, or men that this extension  
could be of no possible benefit to the Indians, on one  
hand, while it sacrificed the rights of the citizens on  
the other but all to no purpose, and while the  
Super<sup>int</sup> of Indian Affairs presumptuously styles it  
a reservation and persistently declares that it has been  
established "According to Law", not a citizen of this country  
or of this state, that we are aware of, has ever seen any  
other authority for the establishment of this nuisance.

than the manifesto of Col Henly,

Now if Col Henly had ever taken the pains to show the Citizens of Mattole any authority, or shadow of authority that Congress has given him to appropriate our lands much of the ground for complaint would have been removed we could then have looked to higher authority for redress.

The above is all most respectfully written for your consideration hoping that you will take such steps as will remove this pest from amongst us.

Inclosed please find a portion of the Humboldt Times, with its notices of our treaty with the Indians and articles in relation to our difficulties.

Now if I am not presuming on your kindness too much, I would most respectfully solicit the favour that you send me copies of the Patent Office Reports on Agriculture for the Years 1856, 1857, 1858,

or cause them to be sent to me, quite a number of the settlers are desirous of having seeds and cuttings but do ~~not~~ know what course to pursue to get them sent to us. If you have the books sent to my address, in care of Wm Berding & Co, Currier & Humboldt Co, Cal.

I am dear Sir most respectfully  
Your obedient servant

Wm J Conklin ★

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To Hon J. W. Denver Esq  
Commissioner of Indian affs,  
Washington D. C.

We the undersigned residents of Humboldt county California, having permanent interest therein, respectfully solicit your interference to prevent the execution of a measure most injurious, not only to private interest and rights, but also to the settlement, and improvement of this section of California

We allude to the intention of the General Government, as we have been informed by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California, to extend the Meadoocino Indian Reservation so as to include a large tract of land situate on the Pacific, extending in breadth three miles from the coast, and northwardly into this county, to a line four miles north of the mouth of Mattoole River.

We would respectfully represent that this alleged extension embraces within its limits some of the most valuable lands within this county, a large portion of which is highly estimated for its adaptation to the raising of stock, and a part because of its great fertility and mildness of climate, most desirable for general farming purposes,

That it includes settlements, whereon are several hundred head of stock, besides land under culture, made near the Mattoole, before such an intention

on the part of the General Government was announced and without any idea or suspicion that such measure was contemplated.

That it is upon the confines of other settled parts of our county, and nothing but the apprehension of such reservation in their vicinity prevents it being densely occupied.

That the extensive tract is upon the most direct, expeditious and economical coast route, having reference to the wants of present and future settlements on the coast between San Francisco and this County for postal and other purposes, and that the facilities necessary to be given for such purposes will render nugatory the objects of Government in making the Reservation or else people of this section will be deprived of the usual means of communication and business necessary to them.

It is also respectfully suggested whether, with a large Reservation on our North, on the Mamath, with another on our East, and if not within, near to our County line, there can be any necessity for this extension into our county, so near to those already established, and if there be no such imperious necessity whether it is not grossly unjust to retard the settlement and improvement of this important section by the establishment of such a nuisance in our midst.

Since the announcement of this intention on the part of Government, and the appearance upon the alleged extension of persons calling themselves Government

Agents nothing has been done to carry out the purposes of a Reservation, nothing has been done for the benefit of the Indians, nothing has been done to evidence the intention of government regarding it.

The log shanty erected and a few acres cultivated look more like the manoeuvres of some speculation squatter than the labors of an honest settler, and certainly have no resemblance to the efforts of a liberal government to execute a philanthropic design, it has been a continual source of annoyance and irritation in the neighborhood, and has done more to create disturbance than promote peace between the settlers and Indians.

Knowing your acquaintance with this country, its people, its situation and necessities we have been less particular in the statement of our grievances than we would have been to another not so well informed and we rely upon your well known love of justice to obtain from government a speedy abandonment of their alleged intention in this respect if indeed any such were ever intended.

