

KIDNAPPING.—The case of Marcus Vaca, accused of having kidnaped several children, and of having subsequently sold them in this city, was investigated by Recorder Curtis yesterday, and dismissed. A number of witnesses were examined, but nothing positive elicited in support of the charge. One woman, to whom he had presented a girl about seven years of age, on the following day, returned him one hundred dollars as a gift. To another who was desirous of procuring one, he professed a readiness to furnish it upon the payment of a similar sum. The defendant accounted for the possession of them, through the testimony of the witnesses, as follows: While in the mountains with his vaqueros, about one hundred and twenty miles distant, he fell in with a tribe of Indians, who were in an extremely destitute condition, and desirous of getting rid of the children, whose parents were dead. The mountain having been burned over, and the tribe being obliged to travel, and unable to take care of the children, the defendant accepted them in exchange for blankets, &c., took them to his ranch, and only received the money to defray the expenses which he had incurred thereby. If there was in reality any mercenary motive in the background, there was a lack of testimony to reveal it.

OLD OFFENDERS.—Two old offenders, both petty thieves, Fung Achew and John Kurtz—the one a Chinaman and the other a German—were severally convicted before the Recorder yesterday on charges of petit larceny, and sent to the brig. Achew, it seems, had stolen a slice of pork, valued at one dollar, and had but recently come ashore from the brig. On being questioned relative to his connection with that vessel, it appeared that he had been incarcerated for a similar offence, although, as he asserted, he had been found simply walking in the street. He finally admitted that he had been charged with stealing meat on the former occasion, but said he had only “picked it up.” Kurtz had been detected abstracting a copy of the Police Gazette from the store of Mr. Bithell, and had also but recently been discharged from the brig, with which he too had scraped an acquaintance through the medium of a petit larceny of a bottle of brandy. In answer to a question propounded by the Court, he stated that he had just returned from Stockton, but ac-