

about, tearing up the ground, bushes, and small trees, with a strength that filled with astonishment those who captured it.

The bear is not at all timid, but it is said it seldom attacks any person except provoked to do so in self-defence, or when very hungry. It, however, never engages in draw-battles, but when attacked, even but lightly, by either man or beast, a terrible conflict is sure to at once ensue, when the victory soon terminates in its favor.

The Indians for a few days past have been very troublesome. Some miles distant from Auburn the miners have had several skirmishes with them, and, it is reported, have killed two or three, which has inspired them with feelings of revenge. They sometimes kill or steal mules and oxen belonging to teamsters and others, generally making their onsets at midnight, and of late, in some instances, have attempted to take the lives of their white neighbors. We are kept in constant fear, especially nights, lest the red man should pierce us with arrows, which are usually sharply pointed with glass or stone, or with uplifted tomahawk and drawn scalping-knife, make a precipitate descent, such as is known only in Indian warfare, upon and destroy us.

About six miles below this place, four nights since, an Indian shot an arrow into a mule that was grazing near its owner's tent, which pierced through the heart, the point coming out on the opposite side. On the same night, and near the same place, Mr. C——, a gentleman who came to this country in company with the writer, supposes an attack would have been made upon him, had not the growling and barking of his large, faithful dog, caused the enemy to desist.

One day last week a teamster being alone, was attacked by several of these sons of the forest, even at mid-day, about midway between this village and a place eight miles distant, called Kelly's Bar. The stealthy foes concealed themselves behind some large trees, where they waited until he came up, when a volley of arrows were showered upon him, three of which took effect, one in his head, another in his shoulder, and the third in his thigh, which brought him almost senseless to the ground. They at once attempted to rob him, but just then some travel-

ers came in sight, who frightened them away. It was feared at first that the wound upon his head would prove mortal, but the writer learned this morning that it is thought he will recover.

The revengeful annoyers night before last visited our neighborhood. Little past twelve, one was seen slyly approaching the third tent from my own by one of its occupants who happened to be up. As soon as he had made the discovery, he roused from sleep two other fellow-lodgers, seized his revolvers and a well loaded rifle, dashed out, and fired upon the enemy. In a moment his two comrades, armed with their rifles and revolvers, joined him, when a spirited chase commenced. The Indian retreated towards the wood with the fleetness of a deer with his long black hair streaming behind, while the Yankees with nothing on but their shirts, were scouring after him as fast as their legs could carry them, firing and yelling as they ran. They pursued him until he entered the wood, where two others joined him, when they returned.

The moon had set, but the stars were brightly shining, and the scene presented was a novel as well as an exciting one. In a short time, nearly the whole people of the village were under arms, and left in small parties for different points, determined to exterminate these merciless foes, or drive them far from us; they have returned however, without being able to find their whereabouts.

Visit to Kelly's Bar—Terrible Slaughter of the Indians.
Having been informed that the mines at Kelly's Bar, on the American River, were more profitable than those at this place, this morning soon after breakfast, a friend and myself started to go and examine them. Being obliged to pass along the road where the Indians had attacked the teamster, whose case we have mentioned, we felt the excursion would be rather hazardous, so we armed ourselves, which was the only time the writer has done so since leaving home. It is well known among the miners, that the Indians are exceedingly afraid of the rifle, of which we took advantage, and each carried one on his shoulder; my friend also wore in his belt, two six barreled revolvers.—Our hearts palpitated faster than usual as may well be supposed,

as from time to time we anxiously cast our eyes behind the trees, clusters of bushes and hillocks, while passing along, not knowing but the savages would suddenly attack us as they had others.

Before reaching the river, we had heard several times from persons we met, that the place of the tribes concealment had been accidentally discovered in a by-place a day or two previous, only about five miles distant from Kelly's Bar, and that the miners from that place, had decided to surprise them at an early hour this morning, and to give them a chastisement they would not soon forget.

Kelly's Bar is a small village composed almost entirely of tents, and situated on the main road where it crosses the middle fork of the American River. After our arrival, we soon learned the facts concerning the expedition that had been fitted out against the Indians—it consisted of twenty-two young men, all well armed each with a bowie knife, a short gun and a pair of six barreled revolving pistols, so that the company could fire more than two hundred times without stopping to re-load.

At early dawn the resolute company started on their destructive errand, ten of them on mules and the remaining twelve on foot. Poor Indians! little did they dream this morning, as the sun arose and greeted them, of the awful storm that was about to burst upon them! The miners generally suspended their usual labor this morning, and we found them anxiously waiting to learn the result of the expedition.

At length while my friend, several others and myself were sitting in a store, conversing upon the absorbing topic of the morning, three of the party returned and entered the room.—As they came in, each held in his hand trophies of victory consisting of a small bundle of bows and arrows, from the ends of which hung dangling down, two or three scalps.

The young men gave an account of the engagement, from which it appears that the Indians occupied a ravine in the midst of the wood, rendered by nature very retired, being overlooked by several hills. Little past sunrise, the party reached and ascended one of the hills, behind which, was the enemy; and when near the top halted, when all examined their arms, put-

ting them in complete order. Soon they passed over and dashed down the hill-side until within a proper distance, when they hurriedly commenced the work of destruction.

At the time, the Indians were at their morning meal, but were alarmed by one of their number, who, while getting water from a brook at a short distance from their rude dwellings, discovered the "pale faces" as they came in sight over the top of the hill. In a moment all the males strong enough to wield the bow and arrow, instantly snatched them up, arranged themselves a short distance in front of their enclosure, which was surrounded by palisades, or a sort of wickerwork fence, and hurled showers of arrows at their assailants; so nimbly did they use their bows, that often each had two arrows on the way at the same time, while our men were pouring upon them a most deadly fire.

But the contest was unequal—the poor red man had no chance for effectual resistance—the balls cut down many of them, while the distance prevented most of their arrows from reaching our men. Unfortunately, during the engagement, their women and children were in the rear, consequently some were killed and several wounded—their shrieks and groans were heard by our men as their balls struck them.

The battle lasted about thirty minutes, during which time the Indians displayed great courage and did not yield, though death stared them full in the face, until their chief had fallen, when they ceased firing, and retreated up the hill on the opposite side of the ravine. Our men pursued them a short distance and shot several, causing them to fall backwards down the hill. Then with their bowie knives they passed around among the wounded and slain, and where life had not become extinct, they extinguished it! But I forbear: what followed is too revolting for any but a savage mind to contemplate.

The women and children plead hard for their lives, but the young men did not wish to harm them more—two of the younger women offered to accompany them on their return, if they would spare their lives. This appeal excited their pity somewhat, and they made them understand that they would not harm them.