For this your petitioners will ever pray,

Mr J. Conklin  
John Chambers  
John Casad  
J. C. Meher  
John Doshing  
John G. Morgan  
John Mann,

G. H. Proffon  
Joel Benton  
M. B. Kellogg  
J. W. Clark  
A. G. Gilbert  
A. Gilbert & Chas. Gilbert  
{ and some 50 others }

**Serious Indian Troubles.—Removal or extermination.**

Since the forepart of June we have been called upon to notice, in nearly every number of our paper, murders, robberies and other depredations committed by digger indians in this section of the State. Within that time two men at work on their logging claims East of this place have been shot from an ambush and wounded, one of them quite severely; Thornton, of Mattole, has been murdered and his body mutilated in a manner which the diggers only are capable of doing; Ross, while peaceably following his business as a packer, on the public thoroughfare between Union and Trinity, has been wounded in such a manner as to render recovery hopeless, and Stevens, while in pursuit, with others, of the scamps who shot him was himself shot dead. Chauncey Miller, a trader on the Trinity, being down after goods and finding the trail dangerously infested by Indians, volunteered for the purpose of removing this obstruction to interior trade. He also forfeited his life, and one of his companions, Winslett, was severely wounded. Vandal, murdered near the mouth of the Klamath by his treacherous guides, may also be added to the list of victims heretofore mentioned.

This week we are obliged to continue the record of Indian outrages on the lives and property of our citizens. It has now come to that condition of affairs in the Bald Hill country, that men are shot down within sight of their own houses and their stock driven off before their eyes.

We have long foreseen the present state of things and have been well satisfied, and so expressed it repeatedly, that it could only be averted by placing the Indians on the Reservations, or by extermination: in other words, by removing them from the range they now inhabit, either alive or dead.

Our fellow citizens in other parts of the State, unacquainted with the hardships of a frontier life, and far removed from the dangers to which the lives and property of our neighbors are constantly exposed, may consider such treatment of the Indians fit only for barbarians. A necessity imposing enough to override every other consideration, has, however, rendered the adoption of one or the other of the alternatives mentioned, absolutely indispensable. The Indians must be removed from the mountain prairies lying between this Bay and the waters of the Trinity and Klamath, or our further progress is at an end. White men cannot settle there, however desirable the country may be for stock raising and other branches of farming, while armed savages are suffered to roam at large, waylaying the trails, killing ranch men, devastating their homes and driving off their stock. And as the Indians are every year obtaining more fire-arms and becoming better skilled in their use the longer they are suffered to remain the worse it will be for the whites, as recent events fully demonstrate.

Removal or extermination now being the watchword with all classes of our people, the next question arises, how are we to proceed. We have Reservations on three sides of us—the Mendocino, the Noma Cult (or Noma Lackee) and the Klamath. They have been established for several years, and have now, perhaps, about the same number of Indians on each as were on the same territory when the Reservations were first established. No perceptible benefit has so far been accomplished. The agents, sub-agents, or clerks, whatever they may be, sent up to the Reservations, have whiled away their time in various ways, sent on lengthy reports dilating extensively upon the virtues and habits of the "poor Indians," and, perhaps, served their party—for they have not served their country.

We have also, a United States military post within our county, and yet our people

protecting ourselves from Indian depredations, that the government, whose business it is to remove these incumbrances to the progress of the country, will reimburse our people therefor. At all events, we must protect ourselves and trust to the sense of justice on the part of the government in the premises.

