

not to come up and attack the Pitt River Indians, for if they did they would find someone else to fight with besides squaws and papooses. In this connection it may be mentioned that Mr Matlock, who lived on a ranch about half way between Red bluff and Fort Crook, informed Mr Ayres that he had himself seen three squaws who had been shot by white people, lying dead in a yard, with young papooses crawling over them and trying to suck their breasts.

Major Mellon's message raised a storm of indignation against him, and a great many people declared that he preferred Indians to white men. The fact, however, was that when Major Mellon took command of the fort, he made a compact with the chiefs Shavehead and Buckskin, to the effect that if any of the Indians committed an offense they would on demand deliver the malefactors up to him, and on one occasion, Mr Ayres went with him to ^{Burney} Burney Valley when he demanded of Buckskin the surrender of an Indian who had stolen some clothing out of a cabin. The Indian was given up in accordance with the compact, and under pressure from the citizens and other officers, Major Mellon caused him to be shot.

It was in pursuance of this compact that he warned the citizens of the Sacramento Valley not to come up to Pitt River and he told the Indians that ^{in case of attack should} ~~if necessary~~ they must come to the fort and he would protect them.

His reasoning was, that if they attacked the Indians, the bucks would escape and only a few squaws would be found, and when the whites returned to the valley, ^{out of harm's way} the settlers out on