

DISBURSING AGENCY, INDIAN DEPARTMENT, IN CALIFORNIA, }  
 San Francisco, April 5, 1852. }

His Excellency JOHN BIGLER,  
 Governor of California, Sacramento City,

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you, by the arrival of a vessel from Humboldt Bay, and of Gregory's Express, per Shasta Butte City, I have received letters from Capt. Walter McDonald of the former, and Mr. John McKee, Special Indian Agent for Shasta and Scott Valleys, announcing the existence of alarming difficulties between the whites and Indians on Eel River and on the Klamath. It appears that, sometime in February, two men living on the north side of Eel River, some fifteen or twenty miles from Humboldt, in a retired out-of-the-way place, were murdered and their house robbed. As the river was unusually high, and canoes scarce, the fact did not become known to the settlers on the east side of the river for several weeks. It was then concluded, as a matter of course, that the Indians had killed them; and meetings were immediately held at the towns on the bay, and parties organized to hunt up and punish the guilty; but, no sooner were these brave warriors clothed with authority to represent and defend the country, than they commenced an indiscriminate attack upon the poor, defenceless, and wholly unsuspecting Indian settlements on about the bay, near Eureka and the mouth of Elk river, killing several; then proceeding out to Eel river, renewed the work of death, and finally succeeded in destroying the lives of fifteen or twenty naked and defenceless natives, without finding even one of those generally suspected as being most likely to be concerned in the murder. A week or two later, some three or four other Indians who *were suspected* of being concerned in the murder, (*if committed by Indians at all,*) were overtaken on Eel river, and summarily shot down. A gentleman from the bay informs me that these rash, cruel, blood-thirsty proceedings, were wholly disapproved by many of the best men in the country; but they could not arrest them, and were indeed almost afraid to let their disapprobation be known.

From the temporary Agent at Shasta Butte city, I learn by letters dated 21st ultimo, that some time in February, an Indian boy of 18 or 19 years, whom I recollect seeing at a place on the Klamath, named "Happy Camp," was deliberately shot as he was leaving that camp, wading the creek which puts in there, by a man from Missouri, called Capt. G. R. Tompkins. The body of the Indian floated out into the river, and was carried off. This boy, it seems, was connected with the Indian Rancheria at the ferry, or upper crossing, some distance above. A white man who was at Happy Camp when the boy was killed, having returned to his work near the ferry, was charged by the Indians as being cognizant of, or concerned in, the murder; and finding the Indians exasperated, became alarmed about his own safety, returned to Happy Camp, collected a party there and at the other diggings on the river, then returned to the ferry, surrounded the village, *shot every man and a number of women*, and burnt their houses. Then proceeding up