**HORRIBLE MURDER OF MR. BOYNTON.**—On Tuesday morning last about 10 o'clock, Mr. Paul Boynton, who resided ten miles from Union, on the Trinity trail, was murdered by Indians, within about two hundred yards of his house. Some packers had encamped at his house the previous night, and in the morning, as they were preparing to leave he started off after his cows, and before he was out of sight the report of a rifle was heard, and seven Indians seen running from the direction of the report. The packers immediately gave chase, and as they neared the edge of the woods they came upon the prostrate body of Mr. Boynton, just as the last signs of life were leaving him. He was pierced through the body by a large rifle ball. It was evidently a premeditated plan on the part of the Indians to murder the whole family, and the timely arrival of the packers the night before no doubt saved the now heart-broken widow and two fatherless children from the vengeance of the fiends who have robbed them of their natural parent and protector.

Mr. Boynton was from Deer Grove, Cook county, Illinois. He came to this Bay in the fall of 1853, and resided in Union until the spring of 1857, when he settled on the claim where he was murdered, at his own door-yard. He was a young man, whose character was without blemish, and than whom a more industrious, honest and peaceable citizen did not live. By his diligence and economy he had acquired considerable property, and, as he informed us but a short time since, it was his intention to return with his family, to his home in Illinois, soon.

He was brought into Union on Wednesday, and was followed to the grave on Thursday afternoon, by a large concourse of people.

**MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF MATTOLE.**

Elsewhere in our paper will be found the proceedings of a meeting held in Mattole valley in this county, the objects of which are fully explained in the resolutions. Although the citizens of that beautiful valley are cursed with what our superintendent of Indian affairs is pleased to call a Reservation, so utterly powerless is the so styled Federal limb who presides there as a "Special Agent," that a knot on a stump would render as much assistance as he. The people there have taught the Indians of that valley a lesson which they will long remember, and one which will most likely deter them from again imbuing their hands in the blood of white men, or committing other depredations. It will be seen by the resolutions that the white are now willing for them to return to their homes, providing the Indians comply with their terms of peace, which they have manifested a willingness to do.

In connection with these resolutions we did intend to have something further to say concerning the action of our superintendent of Indian affairs, in relation to the miserable and bungling attempt at extending the Mendocino Reservation into this county. But as we intend to pay a visit to the valley soon, we will defer it for the present.

**DESERTERS.**—On Saturday night last, two of the crew of the ship William ran away, and on Thursday night last four more of the same crew deserted their vessel. The ship is bound for a foreign port, and the desertion of the crew is a very serious loss, as another crew cannot be had here. This has been a common practice with sailors in the port, and citizens should consider such a

D. D. AVERILL, CLERK, pro tem.

**Mass Meeting in Mattole Valley.**

At a public meeting of the citizens of Mattole Valley, Humboldt county, held for the purpose of making a treaty of peace and friendship with the indians of said Valley, on the 4th day of September, A. D., 1858, L. W. Gillett was chosen President, and the following gentlemen appointed a committee to draft resolutions: M. J. Conklin, J. H. Freuit, H. T. Brown, Joel Benton and L. W. Gillett.

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

**Resolved,** That we, the citizens of this Valley, do form and enter into a treaty of peace and friendship with the indians on the following terms, viz:

1st—That the Indians use all due diligence to secure the persons of the three indian murderers, now running at large, who were concerned in the murder of Mr. Thornton.

2d—That they shall furnish the citizens any and all information that they may have, or be able to obtain, in aiding to arrest the said murderers, and use all their influence to bring them to justice.

3d—That we will protect them from all danger and harm, if any difficulty should arise between them and the other indians, by their giving information, and assisting to arrest the said murderers.

4th—That the indians must not set fire to the grass on the hills; that they must not drive away, molest, or kill our cattle, horses, mules or hogs; that they must not enter our enclosures; that they must not steal from us; that they must not reside on our claims without our consent.

**Resolved,** That the Indians be permitted to return and live in the valley, collect their wild food, fish, &c.

**Resolved,** That this treaty of peace is only made with the Mattoles, and does not extend to any other tribes of Indians, and that they must not harbor any Indians from the Cascade Creek, Bear River, Eel River, or any other Indians who do not belong to the Mattoles.

