

Yo-Kei tribe in this way. I know there are a great many Indians held as slaves in this way, or taken captive in some of the forays I have described.

By the last mail from California, I have received the following letters on the same subject. I here submit them. They need no comment:

MARTINEZ.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 15th ultimo, in which you desire such information as I may have concerning treatment of Indians in this county. I most cheerfully respond to your wishes. In the discharge of my duties as district attorney I obtained the following information, which is substantiated by reliable evidence.

Ramon Briones, Mesa, Quiera, and Beryessa, of Napa county, are in the habit of kidnapping Indians in the mountains near Clear lake, and in their capture several have been murdered in cold blood. There have been Indians to the number of one hundred and thirty-six thus captured and brought into this county, and held here in servitude adverse to their will. These Indians are now said to be in the possession of Briones, Mesa, and Beryessa, and sundry other persons who have purchased them in this county. It is also a notorious fact that these Indians are treated inhumanly, being neither fed nor clothed; and from such treatment many have already died, and disease is now threatening destruction of the remainder. All the Indians I allude to were brought here forcibly and against their will. From my observation, that class of population who have these Indians treat them more like brutes than human beings.

There is also a regular organized company of persons who capture and sell these Indians, and several have lately been so disposed of to William and Ramon Castro.

There is now pending a suit against the persons above named for kidnapping these Indians, but the statutes of this State afford no adequate protection against cruel treatment of Indians.

Respectfully,

R. N. WOODS.

J. H. JENKINS, Esq.

SAN FRANCISCO, *January 30, 1853.*

SIR: Information having been forwarded to me that the band of Indians on the San Pablo rancho, Contra Costa county, had been stolen off in the absence of Mr. H. B. Edwards, I informed your clerk, Mr. F. Kerlin, of the fact, and he, upon consultation with General Hitchcock, deemed the matter of sufficient importance to be taken notice of. I therefore, acting under letter of instructions to me of December 9, 1852, immediately went up to Martinez, where I supposed the persons carrying the Indians off would endeavor to cross them over to Napa county. When I arrived, I was informed that the day before the two native Californians, Ramon Briones and — Beryessa, had attempted to pass over the bay; but as warrants were already out for