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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 8, Number 1199, 26 January 1855 — Indian ReservationsIndian Treatment. [ARTICLE]

**Indian Reservations—Indian Treatment.**

The following statements as to the treatment of the Indians at the reservations, and suggestions as to the policy which should be pursued by the Superintendent and the Government towards them, are from the San Francisco *Sun*. If the information of the *Sun* can be relied on, it is surely the duty of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs to see that a change of policy takes place in the administration of the Indian department in California :

It has been too much the custom of the press in this country to represent the Indian Reservations as flourishing, merely on the representations of parties making temporary visits, or of persons interested in publishing such statements ; we have, however, good reason to believe that those glowing accounts are far too highly colored, and that all is not *couleur de rose* at these Reservations as they would have us believe.

In the first place, the long absence of the Indian Agent from the immediate scene of his labors, and his frequent and protracted visits to the Capital, induces the belief that his time might be spent much more to the interests of the public were he to reverse "the order of his going." In the next place his declining to relieve the pressing necessities of Indians not already located on the Reserve, and his omission to conciliate their confidence by so doing, because it is not definitely ordered in his directions, showing his incapacity to exercise judgment and discretion, merely following the letter of his instructions, a duty that the most unpretending could fulfil.

The repeated and long absences of the agent; and his want of authority to punish his employees, such as teamsters, laborers and others who may commit outrages, other than by discharging them, have caused much unhappiness and misery to the Indians in their social and domestic relations. We have been repeatedly assured, on good authority, that a great but secret hostility exists among the Indians towards many of the whites so employed ; and that unless something is done soon to remedy existing evils, we shall hear of their insurrection, the massacre of the whites, and the complete breaking up of the Reservation.

Some of these employees are so vile that they scruple not to use the most brutal violence to gratify their lust, and the women are frequently known to abandon their homes altogether after dark, repair to a distance on the prairie, where they secrete themselves and pass the night, rather than be compelled to associate with their more savage and brutalised white neighbors. Young girls, almost

children, are forcibly separated from their parents, and submitted to the foulest outrages. Drunkenness, violence and disease are the daily concomitants of their miserable existence. In fine, were we to recount the half of what has been told us, it would exhibit a page as black as the blackest that darkens the history of the Spanish conquests on this continent.

It is not reasonable to suppose that the Indians resident at the reservation are insensible to such outrages, or that they will long put up with such villainous treatment at the hands of those who pretend to be their friends. Neither is it probable that others, not resident, who learn these things, will be induced to remove to the reservation. The Indians have no newspapers, no means to make their grievances public, except by active and summary revenge, and as soon as they exhibit the first symptoms of retribution, as soon as circumstances compel them to resent the most horrible and long endured outrages, we are greeted with detailed accounts of bloody acts, and heart rending massacres committed by Indians. The press takes up the cry and sends it on the "wings of the wind" to the uttermost parts of the earth, as instances of the most shocking barbarity.

The fact is, the Indian Agent should reside chiefly among the people whose interests he is employed, paid, and supposed to superintend. His presence, and his presence alone, can impart confidence, compel submission, and preserve order. He should also be empowered with military authority to punish crimes committed by his employees, or in other words, martial law should be the law of the reservation, as far as the whites are concerned. The Indian should feel, as well as be told, that his interests are cared for, and his rights protected. Until this is done, we can never expect any beneficial change among the aborigines of this State. They will never assimilate with or have confidence in the white race, but will always be a heavy bill of expense to Government, a treacherous, predatory people in our midst, and a living curse both to us and to themselves.

WE extract the following from a lecture on matters and things abroad :

In Italy you will see a man breaking up his land with two cows and the root of a tree for a plough, while he is dressed in skins with the hair on. In Rome, Vienna, and Dresden, if you hire a man to saw wood, he does not bring a horse along. He never had one or his father before him. He puts one end of the saw on the ground, and the other against his breast, and taking the wood in his hand, rubs it across the saw. It is a solemn fact that in Florence, a city filled with the triumphs of art, there is not a single auger, and if a carpenter