

Whereas, the aforesaid delegates of the town and district of San Francisco hitherto have had no public opportunity of officially understanding the will or desire of their constituents, on certain important matters connected with the welfare of California; and,

Whereas, any inanity of thought and action, in reference to the due consideration of the extension of domestic slavery, and its application to the Territory of California, will only be productive of indecision in the present Government, and a consequent delay in affording us that fixed Territorial Government, that our circumstances require:—For how can the North be expected to extend to us the broad shield of its protection, without a previous manifestation on our part to receive it, or the South discontinue claiming this territory in her alliance of institutions till we have declined her overtures;

Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of Virginia has passed the following resolution: "Be it resolved unanimously by the General Assembly of Virginia, that the Government of the United States has no control, directly or indirectly, mediately or immediately over the Institution of Slavery, and that in taking any such control, it transcends the limits of its legitimate functions, by destroying the internal organization of the sovereignties who created it, and that under no circumstances will this body recognise as binding, any enactment of the Federal Government, which has for its object the prohibition slavery in any territory to be acquired by conquest or treaty;" and as this principle of the limitation of the Federal jurisdiction, avowed by Virginia, is maintained by most of the Southern States; therefore, we recommend as the best means to obviate any misunderstanding whether in the North or South, or in the Federal Congress itself, that the question be put to the people of California that their feelings may be known by their answer; and that all may act with a knowledge of their duties; and,

Whereas, there are numerous bodies of Indians in California, many of whom at the Missions or elsewhere, have become more or less acquainted with the customs of civilized life, and are willing for a moderate remuneration, to perform as free labor, all the services that could reasonably be expected to result from other institutions, and the more these natives of the soil are employed in connection with the settled inhabitants, in the same proportion are the bounds of civilization enlarged, and one cause that prevents the extension of permanent settlements obviated; and,

Whereas, the introduction of slavery would deprive the Indian inhabitants of the opportunities of civilization, and they retiring to the mountain fastnesses, and their numbers and stratagems increased by fugitive slaves, might be a source of continual annoyance to our frontier settlements; and,

Whereas, we believe that slavery in the abstract, is an evil that no circumstance can justify, that no authority can legalize, that no man ought to enforce, and that no lover of freedom will sustain; that it is alike prejudicial to morals, to the progress of education, and to the full developing of the mind of man, in all its varied contrarieties of excellence; that it impedes the prosperity of a state, retards the productiveness of a country, and weakens the conjoint efforts of a nation.

Therefore, be it resolved, by the people of the town and district of San Francisco, in general Convention assembled:

1st. That any institution that would interfere with the freedom of labor, by introducing compulsory services (criminals excepted,) is calculated to deprive the workman of that glory in his trade, that ambition to excel in handicraft occupations, that concentration of mind to mechanical and operative pursuits which is the necessary prerequisite to invention, and to the extending of the sciences, arts and trades.

2d. That the merchant is benefitted equally with the operative in the freedom of labor, because when man is conscious of the usefulness and dignity of his vocation, he brings all the appliances of mind to bear on the crude elements of nature, he forms and transforms, and produces a greater variety and number of marketable commodities, hence there is more for domestic trade and foreign commerce.

3d. That in taking steps to prohibit the introduction of slavery into California, no injury is done to the rights or privileges of any man, nor any disrespect intended to any portion of our National Confederation.

4th. That while it is the declared privilege of the people of California, and of no others, to say what shall be the peculiar character of her institutions, so long as those institutions are in accordance with the Constitution of the United States; yet we hail with delight, the acts of the Legislatures of the States Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Michigan, in instructing their Senators, and requesting their representatives in Congress to resist the introduction of Negro Slavery into any other State or Territory of the United States; and by this proceeding giving ad-

ditional strength and sanction if it were needed to our earnest desires to form institutions more congenial to the true principles of liberty, and the progress of republicanism.

5th. That the delegates who are to represent the district of San Francisco in the Convention that is to be held at San Jose, for the formation of a Provisional Constitution, are hereby desired, requested and instructed by all honorable means to oppose any act, measure, provision or ordinance that is calculated to further the introduction of domestic slavery into the Territory of California.

6th. That the Chairman, by the consent of the meeting, appoint four persons to prepare a suitable petition to the Congress of the United States, requesting that at the earliest possible opportunity, Congress will grant unto us the advantages of a settled Territorial Government, which our circumstances imperatively demand, and our people earnestly require; and also to request Congress to protect us against the introduction of slavery till we become a State, of which petition there shall be two copies, one to the Senate of the United States, and the other to the House of Representatives.

