

nected force under one general direction. If this had been the case it would have required three times six companies of Volunteers to crush their hostile spirit. No estimate that is not simply a generalization from knowledge and experience can now be made of the number and tribal relations of the Indians engaged in the last determined struggle between the races in Northwestern California. The list of peaceful tribes should exclude all the mountain rancherias. The number of hostiles was sufficient for a formidable resistance to any advance of the Volunteers.

Capt. Flynn, U. S. A., must have the credit of leading in the first actual engagement of the war, which occurred a few days before the Stone Lagoon massacre, in April, at a place called Big Bend, on the North fork of Eel River. A detachment of thirty-five U. S. soldiers under Capt. Flynn and Lieut. Winschell made an attack on a large rancheria, killing thirty warriors and taking forty prisoners. In the engagement a soldier named Timothy Lynch, who enlisted in Oregon, was shot through the heart with an arrow. The guide to the soldiers was Steven Fleming, who led Capt. Flynn to the rancheria and planned the successful attack. One rifle was captured, and a large number of bows, arrows and knives.

Another attack—this time by Indians—was made on the last day of April, the scene being Oak Camp, and the object of attack the capture of a pack train. Oak Camp, three miles from Minor's crossing of Redwood Creek, was a favorite spot for surprising a train, thick brush and large rocks forming convenient re-