

all necessary observations, and without appearing to notice anything in particular, pass on as if we were merely a party of travelers; that we should then camp at quite a distance from the village, go back in the night and attack them at daylight. He said that was the way to fight Indians, and to take them at a disadvantage in any other way was impossible. We decided to do as he advised, and started on our journey at daylight the next morning. About the middle of the afternoon we passed the village, and the Indians ran out to look at us, but without seeming to notice them at all we rode on and camped some eight miles away. Some of the Indians followed and kept us in sight till we camped, when, probably thinking we were too far away to molest them, they returned to their village. We turned our horses out to graze in charge of two men, and leisurely proceeded to get supper.

An hour after dark our horses were brought in, saddled up, and everything put in readiness to move camp at a moment's notice. Leaving them in care of five men with orders to bring them on at daylight, the balance of us started for the village. When we passed it that afternoon we all supposed it to be on the opposite side of the river, so now we crossed the stream at the natural bridge where the water was but a few inches deep, several miles from the village, and passed quickly along the bank. Approaching the rancheria we were chagrined to find that the crookedness of the river had deceived us, and that the village was on the other side. The stream at that point being only thirty yards wide but so deep that to cross it was impossible, we decided to stay and fight them from across the river. They were in total ignorance of our proximity, and at daylight an Indian stepped out of a wickiup and uttered a peculiar sound. Instantly three or four more, evidently guards, came in from somewhere and entered the tent. The one who had come out untied a pony which was picketed within a stone's throw of the tent, and led him up in front of it, when Wright said in a low tone, "We will commence by shooting that Indian." Two of us who were standing at his side fired, killing the savage instantly. The Indians came rushing out of their wickiups in confusion, and fought desperately for a while, having nothing but bows and arrows and protecting themselves with shields made of tule rushes, old tin pans, etc. Several men were wounded by arrows which were shot with great force and precision. As soon as they found that their shields would not stop bullets, they began to waver and hunt for shelter. We fired as fast as we could load our rifles, reserving our revolvers at Wright's suggestion, to be used if we should come to close quarters. After a short resistance they took to their heels and deserted the village. The men who had brought on the pack and saddle animals according to orders, heard the noise of the contest and broke into a wild gallop towards the battle-ground. Discovering the Indian canoes and supposing the fun was on our side of the river, they left the animals and crossed over. Thus we were enabled to reach the village without difficulty, where we found some sixteen dead Indians. In the tents we found a great deal of hair, which, beyond a doubt, was taken from the heads of white people whom they had murdered. We captured several

head of horses, but found nothing else about the village of any value to us. We then mounted our horses and camped a few miles beyond at a nice spring of water.

At this place we remained several weeks, occasionally sending out scouting parties and scouring the country in all directions. In these raids we found several head of horses and cattle, which we drove into camp, killing the cattle for food. After much difficulty we managed to communicate with the Indians, and induced them to come into camp to make a treaty. Wright talked plainly to them, and they finally agreed to bring in the stolen stock and refrain from molesting the settlers, on condition that the white men would leave their country and not trouble them again. In pursuance of this agreement they brought in a few head of horses and cattle, saying that was all they had, though we had good reason to believe they had more. Believing they were pretty well whipped and anxious for peace, and as the weather was quite cold, provisions about all used up, etc., we thought it best to return home. Accordingly we took what stock we had and retired in the direction of Yreka, reaching a small stream called Willow creek in the evening. That night the Indians attacked us, shooting arrows into our camp, though without doing any damage, and succeeded in stampeding our animals so as to get away with eleven of them. We came to the conclusion that they needed a better drubbing than we had given them, and four of us started to Yreka for provisions for a new campaign. When several miles from the camp on our return we met some men who had come out to escort us in, fearing we would be cut off. Those of our party who had remained in the Modoc country had not been idle. On the morning that we started after provisions they went in pursuit of the band that stole our horses and overtook them. A running fight was maintained for several miles, a number of Indians being killed and a few horses recaptured. The Indians took refuge in the tules on Lost river, where the men could not follow them on horseback. The water and snow were about knee deep, partially frozen, and the mixture of snow and ice was pleasant to no one but a Modoc. Finding the Indians were beyond their reach they returned to the camp on Willow creek to await our coming, in the meanwhile discovering a village in the tules near the mouth of Lost river. A consultation was held, and in pursuance of a suggestion from Wright, we started at eleven o'clock of the night of our return from Yreka, striking the river some distance above the village, which, as we rode quietly down the stream, we discovered to be on an island in the midst of the tules. The Indians became aware of our approach, and collected on the opposite side of the stream and opposed our crossing with a cloud of arrows. It was just light enough for us to see that the water was shallow, but fearing our horses would become mired if we rode in, we dismounted and all but five of us charged across on foot, through water two feet deep and as cold as water ever gets without freezing. The Indians scattered in all directions and hid in the tules, but we made directly for the island, surrounded it and took about thirty prisoners, all of whom but three were women and

children. Placing a guard over these, we next proceeded to hunt up those who were secreted in the tules. We found quite a number of them along the river bank, who plunged into the icy water at our approach, and hid in the grass like so many ducks. We spent the entire day in hunting them, and killed fifteen or twenty, several men and horses being slightly injured by arrows. In the evening we marched our prisoners about two miles, and camped in a deep ravine, all of us standing guard that night, expecting an attack before morning. The night passed quietly, and in the morning we returned with our prisoners to the camp on Willow creek. Here we remained several weeks, sending out scouting parties, and occasionally seeing a few Indians.

