

Shasta Courier, Volume 2, Number 23, 13 August 1853 — Churn town Corrcapuudeuce. Churxtows, August 7, !S'i3. [ARTICLE]

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Churntown Correspondence.

CHURNTOWN, August 7, 1853.

MESSRS EDITORS :—As there are several statements in circulation in regard to the late massacre of the Indians at Churntown, we deem it only just to state the following. On the day that the Chinese camp was attacked and robbed, and the two Chinamen murdered, the miners there assembled, and consulted on the wisest course to pursue. They resolved to go to the nearest Indian Rancheria and take prisoners for hostages until the guilty parties were brought in, or reliable information of their whereabouts obtained.

This course, it was thought, might serve to show the Indians a little of our abhorrence to the shedding of human blood, and would also teach them that we would not allow to pass with impunity such wanton robbery and murder in our very midst, especially where defenceless woman reside—for they are alone when their husbands are at work. Accordingly a party of miners went and took five Indians prisoners, and we gave them and their friends to understand, that if our demands were not complied with within two days, that we would shoot the prisoners. Yet none of us had that intention. On the contrary we had determined that if the guilty parties were brought in, to hand them over to the authorities of the civil law for punishment. These prisoners were guarded by the Chinamen that night, and on the following morning a fresh guard of ten Chinamen was placed over them. It was then that the Indians,

supposing that all the white men were gone from the camp, rose upon the Chinese, wrested their guns from them, and would have killed some of them, but fortunately for human life, ere the first yell had subsided, Messrs. John A. Feriney and John Corry were on the ground, and at the imminent risk of their lives succeeded in disarming the Indians and securing three of the prisoners, while the other two escaped. No violence was used to the prisoners before this, and then only as much as was thought conducive to personal safety and the security of the prisoners. The remaining prisoners were released at the instance of Mr. Keating, who was sent by the Sacramento tribe and desired to intercede, who promised on their behalf to discover and endeavor to bring to justice the guilty parties. We have since learned through the same source that it was Dick's Indians at Quick & Johnson's Ranch, who done the deed, and that some of the Chinese property has since been found amongst them. The above are facts which the Sheriff and other respectable gentlemen can witness for.

F. FAIR & Co.

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