

San Joaquin Republican, Volume 4, Number 84, 11 April 1854 — Their Star is Setting. [ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

Their Star is Setting.

In the "early days" of California, when the times tried men's souls, and the American settlers were surrounded by all the dangers incident to pioneer life, an Indian Chief, named Cornelius, was known as the white man's friend. He was always the same; his loyalty to our race knew no variableness. He and his tribe labored for us in daily toil, and when the war came, they were found doing good battle for us. At the present time, that poor old man and all that are left of his tribe, enjoy a precarious existence on the Tuolumne, where they have ditched in a small piece of ground. We said, "they have a small piece of land." Not so. A white squatter has driven them off, and proclaims himself lord of the beggarly domain. He has seized their crops and thus deprived them of the means of subsistence. The other day, Cornelius had a talk with Mr. John Dent, to whom he explains all his troubles, and with tears standing in his eyes, and a voice that would have moved the stoniest heart, asked, "What are we now to do?" Yes, what is old Cornelius now to do?" In vain he shows the certificates of good conduct and meritorious services he received from the pioneers of California; the white intruder is deaf to such documents.

This little spot of land was granted by the late Indian Commissioners to Cornelius, and Cornelius has been most industrious in making it productive. He regarded it as his home, and expected to reap the first reward of his toil, and to be thus deprived of it is, in our opinion, an infernal outrage.

The Marysville and Nevada plank road