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The Reservation.

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A writer in the *Californian* of this week tacitly acknowledges that the Indians have been restrained from committing depredations upon our Rancheros, but adds: "It is perhaps difficult to say, with perfect accuracy, what may have been or what are the reasons which actuate the Indians in this matter and constrain them to discontinue or refrain from making their inroads within our vallies."— That the establishment of the Sebastian Reservation and the Fort Tejon has had a great and beneficial influence in restraining the wild Indians is perfectly satisfactory to our citizens without going into all the minutia of the why and wherefore.— We know that a few months after their establishment, the wholesale Indian robberies, with which this section of California had been afflicted for many years, entirely ceased. The writer does not deny the estimate of losses in this and the adjoining counties, he is too well aware that it is far below than above the actual losses of our citizens. That the Reservation has its uses and benefits, we firmly believe even outside of the protection it affords to all Indians who are inclined to avail themselves of the privileges held out to them by the General Government. That there has not been so much care and attention bestowed upon the Sebastian Reservation or as much money expended, during the past year, as at several of the Northern Reserves, no one will question, and the presumption is that the same necessity did not require it. A superficial observer of the policy pursued by Col. Henly, can easily find fault with the management of one of the five Reservations that has been established, and when asked to suggest a more feasible plan, will find more difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion than he at first imagined. The Northern Reservations and especially the Nome Lakee Reserve, are represented to be in a highly prosperous condition, and reflect great credit upon Col. Henly. We copy from the *Alta California* a report of Capt. Keyes, of the U. S. Army, made in pursuance of instructions of Major General Wool.

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA. }
August 15th, 1855. }

MAJ. E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Sir.—In obedience to the instructions of Maj. Gen. Wool, of the 21st, July. I proceeded to the Nome Lakee Indian Reservation, in company with the Hon. T. J. Henley Superintendent of Indian affairs, and after a thorough examination, I have the honor to present the following as the result of my observations and enquiries.

* * * * *

After counting the Indians in the three camps which have been established, successfully, and

wards counting again in several groups of lodges, I concluded 1,000 to be a fair estimate of the number of Indians actually present on the Reservation.—The proportion of women and children being larger than I had heretofore observed in California, when I had reason to suppose whole tribes were assembled together, I could easily believe what I was told by gentlemen in charge of the Reservation, that a large number of the males were absent hunting, or for other purposes.

At the time of my first visit to the Reservation in the beginning of last October, no labor had been done, and only about 200 Indians were assembled there. The Indians presented at the time, a meagre, squalid appearance, and were almost without clothing, or any means to acquire subsistence. At the present the Indians have the appearance of being well fed, are the better off in regard to clothing, and nothing I could see among them indicated discontent. Besides the wheat and barley raised the past season, I found about the lodges immense amounts of wild oats, grass seeds, and roots, cleaned and stored up in sacks and baskets, and every thing to indicate a disposition to remain on the Reserve.

At one of the camps several small wooden huts have been erected for the accommodation of the Indians, and it is the intention of the Superintendent to erect more. It will, without doubt, have a beneficial effect to accustom the Indians to live in houses, and to induce them to assimilate in their habits to the regularity of white people.

To supply the deficiency of water in the interior portions of the Reservation, a flume has been erected, and a ditch dug to bring in the water of Elder Creek. The flume was built with great labor for the distance of nearly half a mile along the edge of a precipice and over a deep canon, from which the water is brought by a ditch past two of the Indian camps, the most remote of which is but little less than five miles from the Creek. The water so brought serves for cattle, for irrigation, and for other purposes, in the dry season. Excellent water for drinking can be found by digging wells of moderate depth, at all the camps.

Most of the labor of cultivation, harvesting and gathering hay (of which a very great quantity has been stacked,) has been done by the Indian men and boys. After harvesting, the squaws glean the fields, so that not a head of wheat or barley is left.

Under the instruction of an American woman, the young squaws have been taught to plait straw and to make hats. This they do with great dexterity and apparent pleasure, and the hats they make are very good. The squaws have been also taught to sew, and they make their own clothes, and such as is needed by the men and children.

It will thus be seen that as much has been done on this Reservation to inculcate habits of industry among the Indians, as to provide for their comfortable subsistence. Beyond these, nothing appears to have been attempted with a view to elevate the character of the Indians in the scale of civilization. The course of conduct adopted by the Superintendent in the management of this Reservation appears to be founded on a wish to neutralize, as far as practicable, the evils attending the presence of the Indians in the country. He does not entertain the fantastic hope that he can civilize them, or Christianize them, or that he can prolong the existence of their tribes. An experience of two hundred and fifty years should satisfy all men that American Indians cannot be civilized; and the entire extinction of all those tribes which once inhabited the Eastern portion of this Continent is sufficient proof that they cannot be perpetuated, when in contact with the white man.

I am, Sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. D. KEYES,

Captain 3d Artillery.

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The Yellow Fever that has raged so violently in the Southern States, was at the last ac-