

thoroughly and earned the universal respect of Indians and whites alike, testifies that the marauding Indian bands contained as low as four and as high as eighteen men. All of the mauweemas or head men that he knew were friendly, except three in Hoopa valley and one on Redwood creek. The friendly chiefs seemed even more concerned in keeping the peace and stopping depredation than were the whites.

Over against the record of depredations on the part of the Indians, we have the report<sup>235</sup> of one white man on Van Duzen river who boasted of having killed sixty infants with his own hatchet at the different slaughtering grounds. He had an Indian boy working for him whose family lived within half a mile of his place. Being angered because the boy occasionally visited his relatives, he went down one morning and slaughtered the family of about six persons, boy and all, and sent the bodies of the victims on a rude raft down the river, labeled with the name of an American who was known to be opposed to indiscriminate Indian killing.

One of the neighbors had had about his premises for the preceding two years an old Indian called Yo-keel-le-bah or Ukillaboy who acted as a faithful guardian to the ranch as well as being a reliable interpreter and aid to the white officials. About April 26, 1860, the old Indian, feeling perfectly secure, paid the vicious white man a friendly visit, and was immediately tied up and shot without any explanation.

This vicious white man was a leader and model of a certain class of settlers on Van Duzen and Eel rivers known as the "thugs."<sup>236</sup> These thugs not only went about the country attacking Indian villages at early dawn and slaughtering the inhabitants of all ages and sexes, but they threatened and terrorized<sup>237</sup> their more peaceable white neighbors. They had the sheriff,<sup>238</sup> a certain influential newspaper, and a number of the members of the grand jury<sup>237</sup> on their side, and became so bold that certain of their number, on drunken sprees if not at other times, threatened to "clean out" the small batch of federal soldiers who had been sent to Eel river in answer to a petition of the better class of citizens desiring protection for both themselves and the friendly Indians.

<sup>235</sup> San Francisco Bulletin, Mar. 13, June 1, and June 4, 1860.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*, Mar. 28, June 1, 1860.

<sup>237</sup> *Ibid.*, June 1, 1860.

<sup>238</sup> *Ibid.*, Mar. 13, 30, 1860. Also Maj. G. J. Rains, commanding at Fort Humboldt, in a letter to Sheriff Van Ness warning "a certain faction favorable to the interests of the assassins in this county" of which the sheriff is charged with being the spokesman. Letter published in San Francisco Bulletin, May 24, 1860.