

ridiculous undertaking, this effort to whip the United States government, and refused to let his company have anything more to do with it. This knocked the bottom out of the whole scheme, the companies broke up and returned home, the mounted company paying a visit to the cave near Cottonwood, but finding no Indians. This cloud-speck of war having been removed from his horizon, Captain Smith withdrew his cannon, and the hum-drum life at the fort was resumed for a while, soon to be followed by the outbreak of the Rogue River Indians and the consequent activity among the soldiers.

When the war in Rogue River valley was over and a treaty was made, the two Indians which the Humbug troops had demanded, were surrendered to the sheriff of Siskiyou county, upon a warrant for murder. They were brought to Yreka and kept in jail until the Grand Jury met, when no indictment was found for lack of evidence, and they were released. It was "out of the fat and into the fire" for the prisoners, for in the town was a man named Parrish, whose brother had met his death in the massacre, and a few others, who were determined the savages should die. They were informed of the time the sheriff intended to let them go, and stationed themselves near the jail. No sooner were their victims without the jail gate, than these men locked arms with them, and took them a little south of town, where they were summarily shot and tumbled into an old mining shaft, at the bottom of which their bones lie to the present day.

Mustering rolls of the companies engaged in this expedition were forwarded to the State authorities, and out of the appropriations made by Congress to defray the expenses of Indian wars in California, was set aside a certain sum to pay these volunteers. Some ten years ago a number of them who made application in due form received their pay, and money now lies in the State treasury at Sacramento, to pay those who through ignorance or death have never demanded it.

#### COSBY'S MODOC CAMPAIGN.

During the winter and spring of 1855-56, a bloody Indian war was raging in southern Oregon, that cost the lives of many soldiers and settlers, and was the source of great expense to the government. The hostilities were chiefly with the powerful Tototin tribe, on lower Rogue river, and it was at a massacre near the mouth of this stream that Captain Ben. Wright lost his life, in February, 1856. During all these difficulties, the Klamath, Lake, and Modoc tribes remained quietly at home, and committed no outrages of a serious character; and the people of Siskiyou pursued their business in comparative security, troubled only by the natural anxiety for possible outbreaks by Indians here, on account of so protracted a war but a few miles away.

In June, 1856, Charles Green and Thomas Stewart were killed by Indians on McKinney creek, and a little excitement followed. Several people had been killed on Siskiyou mountain the fall before. They were Calvin M. Fields, John Cunningham, and Samuel Warner. Charles Scott and Theodore Snow had been murdered on the trail between Yreka and Scott Bar about the same time. These murders

were probably all committed by Tipsu's band. Some stock had also been stolen in Shasta valley, and it pleased the military authorities at Yreka to institute a campaign against the Modocs, on the plea that they were participants, or might be if let alone. At that time, John D. Cosby was major general, D. D. Colton, brigadier, and there were enough colonels and majors in the town of Yreka to form a whole procession. General Cosby wrote to the governor a letter setting forth the defenseless condition of the people, who had only a battalion of generals, majors and colonels to protect them, and no privates. The governor asked General Wool for troops, but was informed that the war in Oregon and Washington demanded all the troops, and he had neither soldiers nor inclination to inaugurate a new war where it was unnecessary.

The generals, colonels and majors wanted to win laurels on the tented field, and the quartermasters and their friends wanted to furnish supplies, so another communication was addressed to the governor, who then authorized General Cosby to raise a force and "afford the people such protection as *their need required*." It was at once supposed that their need required the raising of a force to go more than a hundred miles away and stir up a tribe of Indians that was remaining comparatively quiet. Three companies were raised, one from Humbug under Capt. William Martin, one from Hawkinsville under Capt. Robert Williams, and one from Greenhorn under Capt. Thomas Ballard. The whole force amounted to about two hundred men. Each man furnished his own horse and some of them their own guns. The others were supplied with the cheapest kind of muskets, apparently designed to maim the reckless man who dared to discharge one. Thus accoutred, and escorted with great pomp by the brigade of generals, colonels and majors, the little battalion of privates started for the scene of action.

When this grand array of occupation had proceeded a short distance beyond Lost river, and was moving along the north bank of Tule lake, Indian signs were discovered on an island a short distance out among the tules. A number of men waded out to inspect it, and found that it had some time been the camping ground of a band of Indians. While this was going on a number of Modocs rode down from the mountains near the lake, and a volunteer detachment of twenty-four was sent in pursuit of them. They went charging through the sage-brush, the Indians making good their escape into the mountains. The men then rode on to overtake the battalion, which had moved on and camped on Clear lake.

When they arrived in camp, it was discovered that one of their number was missing, and the next morning a detachment under Lieut-pants Warman and Austin went back to look for him. The missing man was John Alban, more familiarly known as Greasy John, a man who had been engaged in most of the Indian wars in this region and on Rogue river, his body was found in the sage-brush, but a short distance from where the pursuit was commenced the day before, and by him lay his gun broken in two. He had been riding a young horse, and it was supposed that it balked with him, and