

Captain Messie, therefore, after establishing head-quarters at Thief Camp, commenced the campaign upon Mad River, at the Blue Slide, at which point a small body of the Indians were attacked on the twenty-third day of October, at which eight of the enemy were killed, and seven squaws and children taken prisoners. The remainder, numbering some twenty-five warriors, escaped.

On the return from the scene of battle, the Company were fired upon by the Indians from ambush, and one of the men, John Harpst, received a severe wound in the shoulder from a rifle-ball. We found that the Indians were well armed with rifles, and bows and arrows, and were occupying the most inaccessible points which could be found, rendering an approach by day entirely impracticable, without giving them an opportunity of escaping, and an approach by night extremely difficult, and dangerous to life and limb. But Captain Messie, being an old and experienced mountaineer and Indian hunter, supported by as brave a set of officers and men as could be found in any country, determined that these wily savages should be taught, at least, that their haunts of concealment could be found, and that no print of a foot upon the ground should go unobserved. The plan of moving upon and attacking their ranchos by night was the only one which promised much success, and although hazardous, was readily and cheerfully adopted by the officers and men, and pursued until every river, creek, and gulch, in this large section of country, was scouted over and cleared of Indians, for the time being. As fast as different sections of this country were rid of hostile Indians, a detachment was left at a selected point, with orders to scout continually, so as to cover and observe the return of the enemy to the sections cleared.

It may seem, and is, almost incredible, that a company of ninety men could clear a section of country of this extent—a country diversified by a series of lofty mountains, covered by almost perpetual snows—precipitous gorges, rugged cañons, dense forests, and thickets of underbrush, seemingly impenetrable to the white man, and in fact to the savages themselves, (except by their own secret passes,)—mountain streams, swollen by the incessant rains, to a torrent, over which they would cross for refuge when closely pursued, but over which it was extremely hazardous for us to follow with arms and munitions of war.

I say, then, that it is almost incredible that so small a force could surmount these almost impregnable barriers of defence to a wary enemy, and hold a complete surveillance over their every movement—but such is the fact. By the constancy and vigilance of the pursuit, these Indians were driven finally into a fastness in the “red-wood” mountains, where the foot of white man never trod before, and which, in all probability, would never have been discovered but for the unerring eye of our experienced mountaineers, some of whom could readily descry the imprint of an Indian foot upon the leaves lying upon the ground. This place had doubtless been previously selected and prepared as a final rendezvous in case of an emergency. Here they had built thirty commodious “red-wood” houses, where they had stored large quantities of provisions and ammunition; and here they had evidently determined to make a stand, and fight us, if by any means their retreat should be discovered. And when this place of their concealment was discovered and attacked, on the twenty-first, twenty-second, and twenty-third days of January, by detachments under command of Capt. Messie, Lieut. Winslett, and private McNeill, they did fight with determined bravery—in which attacks, five of our men, viz., Houk, Work, Overlander, McCafferty, and Gunn, received severe, but not mortal, gun-shot wounds, and from thirty-five to forty

warriors were killed, and fifteen squaws and children taken prisoners, and from eight to ten thousand pounds of their provisions destroyed. As an instance of the intrepid bravery of this tribe of Indians, after the havoc made in their ranks in the engagements above cited, they followed one detachment who were taking their wounded and prisoners from the field of battle, for a distance of twelve miles, occasionally firing upon them from ambuscade, and finally succeeded in severely wounding one of our men, and only ceased their pursuit when night overtook them; and so well was it conducted, that their proximity to the command was only indicated by the report of their guns, and their place of concealment by the smoke of the discharge, taking care, on the occasion of each approach, to be able to make good their escape.

To advert to all the different skirmishes and scouts which took place, would occupy too much space for my present purpose, although justice to the gallant volunteers might seem to demand that this data should be given. Suffice it to say, that the enemy were routed from every position, whether taken to elude their pursuers or for the purpose of defence, and were finally compelled unconditionally to surrender.

Out of the number first above named, from seventy-five to one hundred have been killed, a large number wounded, and three hundred and fifty taken prisoners.

I am gratified to inform your Excellency, and the people of the State, that the indetical tribes known to have been implicated in depredating upon, and to whose savage ferocity and implacable hatred of the white race, more than thirty of our citizens, while pursuing their legitimate avocations, have fallen victims during the past four years, have been thus disposed of—that a permanent peace has been conquered, and confidence restored to the inhabitants of this hitherto infested district—a peace not secured by a worthless treaty, nor founded upon faithless stipulations entered into by Indians,—but by the entire removal of the depredators from the scenes of their aggressions, to a Federal Reservation.

The campaign, then, has been successful, not only in so far as the results are herein detailed, but in regard to the influences it has exerted upon the various tribes of Indians living contiguous to the scenes of this war, and in fact in the whole northern section of the State. It has taught them many valuable lessons, from which it is to be hoped they will profit in their intercourse with the whites hereafter; it has taught them our power, for that a small body of men, with the unerring rifle, have easily driven them in large numbers from their fastnesses and strong holds, with great havoc; it has taught them our indefatigable energy and perseverance, for that we permitted no storms of rain or snow to deter us from a vigorous pursuit after them; it has taught them our vigilance in dealing out punishment for injuries done our citizens, for that by day we were scattered over the hills and ravines, to watch their every movement, and by night we were ready to start upon their secluded ranchos, and take their inmates prisoners; it has taught them a lesson of humanity and magnanimity, such as they never expected would be extended toward them, for in all cases where we had the advantage in an engagement, and could prevent their escape, they have been taken prisoners, fed, and kindly treated, and in no case have their women and children been killed, or separated.

