

Santa Barbara.

THIS town is nearly a mile from the shore, and is very prettily located. The valley is small, but I am told is one of the most productive in California. There is now to be seen there a great curiosity, a wild Indian woman. As the story goes, this creature is one of a small tribe that formerly inhabited the Island of Catalina, some fifty-five miles from Santa Barbara. Eighteen years ago, a party of trappers in search of otters went upon this Island, and were repulsed by the Indians. They returned with a larger force and attacked the Indians. In the fight which ensued, nearly all the males were killed off and a few of the women. Those that escaped the trappers resolved to take with them and their families to the main land. In the hurry of embarkation, one woman had forgotten her child, and left the boat to go in quest of it. She did not return that day nor night. On the following morning, search was made by the trappers, but to no purpose. A severe storm threatened, and the party sailed without further search. Since that time, the woman has been frequently seen on the Island, and several attempts have been made to get her off. But she always resisted these attempts until recently, when an old trapper—the gentleman she is now in charge of—who visited the Island for the purpose of procuring otters, succeeded in finding her. She made signs that she would like to be taken to the coast; he brought her. She speaks a language different to any of the tribes yet known in the country, and makes known her wants only by signs. She takes readily to the habits of those she is housed with, and seems to be of mild disposition. It is supposed that she is about sixty years of age. Her dresses are of the most curious manufacture, and are composed of bird's feathers and fish bones. She eats anything that is offered, whether it be cooked or raw, and is particularly partial to vegetables. It is said that there is an old Indian residing at the Mission of San Buenaventura, who is one of the few that were brought off from the Island at the time of the massacre. He has been sent for, in order that something may be learned of the fate of her child. I am told that she will soon be taken to San Francisco for exhibition.—*Union*