

Six White Men Killed—Two Ferry Boats cut away—The Indians well Armed.

[From the Crescent Herald, Jan. 31.]

By way of Trinidad we receive the startling intelligence of an Indian war on the Klamath.

From letters sent here through some friendly Indians, we are permitted to make the following extracts:

“TRINIDAD, Jan. 22d, 1855.

“The greatest excitement exists here: the Redcap Indians have murdered six white men, viz: Thomas O’Neal, Proctor, Danham, Wheeler, Jack Smith, and a Dutchman; several more are wounded. The whites have burnt Stone Rancheria, and killed five Indians at the mouth of Redwood creek, and others at the Lagoon. By all means, caution persons against coming down by land. Twenty men have just arrived, who say that the up-river Indians have come down on the coast, and are determined to pick off all lone travellers; a party of four is hardly safe, as the Indians have rifles.”

Another letter of the same date says:

“I shall start the two Indians that came down with me to-night, and hope they may reach Crescent City in safety, although I think it exceedingly doubtful, as the whites are shooting them whenever an opportunity offers; for this reason, I start them in the night, hoping they may be out of danger ere morning. On the Klamath the Indians have killed six white men, and, I understand, some stock. From the Salmon down the whites are in arms, with a determination, I believe, if possible, to destroy all the grown-up males, notwithstanding this meets with the opposition of some few who have favorite Indians among them. I doubt whether this discrimination should be made, as some who have been considered good have proved the most treacherous. I understand that the ferry of Mr. Boyce, as also that of Mr. Simms, has been cut away. Messrs. Norton and Beard have moved their families from Elk Camp to Trinidad; they were the only white females in that section that were exposed to the savages. I have no doubt there will be warm times on the Klamath for some weeks, as the Indians are numerous, well armed and determined to fight.”

Travellers from Crescent City to Trinidad by land follow entirely the coast to the south over a rugged and rough trail, crossing the mouth of Klamath river, passing by Gold Bluff, Redwood Creek and the Lagoon. The distance we believe is some sixty miles. Redcap Bar is on the Klamath river; about eighty miles from its mouth, and the only trail from there to the east leads by Elk Camp, over Redwood Creek and past the Lagoon to Trinidad. Although in the same county with that portion of the river now the theatre of this tragedy, our only means of communication with it is by way of Trinidad, so deficient is this county yet in roads and trails. We understand that the Indians who brought the letters report some twenty or twenty-five whites killed. It is also said that some soldiers from Humboldt Bay have been sent up to the Klamath.

It is to be regretted that the Indian Agent could not have made some provisions for the Indians in our county before all these difficulties broke out. We always heard the Lower Klamath spoken of as

a fit place for a reservation; from its mouth up to a distance of some sixty miles, it offers but few inducements for white settlers, whereas it is what the Indians most want, fisheries, hunting grounds, and arable land enough for their use. There are already some Indian ranches there, which, as we are informed, keep neutral in the present contest.