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Beckworth Valley. [ARTICLE]

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**Beckworth Valley.**

A correspondent of the *Mountain Messenger*,

writing from Beckworth Valley, under date of June 4th, signs his name to his communication as James Beckworth, which fact invests his letter with peculiar interest, as after him the valley was named.

During the seven weeks he had been on the ranch, not a human being enlivened the dull hours, save now and then a hunter in search of game, and some three hundred Indians from Indian Valley, who encamped near him for the purpose of fishing and hunting.

The valley, through which the Middle Fork of Feather river runs, is frequented during the spring by several tribes of Indians as an annual fishing and hunting ground. We give the remainder of this interesting letter in Mr. Beckworth's own words :

There is an abundance of trout to be found in the pure cold water which flows from the mountain's side, and plenty of deer, antelope and grizzly bear, enticed to the valley by the excellent quality of thrifty clover which grows in abundance here, and which may be seen from the hills lying on one side of the ranch, mingled with other grasses of luxuriant growth, covering a beautiful valley of over twenty-five miles in extent with their beautiful mantle of green. The view of the valley, surrounded by hills and mountains so varied in their height, here a gentle hill, and there a vast mountain rising to perpetual snows, while below you see the deer and the antelope enjoying the rich pasturage, is a sight which none can fully appreciate except those who have enjoyed similar views in some of the mountain valleys so celebrated for the salubrity of their climate and their picturesque scenery.

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The fertility and salubrity of this spacious valley afford it great advantages as a hunting ground, and renders it a very desirable locality for nature's untutored sons, who live by the spear and the chase. Not long after the arrival of the tribe from Indian Valley, the Pyouches and the Washoos came into the valley. These tribes have formerly been at war with each other. After their arrival here, a general council of the three tribes was called, for the purpose of entering into a treaty of peace, at which I was present, being invited as the mutual friend of the three tribes.

There were present at the council about eight hundred Pyouches, four hundred Washoos, and three hundred of the valley Indians, making fifteen hundred in all, including women and children. I presented to them the evils of a constant warfare with each other, showed them that it would destroy all their bravest and best men, and that it would eventually exterminate the whole race; that by remaining at peace, and occupying their hunting grounds in common they might all have an equal chance without any strife, and could easily supply themselves with all the country affords, and might live in and enjoy each others friendship, and grow to be a great and happy people. The treaty was concluded to the satisfaction of all the tribes, and they are now fishing and hunting on the same ground, and laying up their stores for future use. The Washoos and Pyouches formerly ceded this valley to me, from which time it has borne my name, (Beckworth Valley,) but in consideration of the present treaty, I yielded up to them the right to occupy it for a mutual hunting and fishing ground, so long as they would remain at peace.

They all appeared perfectly well disposed towards the whites, except the Pyouches, who are secretly hostile towards them, but I could not learn what were their causes for dissatisfaction. About the commencement of the first quarter of the next moon, or between the twenty-second and twenty-fifth of the present month, is the annual feast or dance, known among the whites as the "green corn dance." It will be celebrated at my ranch by the whole of the three tribes together, in confirmation of the new treaty of peace. There will be from three to four thousand present on that occasion?

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