

upon the Indians were openly, and in one or two instances, successfully resisted.

Early in the year 1859, a memorial, signed by a number of the white inhabitants of Round Valley and the surrounding country, praying for protection against the Indians, was addressed to Governor Weller, and referred by him to the commanding general of the department; who, in turn, referred it to Major Johnson, commanding at Fort Weller. Major Johnson returned it under date of May 1, 1859, with an emphatic report denying the assertions of the memorial.

“The Yukas have not been,” says the report, “for the last two years, nor are they now, at open war with the whites; but the whites have waged a relentless war of extermination against the Yukas, making no distinction between the innocent and the guilty. They have ruthlessly massacred men, women, and children. That the Indians in a few instances have retaliated by killing some stock is true; but so far from killing ‘twenty whites at least,’ as falsely represented, they have never, since the first settlement of the country, killed but two.” The report here states the circumstances of their death, as given above, and goes on: “These were killed some two years ago, and not a man has been killed since. It is difficult to say how many Indians were killed by the whites within the time specified, but it is asserted and believed that some six hundred have been killed within the last year. The statement that the Indians have, within two years, killed forty thousand dollars worth of stock in Round Valley is believed to be a gross exaggeration. One of the largest stock owners in the valley has within the last few days denied the statement, and says that he does not believe the Indians have ever killed a tenth part of the amount stated. Several other citizens of Round Valley have denied the statement and scouted it as ridiculous.

The Indians have destroyed some of H—’s stock in Eden Valley. All the stock that is lost is charged to the Indians. His stock is not herded. The Indians have killed some, it is true, and the manner of killing has indicated plainly that it was done in retaliation for the gross outrages practiced on them. . . . Some of the stock which the Indians were accused of having killed, has since been found. Persons traveling through the Indian country are not attacked ‘at sight.’ I have repeatedly sent single expressmen through the country who have encamped in the Indian country without molestation. Men go alone almost daily over and through the country, looking for stock and hunting, and I have not yet heard of one having been attacked. No man travels through this country without arms of some sort, but whether armed or unarmed, it is false that any men have been attacked by these Indians. As to the statement that the citizens, having exhausted all means of defense against the depredations of the Indians, entertained the idea of abandoning the country unless speedily assisted by the State authorities, it is regarded by all as simply ridiculous. The object of the statement is palpable. The memorialists wish a company of volunteers called into the service for the purpose of exterminating the Indians. This work has been going on since the first settlement of the country, but not fast enough to suit the views of certain unscrupulous speculators and stock-owners, who would gladly see the last Indian sacrificed to their insatiable avarice and cupidity. The inhabitants are fully able to protect themselves without the aid of volunteers. The Indians, and not the whites, need protection. If the Indians were let alone, we should not hear so much of Indian depredations. If they were allowed, in common with the brutes, to eat the acorns, roots, and clover of the valley, instead of being killed and driven to the fast-