It has taught them, finally, that it is useless for them to contend with, or attempt to elude the search of, the whites—and it is greatly to be hoped that these lessons will insure a continued peace with the tribes living in the immediate vicinity of the late disturbances.

Let me pause, here, to perform a most pleasing duty : that of awarding merit where it is justly and properly due. Let me assure you that the success of this campaign attaches and belongs to those self-sacrificing men, who left their occupations, and volunteered, in this emergency, (as they will do on every fit occasion,) their patriotic services, regardless of pecuniary sacrifices, or personal exposure or hardships. To these patriotic citizens belong the credit for the great success which the expedition has met with : these men, who one and all, were ready at all times, and under all circumstances, to face any danger, encounter any hardships, buffet any storms, and submit to any exposure which the success of the expedition seemed to require, with cheerfulness, and as a matter of chosen duty. To these noble men, I say, the people of this State owe a debt of gratitude which they can scarcely repay—men, too, who resided generally, without the infested district—who rallied, not to protect their immediate neighbors, but to respond to a call from the Governor of the State, and to obey the behests of a patriotic spirit, and do a service for their country.

This company of men, then, with Captain Messic at their head—than whom, I hesitate not to say, a better man could not have been selected, nor one with more experience, more knowledge of the Indian character, more zealous for success, more energetic in pursuit, or brave in action—are entitled to the credit of this expedition. Lieutenants Winslett, Prosser, and Bush, as the other officers of the company, have given their zealous co-operation, and done severe and efficient duty. The two former having, during a greater portion of the campaign, had the entire responsibility of the command of large detachments of the company, at important points. Where all have done so well, it seems almost unfair to discriminate between officers and men, for none did better service in the field than a detachment under private McNeill, and none are entitled to more credit.

Let these services, then, be but appreciated, and rewarded, and the State of California will have done a just and generous act : one which will give her people confidence, not only in her ability to quell Indian disturbances, but to put down insurrections, repel invasions, or furnish forth the best troops the Union knows, for any great National or State emergency.

The expenses of the expedition will be found to be very moderate, and, compared with similar expeditions called out upon this coast, extremely low. Every article of supplies purchased, however, was bought with the understanding that the bills would be paid by the State, and the debt assumed by the present Legislature. The expenses amount as follows, viz. :

For Commissary and Subsistence Stores.....	\$10,557 31
For Quartermaster's Stores.....	2,263 98
For Ordnance Stores.....	695 55
For Medical Stores.....	1,223 43
For Transportation.....	7,429 55
For Hospital Stores.....	130 37
For Artificing.....	767 67
For Clothing and Articles stopped from Men.....	*9,072 07
For Miscellaneous.....	267 00
Total cost of Supplies.....	\$32,406 93

* If an appropriation for pay and allowances to the men is made, in strict conformity to law, there will be a deficit of amount of excess of clothing charged, above the amount of such pay and allowances, which should be supplied by an increase of appropriation.

Being the expenses for subsisting ninety-two men five and a half months, and supplying them with the various stores charged for that length of time, besides subsisting one hundred Indian prisoners for at least three months. The amount for clothing is stopped against the men, and deducted from their pay and allowances. The subsistence of the command cost less than forty cents per day. In Quartermaster's stores are included everything required by the expedition, such as cooking-utensils, tents, and other camp-equipage. The cooking-utensils purchased were mostly expended in the service; those remaining, which are serviceable, together with the camp-equipage generally, have been retained for future use. As no inventory of the Quartermaster's stores unexpended has as yet been received from the Captain of Company, no correct estimate of their value can at present be given. A large proportion of the medical supplies purchased, together with all the medical instruments, are still on hand. The aggregate amount of pay and allowances, allowed by law for the entire command, is nine thousand five hundred dollars. Cost of clothing purchased and used by the command, which is stopped against the pay and allowance of the men, is nine thousand and seventy-two dollars and seven cents, which amount, deducted from the cost of supplies and pay of the command, will leave the sum of thirty-two thousand eight hundred and thirty-four dollars and eighty-six cents, (\$32,834 86,) as the total amount of indebtedness incurred by the expedition, to be assumed by the State.

The additional amount of fifteen hundred dollars should be appropriated for the care and subsistence of the wounded men (numbering three,) now in charge of Dr. W. G. Hatch, Surgeon of the command, at Uniontown, Humboldt Bay.

In accordance with the agreement made by Col. Henly, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, "to ship all the Indian prisoners taken by the expedition, to a distant reservation," I shipped the first lot of prisoners taken, on the bark Fanny Major, on the twenty-third day of January, and drew on Col. Henly for the amount of charter-money, which draft was duly accepted by him.

The prisoners subsequently captured—one hundred and sixty-one in number—were shipped with the same party, on the sixteenth day of March, ultimo, and a draft drawn by me on Col. Henly for fifteen hundred and thirty dollars, the acceptance of which draft has been refused. This amount is justly due, and should be paid.

I beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the fact, as will be seen above, that the bills of clothing issued to, and stopped against the men, amounted to as much as their entire pay and allowances, as allowed by law, and will here state, that the clothing purchased was needed by the men, and actually worn out in the service. I would, therefore, most earnestly recommend, as an act of justice, that an appropriation for an increased amount of pay should be made for those engaged in the campaign.

It gives me pleasure to state, that Dr. Hatch, Surgeon to the expedition, has, while attending to the wounded and sick of the command, evinced a laudable interest in their welfare, and that his practice has been successful. The command has been fortunate in regard to the casualties that have occurred, having suffered no loss of life either from wounds or sickness, and out of the number of wounded, (seven,) there are only three now under treatment, who are rapidly recovering, under the care of Dr. Hatch.