

Shasta Courier, Volume 2, Number 49, 11 February 1854 — Indian .VI a ••acre mm Flit liver. [ARTICLE]

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Indian Massacre on Pitt River.

Twelve Chinamen and Two White Men Killed!

We are indebted to Mr. John A. Dreibelbis for the particulars of a wholesale massacre of Chinamen and whites, perpetrated by the Indians on Cloud River, in this county, on Friday morning the 3d inst. It appears that a party of 18 Chinese, guided by two white men, Antoine Engels, a German, formerly of this place, and William Guild, an American, were on a prospecting tour on Cloud River; and that, on Friday morning, having permitted a large number of Indians, professing friendship, to come into their camp while at breakfast, were suddenly attacked by the treacherous savages, and all save seven of the Chinese almost instantly killed. Of those who escaped, one was severely, and another mortally wounded.

It will be seen by the proceedings of a meeting of citizens held at Pittsburg on Monday last—which are published in another column—that assistance has been requested from Fort Reading. We learn, however, that Col. Wright has scarcely a sufficient number of well men to perform guard duty at the Fort, and hence could send no men to co-operate with a volunteer force. Neither was he empowered to supply a volunteer force with provisions and pack animals. However, Samuel Francis and Drury D. Harrill, a committee appointed for the purpose, have already collected, from citizens of this place, upwards of three thousand pounds of pro-

visions for the volunteers about starting to fight the Indians. The citizens are determined that they shall be punished in a manner that they will not soon forget.

Mr. Dreibelbis very justly complains of the inadequate protection given to the citizens of that section of the country by the General Government. He says:

“ It is a truth universally known, that on the Sacramento River trail to Yreka, and principally in the vicinity of the Back Bone, more valuable lives have been lost, and a greater amount of property destroyed by the Indians than on any other trail in the State. It is equally well known that these Indians principally live on McCloud River, and that they are the most thieving and daring savages in the country. Until recently they have been in the habit of stealing everything in the shape of an animal, not only from this immediate vicinity, but from the corrals in the town of Shasta itself. McCloud River is their centre, their strong-hold. It serves them as a fortress, surrounded as it is on all sides by lofty and precipitous mountains—these again by rivers often impassable, and always dangerous and difficult to cross. From this strong point they sallied forth, commit their murders and robberies, and with the fruits thereof, retire to it again to feast and rejoice over their success. If, then, military protection is needed anywhere, it certainly is right in the midst of these murderous hordes. Two companies of infantry would suffice. The Indians cannot live away from this river, as salmon are more plenty in it than in any other stream known in the country, and are easier taken in consequence of its water being very shallow. They mainly depend on this fish for subsistence, and they would soon have to come to terms, or starve, without them.

As there are known to be from one to two thousand warriors in the Pitt River portion of the county, the volunteers will doubtless have some hard fighting to do ere the Indians be cowed. They are perhaps second to no other Indians in the State in point of bravery, and the