

Severe Punishment of Indians.

COVE DISTRICT, KERN RIVER, }

April 19, 1863. }

Mr. Editor: Since the severe punishment inflicted upon the Indians at Owens' Lake, a considerable number, discouraged by the unfavorable aspect the war was assuming, passed over to this section, and quartered themselves upon a rancheria of peaceful Indians, at this place. They had done nothing to merit censure during their stay, manifesting their previously guilty conduct only by an extraordinary desire for privacy, keeping themselves in out of the way places during the day, and availing themselves of the hospitalities of the rancheria only at night.

This morning, at a very early hour, the place was surrounded by Capt. McLaughlin's company, and the resident chiefs, José Chico and Don Urbane, (against whose fair fame the breath of foul-mouthed slander has never dared to whisper a word), were brought forth and compelled to indicate every strange Indian; and all who had been known by them to have been engaged in the war, or in stealing cattle, numbering between thirty and forty, were shot. This act, the harshness of which at first view appeared astounding, is generally approved of by the friends of the Union, who are gradually waking up to the necessity of energy in war, whether it be against the secesh or Indians; while those clamoring disapproval are, as usual, those who do all they can to embarrass the Government to whose fostering protection they owe so much. It is thought, though clear evidences of the fact have not transpired, that the outbreak on Owens River may have been brought about by the same influences which operated to produce the terrible massacres in Minnesota—making it necessary to send the troops from Visalia and Los Angeles to that section, thereby affording to guerrilla bands a clear field for stealing, and the performance of any other of those nefarious acts which are deemed essential to advance the interests of the Southern Confederacy.

Another correspondent, after describing how the Indians were surrounded by the soldiers, says :

The Captain ordered Jose Chico to select all of his Indians for whose good behavior he could vouch, and let them stand aside, which was done. He then requested one of our oldest citizens (Mr. Harmon) to select all whom he personally knew to be peaceable residents on Kern River. The Captain then ordered all children and females out of the ranks, and the remaining bucks, 32 in number, were marched out of sight of the rancheria and told to skedaddle for life, but from some cause unknown to me a row commenced, and the result was that 31 of their number was killed on the spot, and the 32d mortally wounded. The majority of the Indians killed were a part of those who had been engaged in stealing stock from this vicinity since the outbreak on Owens River; the balance were Kern River Indians, who were in the habit of disappearing whenever the Owens River Indians broke out, and were unable, on their return, to give any satisfactory account of themselves.

The Visalia Advertiser

VISALIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1863.

"But my wife and children?"
"Mattie and I will attend to them. But
♦ you must go to-night."

"I fight for you any time, Massa John." hands were severed and he was hurried out
"I believe you, Joe; but I have despe- of the window. He was again a free man
rate work on hand to-night, and do not; but he was hastened forward into the woods;

PROFESSIONAL C
LARKIN W. C