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MARIPOSA CORRESPONDENCE.

MARIPOSA, May 27, 1855.

Editor Republican.—A few days since a circumstance occurred at the farm of Captain Vinsenhler, on the Fresno—now occupied by Government as an Indian Agency—which caused a great deal of excitement, and which is gradually increasing. It appears, as near as I can learn, that a difficulty occurred between Mr. Williams, a sort of sub-agent at the farm, and several of the Indians residing there, during which one of them was killed and another wounded in the leg by the former; after which he started off for the purpose of informing Mr. Enyart, the Superintendent, of the affair. During his absence the Indians assembled *en masse*, armed with bows and arrows, and demanded that Capt. Vinsenhler should deliver the person of Mr. Williams to them, that they might inflict punishment for the death of one of their tribe; but the superior knowledge of the Indian character possessed by Capt. V. enabled him to turn them from their purpose, and doubtless prevented a horrible scene of bloodshed and ruin. Mr. Enyart proceeded to the farm as soon as he was informed of the circumstances; he prevailed upon them to accompany him to the office, for the purpose of talking the matter over, but while on their way there, some of the chief men of the tribes made a break, which was the signal for a general *stampede* of the whole party, leaving rancherias, provisions and all behind. They were probably influenced by the belief that Mr. Enyart

had stationed a number of soldiers at the office to take them prisoners and punish them.

There is a report here, but it lacks confirmation, that a Mr. Reid, wife and two children were murdered by them. During their flight to the mountains, they stole a number of animals and sacked a store on the Chowchilla river.

A party of troops, twenty in number, have been dispatched from Fort Miller in pursuit of them, under the command of Lieut. Ayres, but the force is certainly inadequate to accomplish anything with three hundred savages. It is said that the Indians are concentrating in the Yo-Semity Valley, and it is feared that after placing their women and children in safety, they will commence hostilities, which may not be suppressed until great suffering and injury has been inflicted upon the many miners and others who are scattered far into the mountains, in small parties, too weak to protect themselves from their incursions.

It is to be hoped that the most energetic measures will be adopted, by the commander at Fort Miller, to compel their return to the Agency, or else to exterminate them root and branch.

R. V. E.

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