

friendly aborigines, in number 450, have been removed from Humboldt county. Those on Mad river, about 120 in number, were first forcibly expelled from their residences, herded like cattle, and all, under the fear of death, had to leave their homes, as dear to them as ours are to us. These Indians... are measurably civilized. Some of them speak our language, they have mingled with the whites, and were accustomed to aid in their domestic concerns... It would have moved a heart of stone, to have seen these poor creatures grieving, burning up their boats and houses, and then driven from their homes—their “sacred hearths”—from the graves of their murdered relatives, from the land of their forefathers—a land still their own, for it has never been purchased, nor have they received one iota as *quid pro quo* for all this country.

It becomes us now to correct false impressions which have gone abroad (mainly propagated by a mendacious print here—probably pandering for votes,) by giving a statement easily verified by any disinterested person, proving that the objections to this population were without foundation. In many cases these Indians were useful. They were divers and hands at the fisheries; they were harvesters, aiding the whites in getting in their grain, and bringing them berries, fish and clams; they were packers and guides to mountain trains; while their wives were of much service to the ladies of Eureka on their wash days and in other household duties... They killed nobody—neither women, children nor cattle; they troubled nobody, and nobody’s property; they never were drunk nor drank liquor, and really were the most inoffensive and harmless Indians, perhaps, the world ever saw....

At Klamath reservation the Wiyot found an uncongenial home and in three or four months larger or smaller parties began to drift back to their old homes,²⁵² where they found on the one hand a few sympathetic whites desirous of protecting them, and on the other hand a considerable number equally desirous of embracing every opportunity to murder them. One party found safety for a time by camping in Bucksport near the house of a white man of doubtful friendliness. This man, though pretending friendship, planned to kill them all, or at least deliver them into the hands of others to be killed, but his wife learned of the plans and revealed them to the Indians, who escaped by sleeping at night in the bushes. One of this party of Wiyot, Ned by name, was later killed when, driven by hunger, he sought to gather a few clams. His murderer boasted that when five shots failed to kill the Indian, he knocked him on the head.

Another Indian, Ben by name, was working for a white man living on the North Spit, and was dealt with treacherously, it would appear, by being sent on an errand to Gunther island, where two men met and killed him. Frequently other Indians, becoming suspicious, were impelled to seek safety in hiding. From time to time these refugees were gathered up and taken to some reservation, first to Klamath reservation, then to Smith river, and finally to Hoopa.

²⁵² *Ibid.*, Aug. 4, 27, Oct. 26, 1860; Jan. 17, 1861.