

SAN DIEGO HERALD.

1. SAN DIEGO, CAL., THURSDAY, OCT. 16, 1851. FREE PUBLIC. N

Indian Troubles at the Gila.

We learn the following rumor of a fight with the Indians at the juncture of the Gila and Colorado rivers, through an Indian who came in on Tuesday.

It seems the *Yumas* and *Cocopas* had a difficulty, and sent a delegation in to Major Heintzelman, who acted as Indian agent while he was stationed at the Gila, to settle the matter. He decided the matter, but his decision appears not to have given satisfaction to either party, and they come to the conclusion to "fight it out." The *Yumas*, who are a brave race, came off victorious. Though the *Cocopas* were pretty severely whipped they were not conquered, but immediately entered into a treaty with the *Maricopas* to assist them to drive the *Yumas* from the country. Lt. Sweeney, who was left

from the country. Lt. Sweeney, who was left at the Gila by Maj. Heintzelman, with *only nine men*: hearing of what was going on, sent word to the *Cocopas* that he would allow of no more fighting; to which they replied, that he and his little party would be allowed until the next day at 12 o'clock to "*vamosse* the ranch," and leave them to settle their own affairs—Sweeney, who is as brave a man as ever, drew a blade, immediately assembled his little band, which, with the Ferry company, numbered but 21 men, exclusive of a few hundred *Yumas*, and prepared to give battle to the combined forces of the hostile tribes. The camp was attacked the next night, by about 800 Indians, many of them armed with rifles and muskets, and there is not the slightest doubt but that the Americans and *Yumas* would have been overpowered and slaughtered but for the aid of a

powered and slaughtered but for the aid of a brass twelve pounder, with which they poured destruction into the ranks of their foe. The fight had lasted four days, when the Indian who brought the news, left the Colorado. We tremble for poor Sweeney's fate unless he receives aid from this post, which, we regret to say, is not at all likely, in the present crippled condition of the army composing the Southern Division.

We acknowledge that we have not much knowledge of military matters, but we must say, in this place, that we consider it most infamous on the part of the party who had charge of the matter, to leave a brave young officer at an exposed frontier post, several hundreds of miles from civilized habitations, surrounded by hostile tribes of Indians, *with only eight men and one non-commissioned officer!*

We trust in God that the above rumor may be unfounded, but if Sweeney and his little band are murdered, the party who ordered him to remain in that exposed position without adequate protection, should be deemed guilty of murder.