**GONE TO WORK RIGHT.**—On this page of our paper will be found a call from the Committees appointed by the citizens of Union and Eureka, for volunteers to serve for a four months campaign. We consider the step a wise one, and the only proper way to prevent a protracted and deadly Indian war.

**INDIAN TROUBLES.**—It appears that the Indians in the vicinity of Redwood and Mad river, are determined to deal to the hilt with everything in their reach. Next morning after the murder of Mr. Boynton they attacked Pardee's ranch. The dogs held them at bay till Mr. Barney, one of the partocers, and Mr. Pardee went out, when they were fired upon by the Indians, and miraculously escaped with their lives. When night set in the family started for town, and arrived in safety



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The ranch has no doubt been totally destroyed before this, as it was left at their mercy.

They killed a cow at Angels ranch on Wednesday, in sight of the house, and carried it off.

**ACTION OF THE CITIZENS OF UNION.**—In our paper to-day will be found the proceedings of a meeting at Union, held for the purpose of considering the best method to be taken for the protection of life and property from Indians. It will be seen, also, that a special tax has been levied on all taxable property in the town, for the purpose of defraying expenses, furnishing supplies, &c., the money so collected to be placed in the hands of a disbursing committee, who are to use it at their discretion. We consider this but just and proper, as the protection of life and property should be a mutual and common interest with all the citizens of our county, and in the absence of any assistance whatever from Indian Agencies or U. S. troops, the expenses should be equalized in proportion to our ability to pay.

The citizens of Eureka met in mass last evening, at Brett's saloon, and, on motion of Dan. Pickard, the resolutions passed by the citizens of Union were adopted by the meeting, with one amendment—the levying of 25 instead of 50 cents on the \$100 taxable property within the corporate limits of the town. The Board of Trustees will meet this evening.

the Mendocino, the Noma Cult (or Noma Lackee) and the Klamath. They have been established for several years, and have now, perhaps, about the same number of Indians on each as were on the same territory when the Reservations were first established. No perceptible benefit has so far been accomplished. The agents, sub-agents, or clerks, whatever they may be, sent up to the Reservations, have whiled away their time in various ways, sent on lengthy reports dilating extensively upon the virtues and habits of the "poor Indians," and, perhaps, served their party—for they have not served their country.

We have also, a United States military post within our county, and yet our people whose enterprise is building up and developing the country, are suffered to be murdered as it were at their own doors by these miserable diggers. And it cannot be said that the officers, Federal or State, are ignorant of our situation. We have urged time and again upon the Indian Department the absolute necessity of something being done in this section to avert what is now upon us—an Indian war. Our citizens have petitioned the Commander of the United States troops here, and also, the Governor for aid. The former has not men enough at his disposal to protect his own garrison from attack were it not surrounded by white settlements, and what steps, if any, the Governor will see proper to adopt, we have not yet learned. Should he, however, call out volunteers, it will require some time before they can be brought into service, whereas some immediate action must be taken on or all the settlements in the Bald Hills will be broken up and travel on the various trails leading to the interior cut off.

We think, therefore, that a company of men should be raised by our citizens and sent out immediately, in order, at least, to keep the Indians at bay till some plan for their removal or extermination be matured. Our best interests demand that the settlers in the Bald Hills be protected where they are, instead of being compelled to abandon their homes and their property to the mercy of these wretches, and all who have an interest in the permanent prosperity of this region of country should see that this is done, even if it costs a little time and money to do it. We believe, however, that if a correct account be kept of all *bonafide* and necessary expenses incurred in pro-

cerning the action of our superintendent of Indian affairs, in relation to the miserable and bungling attempt at extending the Mendocino Reservation into this county. But as we intend to pay a visit to the valley soon, we will defer it for the present.

