

Shasta Courier, Volume 2, Number 48, 4 February 1854 — The Indian Reservation. [ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

The Indian Reservation.

In yesterday's issue we furnished our readers with some interesting particulars relative to the proceedings of Lieut. Beale, at the Indian reservation. Owing to the lateness of the hour when the intelligence was furnished, we were unavoidably compelled to omit one or two items.

On this reservation are numerous gulches, well watered by never failing springs. These gulches, or ravines, are now occupied and cultivated by the Indians, who are divided into companies, each company having a rancheria. A large number of these wild men Lieut. Beale has trained as ploughmen, blacksmiths, carpenters, &c. &c., and these he employs in again teaching the new arrivals the same industrial pursuits. Each rancheria is thus made self supporting. To those who are meritorious he gives rewards. Consequently, all these poor creatures are delighted with their condition. Notwithstanding the strict discipline preserved on the reservation, the Indians are by no means the slaves some seem disposed to represent them. The agent impresses upon their minds the fact that they are free to stay or to leave, just as it may please their fancy. Thus, they enjoy really as much liberty of action as if they were still undisputed owners of the territory. Now, Capt. Howard graphically says, they could not be driven away from the reservation with a "big stick." Accustomed to a mountain life, they are pleased with the rugged country on which they reside, and which, with the aid of science, they are rendering productive. If they would indulge in the sport of hunting, the hills and the prairie furnish them with an abundance of game of every species, while the streams and lake abound with fish. Their quarrels are adjusted by their chiefs, who appear alone to be responsible to Lieut. Beale. Surely, such a system of

government will be productive of much good. A ray of hope for the Indian population streams from the reservation.

Most of the Indians, when they arrive, are in a perfect state of nudity. The agent immediately furnishes them with clothes and blankets, speaks kindly to them, and points out the particular rancheria which they shall consider their home.

Capt. Howard says that these Indians are very apt scholars. They learn to plough or to sow with astonishing rapidity. A wild boy came in two months ago, who immediately manifested a deep interest in the proceedings at a blacksmith's shop, and expressed a desire to learn the trade. He was immediately set to work, and so attentive was he to his instructors, and persevering in his industry, that when Capt. Howard left, he had made wonderful progress, and had become quite a useful artizan. This is only one of many facts which go to prove that these wild men can be civilized and readily taught the industrial arts.

There are 2,000 head of cattle, 500 goats, and almost an innumerable horde of hogs on the reservation. The Indians are well fed, well, though of course plainly clothed, contented and happy.

In our view, Lieut. Beale's plan has been completely successful, and if he be sustained by the government, and allowed to provide another reservation for the northern districts of California, we shall have no further trouble with the Indian population.—*San Joaquin Rep.*

CALIFORNIA MINT.—It is announced in the *Chronicle*, at some length, that the California Mint will be ready for delivery to the government in February. It will be capable of coining \$100,000,000 per annum. The machinery is of the most approved style and finish, and the house adapted in every respect to receive and sustain the weight and force exerted by the working of the powerful engine which impels it. It will be proof against thieves and fire.

"There are three tubular boilers, eight feet long by four feet diameter. The bed plate of the engine is solid iron, and weighs about four and a quarter tons. The fly wheel is fifteen feet in diameter, and of great weight. The