

ests of the Government of the United States, I shall, there and then, issue such orders as in my judgment the case may require, subject only to the approval of the department commander, and these orders shall be obeyed, your instructions to the contrary notwithstanding."

It is only just to add, after mentioning this incident as an illustration of the difficulties in the way of Captain Douglas, that the gentleman so severely criticised in the foregoing communications, as the supervisor, was personally known to me as one of the most respectable inhabitants of Round Valley.

Captain Douglas was as prompt and severe in chastising refractory Indians, when the necessities of the case demanded it, as he was charitable to the deserving among them. On the 7th April, 1863, George Bowers, a settler of William's Valley, adjoining Round Valley, was murdered by Indians. As soon as the facts in the case were reported to Captain Douglas, he started in pursuit of the murderers with a detachment of fifteen enlisted men, together with several settlers of Round Valley. In order to conceal his movements from the Indians, he made a forced march into the mountains during the night. He came upon their trail at daylight, and following the retreating Indians, in the midst of a severe snow storm, came towards dark, upon an Indian brave and his squaw, who had fallen behind the main party, and whom he captured. The storm increasing instead of abating, he halted for the night under the shelter of a grove of large trees; and resuming the pursuit at daybreak next morning, came two hours afterwards upon a small camp of part of the Indians, who had been unable to keep up with the rest of the band. They refused to surrender and prepared to fight, were fired upon, and the entire party consisting of six braves, was killed at the first fire. Two old women, who were in hiding near by, were taken

prisoners, and afterwards handed to the reservation authorities. As the severity of the weather still continued, the party then returned to the camp. The real murderer, although he was abetted by those who were killed in the pursuit, was afterwards ascertained to have been Hope-no-clan, a Yuka Indian. He was arrested by the reservation employes and hanged at Camp Wright on the 7th December, 1864. He confessed the deed; and being asked the reasons, answered: "Bowers would kill me and I thought it was best to kill Bowers first, which I did by cutting his head in three pieces with an axe."

On the 19th July, 1863, S. S. Davis, a settler of the valley, reported to Captain Douglas that his barn had been set on fire by the chief of the Yukas, and the building consumed, with a storage of hay amounting in value to one thousand dollars. Mr. Davis, together with other settlers, further reported their belief that this was only the beginning of outrages of a more serious nature; and an investigation revealed the existence of a preconcerted and well-matured plot on the part of the Yuka tribe to kill the whites, burn their property, and then retreat to the mountain fastnesses and await events. The valley Indians were to be aided by the mountain bands of roving Indians, who were to take the initiative by slaughtering the herders and sheep ranchers scattered in the mountains in pursuit of their vocation, and then to unite with those in the valley, and at once begin the work of general slaughter.

The plot having been fully proved, Captain Douglas directed Lieutenant Coffman, to take four soldiers, and as many settlers as could be induced to accompany him, and to proceed at once into the mountains and warn the scattered whites of their danger, with instructions to gather in the valley, to organize the means of a general defense. On his arrival at the first sheep ranch, twenty miles from the valley, the Lieutenant was