

tribe, who live upon the lake, were captured by us, and would undoubtedly have been put to death by Kelsey's party, had not the presence of an officer restrained them. I moved about two miles from the house to camp accompanied by Kelsey's party, who placed themselves under my orders, taking with me these Indians. Upon examining them they said they had nothing to do with the murder, but knew that two chiefs of the tribe, which lived upon Kelsey's farm, were on an island in the lake, and they could tell us all about it. I then told three of them they must go to this island and bring the two chiefs to me, and that I would retain the remaining nine as hostages for their re-appearance, either with these chiefs or a good reason for not bringing them. They said it was good, and started apparently to do so. I then disarmed the remaining nine, and told them sentinels were placed over them to prevent their escape, until the return of these three, and if they attempted it they would be fired into. The three set off, lurked among the chemisal hills, as we afterwards ascertained, until they supposed all quiet, when they gave a signal, and the nine started to their feet and ran. They were promptly fired into by the dragoon and citizen sentinels, and three of their number fell, who died the next day; during the night Lieut. Wilson arrived with the command at the house, where I joined him the next morning, and we then proceeded to examine the trails of the Indians, and finding many leading south, on the lake, we followed the main one, and found that the Indians had eluded us by getting on an island, about 300 yards from shore. The condition of our horses, want of tools, and in fact there being no timber around us which would float, prevented our rafting to the island. They refused all intercourse with us, although every offer was made them consistent with propriety, if they would give up these two chiefs. I then told them it was their last chance, and they must now look out for the chastisement deserved. They said "it was good if we could catch them." The command then returned to the farm, where after search, the body of Mr. Kelsey was found and buried. He was killed with five wounds, two of arrow wounds. We remained until Mr. B. Kelsey could collect such of his stock as would drive, and escorted him into the settlements. From the information I can get on the subject, there is no doubt but all the Indian tribes upon the lake are more or less concerned in this atrocious murder. They have had heretofore a secure retreat in the islands upon the lake, of which there are several, and use boats made of atule, of which they have a great many.

The following plan is respectfully submitted by Lieut. Wilson and myself for the effectual chastisement of these tribes. Two parties of thirty men each, one on the N. E. and one on the S. W. shore of the lake, acting conjointly by signal, can drive them from the country lying on the lake to these islands. If then, two or three boats, capable of carrying ten men each, are put upon the lake at the southern extremity, secretly, they can easily, at night, if managed with caution, surprise them in their rancherias, and cut them to pieces. Mr. Carson says there is a good road by which these boats can be transported upon the running-gear of wagons from Napa to the southern extremity of Clear Lake; and if, at the same time, a party of fifty strong could be sent up Russian River, (the head of which is near the northern extremity, and forms another retreat for these Indians,) they would completely be hemmed in. I mention numbers, because from the best authorities, the tribes on the lake can

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