

Shasta Courier, Volume 2, Number 1, 12 March 1853 — The IT. 8. IHllliarr in California. [ARTICLE]

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The U. S. Military in California.

We take the following extracts from the Annual Report of Gen. Scott, commander-in-chief, to the Secretary of War. They embrace all said relative to the movements of the troops in this portion of the State.

The hostile disposition manifested by the Indians in California and Oregon, requiring that our troops in that quarter should be reinforced, the fourth regiment of Infantry was withdrawn from the northern lakes and ordered thither. The force under Brevet Brig. Gen. Hitchcock, who commands the Pacific Division, will soon consist of three companies of dragoons, five companies of artillery, and two regiments (twenty companies) of infantry—in all twenty-eight companies. * * * The whole of the fourth infantry, eight companies of which have already arrived out, is to be stationed in Oregon and Northern California—the headquarters, with four companies at Vancouver, one company at the Dalles of the Columbia River, and the remainder of the regiment so distributed as to guard and keep open the communications between Oregon and California.

It will thus be seen, when the two entire regiments of Infantry have arrived, that an ample force will be placed in the Northern portion of this State and in Oregon, to keep the Indians in subjection, and protect the whites against their incursions. It is useless to disguise the fact that this portion of the State has heretofore been shamefully neglected, not so much by the Government at home as by Gen. Hitchcock. Henceforth we hope better things. We trust that by this time Gen. H. has recovered from

the diseased, we may say, maudlin sympathy for the squaws and children of these savage murderers and constitutional thieves, which some monthssince induced him to refuse to send troops to our relief, when some one or more of our citizens were being killed by them every week. We trust that the awful sacrifice of human life on the Yreka Emigrant Trail, that resulted in consequence of that refusal, has restored his sympathies to a healthy tone, and directed them towards his own fellow-countrymen, But "let by-gones be by-gones."

In this connection we may state, that the idea now prevailing in this community, that the commanding officer at Fort Reading has not the full disposition of the troops in this particular district, and that he has not the authority to pursue and chastise the Indians for depredations committed against the whites, is entirely erroneous. This is precisely what those troops are stationed here for. And if, when incursions are made by the Indians into the settlements, and stock run off, or other property injured, word to that effect is communicated to Col. Wright, we doubt not he will cheerfully and promptly send his men in pursuit of the depredators. It is unjust to censure the officers of Fort Reading, because they have not pursued and punished the Indians for offences committed, when they have never been informed of such offences. When they *refuse* to redress the wrongs of the white citizen, then censure them—not before. We have been assured that the only word ever communicated to the officers of the Fort relative to Indian affairs, was taken to them a few weeks since by Judge McMartry, of this place, after the murder of Owens, on the the Sacramento

trail. Whose fault is it then that the military in this portion of the State have been up to this time, of comparatively little benefit? Let justice be done, though the heavens should fall.

In this connection we cannot refrain from expressing our surprise at the absurd reports in relation to the officers at Fort Reading, that obtained place in the *Sacramento Union*. That paper, before admitting such slanders in its columns, should have thought just one moment, and remembered that the officers at Fort Reading are high minded American gentlemen.

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