

pense, could easily surmise the results of a conflict with twenty times the number of desperate Indians. In that rugged and mountainous country the soldiers of the regular Army, who knew absolutely nothing about Indian warfare, would be useless and ineffectual; and how could volunteers, men acquainted with the mountains and the Indians, how could they act usefully when their very sustenance was a matter of caprice with the powers that were?

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In August the town of Union was alarmed by reports of outrages by Indians on Redwood Creek. A settler named Ferrill went to town with the news that depredations of various kinds were being committed, and asked assistance to preserve property and punish the Indians. A party of twenty men, under the leadership of Burr McConaha, left town and went out to Ferrill's place, arriving there at twelve o'clock in the night. They slept in a barn. Next morning one of the party named Jenkins was scouting in the vicinity, and found an Indian alone, who surrendered and was taken to the camp. On the same day the party discovered the Indian camp on Pine Creek, twenty-seven miles from Union. The camp was surrounded and a sudden attack made, the result being the killing of seven warriors. Having inflicted this punishment for repeated depredations on the whites, the party returned to Ferrill's house and moved his family to Union.