7th. That the Corresponding Committee of the San Francisco District be, and hereby are requested to send copies of these proceedings to the different districts in California.

8th. That the Chairman, by consent of the meeting, appoint three persons whose duty it shall be, to present to the delegates of the San Francisco District, a true copy of the aforesaid Preamble and Resolutions.

On motion of Mr. Hyde, the Preamble and Resolutions were ordered to be printed in the Alta California, of Thursday, the 22d inst.; and on motion of the same, a collection was made to compensate the proprietors for such printing.

The meeting voted an adjournment to Saturday evening, the 24th inst., at 7 o'clock.

JOSEPH L. FOLSOM, Pres't.

B. R. BUCKELEW, Sec'y.

Alta California

5-10-1849

I found the community at Culloma in a great state of excitement. Some three weeks since a party of Indians entered a camp of white men on the Middle Fork, a few miles below the Spanish Bar, whilst the men were at work, and after breaking the locks of their rifles, rushed upon, and cruelly murdered them. The names of the men were James Johnson, of Kentucky; Thompson, residence unknown; Benjamin Wood, Missouri; Robert Alexander, do.; Henry English, do.

There will be trouble with the Indians in the mountains this summer. After what has occurred, revenge will be sought by both parties, and many a solitary white man will be cruelly murdered by Indians, and many an Indian picked off by a mountaineer's rifle. Hereafter treaties cannot be made, and the two races can never live together harmoniously; and I doubt not but a war of extermination will soon be commenced.

5-12-1849

PLACER TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1849.

The Indian criminals.—It is with pleasure we give place to the following letter from a gentleman recently upon Bear creek, and it is gratifying to know that this instance of summary punishment has not failed in the desirable effect of preventing, in a great measure, crime, and preserving quiet throughout that section of country. The letter is dated Bear creek, May 10.

I have arrived here, and find a party about starting for Dry creek, made somewhat memorable in consequence of the murder of Hollingsworth by the Indians. Three of the murderers were taken some three weeks ago, and, after a trial, were hung. The ringleader, Jose, was among the *malefactors*, and confessed his being a party to the crime. He died game, having shown no faltering when the rope was adjusted round his neck.

These new diggings, 25 miles south-east, are said, by gentlemen of veracity, to be rich. I have seen beautiful specimens of the gold extracted from thence. It is large, and correspondingly heavy.

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Correct detail of the massacre of Indians on Cosumne river—statement of Wm Daylor—
The letter below was received at our office shortly after our own prepared account had been published. In many particulars it will be found to differ materially from the one referred to. We readily give it a place.

— On about the 20th ult. I left my rancho with a party of Indians in my employ for the mines. After making such arrangements as were necessary, I left them and returned.— About the 26th, a party of armed white men came to their camp, or where they were at work, and killed an Indian while working with a crow-bar, and on his knees; they then shot another through the arm, who tried to escape. After a run of a short distance he was shot through the thigh when trying to conceal himself, his brains were beat out with rocks and stones. Some white men who were about my camp, on hearing the alarm ran towards the spot and met the party coming back, who warned them not to go further, the Indians were fighting they said. They minded them not, but proceeded to where they found the bodies of the slain Indians, the remainder of the party having fled. The company of

whites now followed on the trail of the Indians, and about ten miles from my house overtook a party travelling to their home, and surrounded them without difficulty; in a few moments commenced separating the men from the women and children, when, apprehending danger, the men broke and attempted to escape. Three were allowed to get off, the rest, fourteen in number, were slaughtered on the spot. The same day, or next, about noon, the party of whites arrived and encamped about 150 yds from my house. Myself, wife and cousin were out to bury a member of the family, deceased, and previous to leaving the ground, I was informed that a party of armed men were at the house and about to kill the Indians there. I returned with my wife, and a few moments after, the four Indians left the grave and passed within thirty steps of the camp when they were fired upon, and one fell dead, another passed not ten steps from my door, wounded, the remaining two escaped. The captain of the company of white men came to my house shortly after and requested me to kill a beef for his men; I refused, and they soon after raised camp. The next morning, I was called by my wife to see two men who were riding rapidly to the south; in a few moments they wheeled and galloped hard back. Then I saw Indians running to take shelter in the brush; I sent for them and they came and told me that a party of white men had taken a small party of women and children prisoners. Where, or for what purpose, I am unable to say. I, with four Indian servants, buried 15 Indians, slain, and found the remains of one partly burned. Mr. Thos Rhodes with the assistance of two or three Indians, buried the bodies of the first two killed. The white men report having killed 27 before coming to the house. Twenty-two men, and thirty-four women and children are yet missing from the rancho. W. M. DAYLOR.