

Shasta Courier, Volume 2, Number 25, 27 August 1853 — ■ uilinia Diißcultic*. [ARTICLE]

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Indian Difficulties.

It will be seen by the news which we publish this morning from the War now waging between the whites and Indians in Rogue River Valley, that there seems, at present, even less probability of a cessation of hostilities than at the time of our previous dates. In every instance where the two parties came to an engagement the whites met with a reverse. Of course this but adds to their exasperation, while it correspondingly elevates the spirits of the savages, and thus both ways tends to lessen the chances of a speedy and peaceful settlement of the difficulties. Indeed we apprehend that the war has already progressed too far—too many lives have been sacrificed—too much suffering endured and too great an amount of property destroyed, to justify even the privilege of hoping that peace will be secured without further bloodshed. When Californians see their brothers shot down by the savages, and behold the women and children flying to the towns for protection, they are apt to do as their fathers did before them on the other side of the mountains—wage an exterminating war. They usually make the savages pay terribly for their outrages before they give them peace. And we know that the people of Northern California and Southern Oregon, in this case, are not likely to pursue a different course.

The *Mountain Herald* says: "Let extermination be our motto! It must be our motto in all opposition." To those who are distant, and have

never lived where they were liable to be shot down by the lurking savage any moment that they stepped beyond the threshold, this may seem semi-barbarous, unchristianlike. But, we surmise, it will matter little to the people of the North what persons wholly disqualified to judge, may say of their mode of securing a lasting peace with the Indians. The men of the North know that the Indians can be induced to preserve a state of friendship by superior force alone, and the only possible way to convince them that the white people possess that superior force, is to destroy the greater number of their warriors. It would be folly in the extreme—folly amounting to criminality—for the whites to attempt to settle their difficulties with the Indians at this stage of the game by forming treaties. Treaties indeed!—*humbugs*!—and most stupid ones too. Away with all treaties, say we. The Indian Chief Sam, and his numerous well-armed, well-mounted, and well-provisioned warriors must be ousted from their strong-hold on Table Rock, and the greater number of them destroyed before the men of Rogue River Valley can return to their ranches in any sort of safety with their wives and little ones.

In this connection we may state that a numerous body of Pitt River and Trinity Indians—some 500 strong—are now congregated on Trinity River, near Vary's Ranch—less than a day's travel from this place. The Express Messengers inform us that they are growing more insolent every day—a never failing sign of an approaching outbreak. At present they are industriously engaged in securing a winter's supply of Salmon. These are the same Indians who infested the Sacramento trail last winter, and killed and robbed a number of white men. That it is their

intention to renew those hostilities the approaching fall and winter, no one acquainted with them can doubt. This being as certain as any future event can well be, men naturally ask what should be done? Shall they be permitted thus, right in our midst, in time of peace to prepare for war against us—or should they be destroyed or run off? Is it not rendering "aid and comfort" to the enemy thus to permit them to furnish themselves with the very means necessary to enable them to war against us—to destroy our property and kill our people?

POLITICAL SPEAKING.—According to announcement, Judge Wells and Hon. J. W. McCorkle were in this place on Sunday last, and addressed a large number of their fellow-citizens in front of the St. Charles. The gentlemen apologized for speaking on the Sabbath. Their announcement to speak here on the 21st, was altogether an accident. They designed being here on Monday evening, but as many persons had, in obedience to the call in the *Courier*, come a considerable distance to hear them, they did not feel at liberty to disappoint them. They each addressed the assemblage in very able and entertaining speeches of about an hour's length, and were listened to with more attention than the "sovereign people" usually bestow upon a political harangue. When they had concluded, Zack. Montgomery, Esq., the Whig candidate for District Attorney, in obedience to the call of some of his friends, addressed the crowd in a manner that did great credit to himself. Mr. Sprague also, in response to a call from the gathering, delivered a short address.

SAD CASUALTIES.—Edward Tracy, Esq., of Adams' Express, informs us that Robert Huston, formerly of the St. Charles Hotel, Shasta,