

# San Joaquin Republican, Volume V, Number 146, 19 June 1855 — Latter from Fresno. [ARTICLE]

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## Letter from Fresno.

FRESNO INDIAN FARM, June 14, 1855.

*Editor Republican*:—I desire to correct some of the statements of a correspondent of your paper from this part of the country, signing himself "R. V. E.," about the difficulty which occurred here some days since with the Indians. 'Tis true a difficulty did occur on this Farm on Sunday, the 27th of last month, between some of the Indians and Mr. Williams, who is the head farmer and attends to the working of the Indians, and who is not a "*sort of sub-agent*," nor a half-way *sort* of anything, as your correspondent desires to insinuate. Mr. Williams professes to be a farmer and nothing else, and able to manage the Indians, both of which he has given good proof of while in the employ. The difficulty arose on account of Mr. Williams taking hold of a lazy and bad disposed boy, who was disobeying the orders on the Farm, and was taking him to his room to chastise him, when about twenty Indians, in accordance with a preconcerted plan and resolution, (as I since learned from them,) jumped on Williams with clubs and sticks and commenced beating him severely. Being a large, stout man, he wrested from the hands of one of them a club and kept them off from him for some time. They kept following him up as he was retreating and knocking them down, they no doubt intending to kill him; at last he came up behind an Indian who had a loaded rifle and took it from him; the Indians still kept pressing on him, and he knocked two or three down with the butt of the gun, breaking it.

down with the breech of the gun, breaking it off close to the lock, when an Indian came at him with a large club raised in both hands to strike him; Williams turned the gun in his hands, and as the Indian was about to strike, he shot him through the breast, killing him. The Indians then ceased the attack. Mr. Williams, fearing a more serious difficulty, got on his horse and went to Fort Miller, where I had gone the evening before; and upon hearing the circumstances, I immediately requested Lieut. Loeser, commanding officer, to send over a small detachment of soldiers, which he with dispatch did, and we returned the same day with thirteen soldiers under command of Lieut. Ayers.

During Williams's absence, the Indians came down to the office and desired of one of the employees to know where Williams was; and did not demand of Capt. Vinson Haler, as stated in the article of R. V. E., that he should deliver Mr. Williams to them, as it happens that Capt. Vinson Haler has nothing to do with the Indian Farm or Indians.

As to the superior knowledge of the Indian character and the influence over them possessed by Capt. V., which enabled him to turn them from their purpose, *thereby preventing such a horrible and distressing scene of bloodshed, murder and ruin*, I can only say that Capt. V. did go to their rancheria and attempted to talk to them, that they would not speak a single word to him, that he made another attempt to get them to talk, when one of their head men came out and merely said to the Captain, "*Go home*"—which advice the Captain says he took and absconded therefrom. This the Captain himself informed me. Nevertheless it is a gratifying piece of information to the citizens generally, and particularly to the employers on

this Farm, to know through your *wise* correspondent that the Captain, by his extraordinary *influence, knowledge and boldness*, did succeed in preventing such a scene of bloodshed, ruin, &c. &c.

After we arrived at the Farm with the soldiers, Dr. Murry, U. S. A., who had kindly volunteered, in company with myself proceeded to the rancharia and persuaded about fifteen of the principal men of the tribes to accompany us to the Farm to have a talk, which they agreed to; but when we got about half way down, it being nearly dark, they all stampeded with the exception of four, and that night a large portion of the Indians left for the mountains.

The next day Lieut. Ayers with 20 soldiers, having received some recruits, and 15 days' provisions, with Dr. Murry, Messrs. Leod, Folsom and myself, started in pursuit of them, although many obstacles were thrown in our way by some parties to prevent our getting off, they being very much pleased with the flare-up and fearful we might succeed in bringing them back.

However, after pursuing them two days, they sent in word that they wanted to return to the Farm and go to work, which they were allowed peaceably to do. We started out, not to coax them back, but to make them come if they did not want to. We succeeded, so that our small party did not prove so inadequate against 300 savages as was expected, and I might add *desired* by some.

During their flight they stole six animals, four of which were returned. No store on the Chowchilla was sacked, nor was *any murder* committed by them.

The Farm is since the difficulty in a more flourishing condition than ever, and I am confident it is the best thing that ever happened to

the place. The Indians now know that if they commit depredations they will be pursued and punished. We have more at work now than usual, and they work much better. Our harvest is nearly all gathered.

An official report of the whole difficulty will be forwarded to the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs at San Francisco, and no doubt published, to which I respectfully refer you.

By giving the above a place in your paper, you will confer a favor upon

Yours, respectfully,

D. A. ENYART, Sub-Indian Agent.

GOOD NEWS FROM EL DORADO.—The *Miner's Advocate* says that the Democratic Club at White Oak Flat has been joined by nearly every citizen in the vicinity. So we are informed. The march of the glorious cause of democracy is onward—onward; never before in the history of politics did the democracy of the Empire county organize with the same zeal, the same determination, and the same unconquerable will. El Dorado will outdo herself on the 5th of September next, and by the way, White Oak township bids fair to outdo all other townships. There are four democratic clubs in full blast at White Oak.

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