

Shasta Courier, Volume 3, Number 46, 20 January 1855 — From the Colusa Reerration. [ARTICLE]

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**From the Colusa Reservation.**

NOME-LACKEE, Jan. 7, 1854.

GENTLEMEN:—Having just seen the *Courier* of the 6th, my memory was “jogged” to the promise which I made about writing you occasionally.

Nothing particularly interesting has transpired since I wrote to you, on the Reserve.—The farming operations are being carried on, whenever the weather will permit, with eminent success. About four hundred acres of as good land as any in the State have been ploughed, and very nearly all of it has received the grain.

The land was broken with oxen, and the ploughs were held by Indian boys, whose ages range from twelve to eighteen years. The boys have learned very rapidly, and I must admit that my opinions of the “Diggers” have been a little exalted. They seem to fully appreciate the *object* of the Reservation system, and this of course is much gained. They thought at first that the statements made to them were too good to be true, and that it was impossible that white men would do so much for the Indians.

Col. Mooney arrived on the 4th with the Trinity Indians. They are now satisfied that the whites told them falsehoods about our killing them here, and they seem very willing to remain. A few Pitt River Indians are here also. They came with those from Trinity. I see that you have had another meeting of the people in

regard to these particular Indians. Cannot some of those persons who have influence with the Indians of Pitt River, bring a few of them here to see this place! Perhaps if this were done they would exchange their homes for a more inviting country at once; although it would be extremely inconvenient to shelter the whole tribe here now, from the fact that the settlement was commenced so late that arrangements of an extensive character could not be made before winter. I have no doubt that Col. Henley would do every thing in his power to keep them here. He is anxious to relieve the people of their annoyance, but he is unwilling to run the risk of being censured at Washington. Even if he had undoubted authority to feed those who are not living on the Reserve, it would, in my opinion, be very bad policy to do it. Let him send food to the Pitt River Indians and every quarter of the State would cry for food for the same assistance. However, he has written to a gentleman in the county of Shasta, and his views are known.

A detachment of ten men, under Lient. Dashler, arrived here a few days ago. Though no danger is apprehended, it is right to be prepared to check the Indians in the beginning, if they rebel.

Within a mile of us Lient. Russell was killed. His saddle was found about a month ago by some of the Nevada Indians. It had not been broken at all. The mounting of silver was yet on it.

A recent event, which occurred in the "Valley," reminds us very forcibly that we are letting some of our friends get ahead of us in certain tender alliances. When will the Senior follow the example of the Junior? A good example should be quickly followed.

I see that Clear Creek has not been turned yet. The gentlemen who were in the meeting at Texas Springs will find, upon examination, that the Legislature has no right to *grant* charters, and of course cannot repeal what has not

been passed.

Yours,

C.

CHIFFONIERS OF SAN FRANCISCO.—The *Herald* has an interesting account of the rag pickers and bottle gatherers of San Francisco, who make a living by gathering up the cast off clothing thrown into the street, cleansing, and shipping it to the East. Tin boxes, and even the tin foil wrappers from tobacco are all gathered up, the lead melted into bars and sold; the trade in empty bottles and worn out cooking utensils is considerable. This higher order of street scavengers is composed mostly of Frenchmen—men, women and children all huddled together in a shanty on the outskirts of the city, and there carrying on their humble trade.—*Sierra Citizen*.

IMPORTANT DECISION — *Is a free negro a citizen of the United States?*—The *Chicago Times* says: “A highly important decision was made recently in the United States Circuit Court for this State, by his Honor Judge Drummond, in the case of Joseph C. Mitchell, free negro, plaintiff, vs. Chas. A. Lamar, defendant. The plea filed by the defendant alleged the plaintiff to be a free negro, and not a *citizen* of the United States, entitled to maintain a suit before the United States Circuit Court. The plea was sustained by the Court. We also learn that Judge McLean coincided in the opinion delivered by Judge Drummond.”

FEEDING POULTRY.—Prof. Gregory, of Aberdeen, in a letter to a friend, observes: “As I suppose you keep poultry, I may tell you that it has been ascertained that if you mix with their food a sufficient quantity of egg-shells or chalk, which they eat greedily, they will lay twice as many eggs as before. A well-fed fowl is disposed to lay a large number of eggs, but cannot do so without the materials of the shells, however nourishing in other respects her food may be; indeed, a fowl fed on food and water, free from carbonate of lime, and not finding any in the soil, or in the shape of mortar, which they often eat on the walls, would lay no eggs at all