

cultivated; it was believed that gold was hidden in the earth, and hence it was invaded by the whites. If the Indians manifested dissatisfaction, they were rudely treated, if not killed. It was not long until the respect originally manifested for the "Americans" was supplanted by disgust and hatred. The encroachments of the whites and their unjust conduct toward the natives, finally brought on the Oregon and Washington war, in which the lives of many of our citizens and soldiers, as well as the lives of many Indians were sacrificed, and millions of money expended.

In one of their reports, the California commissioners say: "The common and favorite abode of the Indians in this country was in the valleys and the range of mountains. The greater portion were located and had resided as long as their recollections and traditions went, on the ground now being turned up for gold, and occupied by the gold hunters, by whom they have been displaced and driven higher up in the range of mountains, leaving their fisheries and acorn grounds behind. They have been patient in endurance, until necessity taught them her lesson (which they were not slow to learn, as it is measurably instinctive with the Indians), and thus they adopt from necessity that which was deemed a virtue among the Spartans, and the result is we have an incipient border war; many lives have been lost, and an incalculable amount of property stolen."

That the reader may have an idea of the mode and manner in which the "Americans" introduced their civilization among the Indians on the Pacific slope, two incidents out of many such that occurred, are here given. At an early day a party started up the coast from San Francisco on a gold hunting expedition. They had a vessel loaded with supplies, tools, etc., sufficient for a substantial outfit. After sailing up to near the southern boundary of Oregon, they landed, when a portion of them immediately set out on a tour of exploration, leaving the remainder to discharge the cargo and in due time follow their comrades. About thirty Indians came to the beach, and at the request of the "Americans" proceeded to help unload the vessel. The Indians labored faithfully for the new comers. There were on the vessel two pieces of can-

non, and a supply of guns and pistols. In the bay near the landing and close to the vessel, there was a large rock, the top surface of which was above the water, and of sufficient area to accommodate many persons. The cannon, when removed from the vessel, were placed upon this rock and in proper position. When the work was completed, the Indians were requested to come on the rock to receive pay for their labor. As they passed up in Indian file, at the proper moment, the guns were brought to bear upon them, and all but two were killed.

In 1853, Captain Wright surprised a few Modoc Indians, took them to his camp and treated them kindly, and then sent them, with presents of tobacco and calico, to their people, and by this means he opened negotiations for a council to arrange for a treaty. In due time it was agreed that the principal men of the Modocs should meet Captain Wright at a place designated on Lost river, for a preliminary council. On the appointed day some fifty of the chiefs and head men attended. The force of Wright was about equal in numbers, and they were drilled for the occasion. It was agreed that the filling and lighting of the pipe of Wright during the deliberation of the council should be the signal for action. As the wreath of smoke ascended, fifty revolvers were drawn from their concealment, the possessors being distributed among the Indians, and every Modoc save two, was instantly killed. Such incidents as these, and there were many in some degree like them, bore fruit, resulted in retaliation, and finally in a general Indian war.

To meet the complications existing in California, Congress, in the winter of 1852-3, appropriated two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to defray the expenses of removing the Indians in that state to five military reservations of not more than twenty-five thousand acres in each. When the plan was about to be put into operation, it appeared that it was difficult to obtain suitable locations for such reservations, in the regions designated, since there were alleged claims to the lands founded upon Spanish and Mexican grants. The superintendent concluded to purchase the lands embraced in the reservations from those who held such grants, subject to the ratifi-