The prisoners told us that the people of their village had not molested us, but that the guilty parties were Indians living on the other side of the river. All our efforts to find them, however, were unsuccessful, and all our persuasions to induce the captives to tell us where they were, had no effect upon them. They made several unsuccessful attempts to escape, and thinking, no doubt, that we intended to starve them, for our provisions had run low again, one of the warriors agreed to conduct us to their hiding-place, Wright promising to give all the prisoners their liberty. It was about the first of November and bitterly cold, snow covering the ground to the depth of six inches. Through the hard crust that had formed on this, the horses broke at every step, rendering progress slow and tedious. We took with us only the two braves, one having been killed in an attempt to escape, and turned the other prisoners loose. Traveling in a south-easterly direction, we discovered a dozen Indian pickets on the afternoon of the second day, and charged them. Some of them rode in all haste to warn the village, while the others took shelter behind rocks and juniper bushes, and discharged a shower of arrows at us as soon as we came within range. Driving them from bush to bush and rock to rock for three miles, we came in view of the village, built on a level plateau, and along a semi-circular ledge of rocks, where the ground sank abruptly to a depth of about twenty feet. This was in the celebrated lava beds made famous by Captain Jack and his half hundred, twenty years later. Within this crescent-shaped ledge of rocks was what appeared to be the smooth bed of a stream. It was about thirty feet wide and one hundred yards long, with a slight incline towards the face of the ledge, terminating near the middle of it where a cave opened into the rocks. Here the inhabitants of the village had taken shelter, carrying with them provisions, etc., and tying their horses in front of it where they could protect them with their arrows while lying in concealment. Standing on the bluff a hundred yards from the cave, we could look into it, and the Indians, who had not yet learned the superiority of the white man's weapon, came out to shoot at us, sending their arrows with wonderful force and precision, and wounding one or two of our men. We killed several of them before they became satisfied that their shields of baskets and old tin pans would not turn our bullets. After driving them to shelter, we sent an occasional shot into the cave to keep them quiet, while some of our

men crept down and cut their horses loose. One of the Indians, larger than the rest, came out of the cave so enveloped in shields that he looked like a huge basket, ornamented with a tin pan stuck in here and there for variety. A well-aimed shot rolled this animated basket over, and the others were careful to keep out of sight. The fun was then all on our side. We were out of provisions and could not stay to starve them out, nor could we attack them in the cave, and it was suggested that a smudge might bring them out. Approaching the edge of the bluff above the mouth of the cave, we rolled down a heap of logs and brush and set fire to it. We found it necessary to exercise great caution in this undertaking, as the Indians watched us carefully, and whenever a man stooped far enough over the ledge for them to get sight of him, an arrow came whizzing up from the inferno below. They were plucky to the last, and seemed determined to make it as warm for us as we were making it smoking hot for them. One of our men who incautiously exposed himself received a severe wound from an arrow, and although we succeeded in extracting the arrowhead, it was months before he recovered.

For twenty-four hours we kept a roaring fire at the mouth of the cave, but the Indians showed no inclination to come out, in fact they seemed to become more fierce with each hour of the terrible basting they were receiving at our hands. The weather was intensely cold, our provisions were exhausted, and Yreka, the nearest point of supply, was nearly a hundred miles away, and added to this it seemed that an atmosphere of smoke and heat only served to make Modocs fat, so we called a council of war and decided to return home. We gave them a liberal contribution of fuel, mounted our horses and reluctantly started homeward, not forgetting to take their thirty-five horses with us. We bade farewell to the region of volcanic rock and savages, and reached Yreka after a hard march, tired, hungry, and worn out with cold and exposure, where we disbanded and returned to our former peaceful occupations of ranching and mining.

Had our provisions held out so that we could have continued the smoking process another day, we would have forced them from the cave. I entered it years afterwards with some of those same Indians and found it not to be an extensive one, that there was no other opening as we had supposed, nor was there water in it. They informed me that the attack had been so sudden and unexpected, that they had omitted to take water in with them, and that the smoke had become almost unendurable when we departed. In fact, had we remained a few hours longer they would have surrendered. It was not our intention to harm the women and children, and though Wright is charged with ruthlessly murdering Indians, the statement is entirely incorrect. I was with him not only in this campaign, but also the next year, and we always had the most positive orders from him to refrain from injuring the women and children, nor did he ever molest them when it could possibly be avoided. Could those who censure him see, as I have seen, the indisputable evidences of their diabolical work, the bones of men, women, and children bleaching