**DESERTED.**—On Friday night, the 20th inst., two of the crew of the ship William ran away, and on Thursday night last four more of the same crew deserted their vessel. The ship is bound for a foreign port, and the desertion of the crew is a very serious loss, as another crew cannot be had here. This has been a common practice with sailors in this port, and citizens should render such assistance to the officers of vessels in capturing away seamen as they can, as the law does not less stringent with officers of vessels than their crews.

**P. S.**—Since the above was in type the four who left on Thursday night have been arrested and returned to the ship.

**TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.**—The following are the township officers elect for this county for the ensuing year:

**Union.**—Justices of the Peace, David McKeay, J. S. Fluett; Constables, Wm. H. Wall, H. Hogoboom.

**Eureka.**—Justices of the Peace, Amos Mansell, J. T. Moore; Constables, H. McKeay, E. E. Turk.

**Bucksport.**—Justices of the Peace, R. Stimson, Wm. A. West; Constables, F. Wm. Short.

**Table Bluff.**—Justices of the Peace, J. Engley, E. Wait; Constables, E. Bulkley, Ben Hawks.

**Red River.**—Justices of the Peace, B. Jameson, John E. Davis; Constables, Sam Strong, S. Wright.

**Pacific.**—Justices of the Peace, John Dowling, Orin Chapin.

**A SAGACIOUS DOG.**—The Tuolumne Courier relates the following incident:

An aged German lady, last Friday afternoon, who lives in a little cottage in the eastern part of our town, having cooked and finished eating her dinner, laid down for a few moments and unexpectedly to herself, soon fell asleep. How long she had slept she could not tell, but was suddenly awakened by a low, peculiar mournful howl from her dog. The sound was so unusual as to arrest her attention in a moment, thinking he might hurt. On rising she found that from the embers on the hearth, a spark had by some means communicated fire to a pile of dry wood at a little distance, which had already ignited and was in a fair way to be beyond her powers of mastering it.

arise between them and the other Indians, by their giving information, and assisting to arrest the said murderers.

4th—That the Indians must not set fire to the grass on the hills; that they must not drive away, molest, or kill our cattle, horses, mules or hogs; that they must not enter our enclosures; that they must not steal from us; that they must not reside on our claims without our consent.

**Resolved,** That the Indians be permitted to return and live in the valley, collect their wild food, fish, &c.

**Resolved,** That this treaty of peace is only made with the Mattoles, and does not extend to any other tribes of Indians, and that they must not harbor any Indians from the Coscoue Creek, Bear River, Eel River, or any other Indians who do not belong to the Mattoles.

**Resolved,** That we discountenance, and will not permit any white men to go into the Indian rancherias to interfere with the squaws or children, or in any way molest them.

**Resolved,** That we will not allow white men who are renegades from other portions of the State or county to reside in this valley, or live among the Indians. That we consider all such persons a disgrace to any settlement, and a source of trouble and difficulty with the Indians. We therefore cannot, and will not, permit them to live among the Indians, or us.

**Resolved,** That these resolutions be published in the Humboldt Times, as a notice to the public, and a warning to those white men who are renegades and fugitives from justice, and that we will not permit them in future to make our valley a hiding place for any such outlaws.

Signed,  
M. J. CONKLIN,  
J. H. FREUIT,  
H. T. BROWN,  
JOEL BENTON,  
L. W. GILLET,  
Committee.

**THE STEAMER COLUMBIA.**—The steamer Columbia, on Sunday last, completed her one hundred and fiftieth trip to and from San Francisco and Oregon. Three hundred times, says the *Alta*, she has passed the Heads on her stormy way, besides the trips she has made to the Southward. It is a rare thing to chronicle such remarkable success; for the coast she travels is anything but a smooth-water sea. She came out in 1850—being built, as her name would show, for the Columbia river trade. For eight years she has battled the storms and braved the rocks and bars of Oregon, running with almost the regularity of a railroad train.—*Shasta Republican.*

George D. Roberts has retired from the editorial charge of the *Nevada National*, and is succeeded by R. Shoemaker, our present County Clerk.