

## BY TELEGRAPH.

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## AMERICAN.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29.—The Lava Beds, 26. — A reconnaissance, composed of batteries K and A Fourth Artillery, and Company E 12th Infantry, left camp at 7.30 this a. m., proceeding in the direction known to lead to the Modocs' present stronghold, Capt. E. Thomas, 4th Artillery, being in command. A dozen or so of Warm Spring Indians were expected to co-operate on Capt. Thomas' left. The troops, having formed a line of skirmishers, advanced without molestation until they arrived at the foot of the bluff south of the lava beds, having meanwhile signalled the camp that no Indians could be found. On reaching the bluff the Modocs opened a severe fire, causing the troops to seek such shelter as they could find in the crevices and chasms. As usual the foe was unseen. The first position becoming untenable owing to the fact that the Indians had obtained both cross and flanking fire, it was deemed expedient to retire to better cover. In the first fire and that received during the retreat many fell, killed and wounded, a list of which is appended. So severe was the fire and so exposed the position that up to the present writing, 7 p. m., only two of the wounded could go to camp. As nine of the wounded, including Lt. Wright, of the 12th infantry, had sought shelter in a crevice, which was particularly open to the Modoc fire, grave doubt exists of their ultimate safety.

So soon as information was received at headquarters relative to the peril, parties of troops in aid were at once pushed forward to their rescue, four companies being ordered out, two of Cavalry from this camp, and two from Col. Mason's. Stretchers for the conveyance of the wounded were forwarded. These latter are returning just now, without having achieved the object for which they were intended. Poor fellows! There is a bitter cold night at least before them. It is barely possible, the character of the enemy considered, that some of them no longer heed cold or heat. Their comrades, who from some cause are coming in camp, show plainly by their demeanor the heartfelt sorrow they feel for them, but they are powerless in the matter.

5:30 a. m., 27.—A dispatch, received from Col. Green, First Cavalry, who went out with reinforcements yesterday, goes to show that the surprise must have been much more complete and more terribly fatal than was at first supposed. The dispatch states that Captain Thomas and Lt. A. K. Howe, 4th artillery, are killed, Lt. Harris, 4th artillery, badly and perhaps mortally wounded, Lt. Cranston, 4th artillery, missing. A full list of the killed and wounded can not now be obtained, but it is known that privates Ward, of battery K, and Parker Collins, of battery A, are killed, privates Boyle of Co. E, 12th Infantry, and one other man of the same company. It is supposed that the Modocs burned the bodies of two.

5 p. m., 27.—From a second dispatch sent by Col. Moore, it appears that there are now collected and awaiting conveyance to camp 16 men killed, including Capt. Thomas and Lt. Howe, 4th artillery, and Lt. Wright, 12th infantry, and eight wounded including Lt. Harris, 4th artillery. These added to the number of wounded men above cited show a large percentage of casualties from the small number of men engaged, some 60 or 61, but it is readily accounted for when we consider that many of the Modocs are armed with Spencer carbines and breech-loading muskets. Nor is it in a single instance only where one Modoc has been known to have possession of two or more Spencer rifles, enabling him to keep up a rapid fire of shots from his natural or artificial breastwork of rock. The surface of the ground in many places is so torn up by volcanic action as to leave crevices, and these are adaptable either for purposes of hiding or as points of defense. In several instances the soldiers, knowing nothing of the topography, have come unawares on such fissures and therefore they could not escape from their position, as they were confronted with a wily Indian, rifle leveled, and

finger on trigger. Death, or at least a dangerous wound, was the result too often, while the cowardly redskins escaped by some one of the many paths known only to themselves. As a sample of their treachery and cunning, it may not be amiss to state that a portion of batteries A. and K., 4th artillery, and Co. E, 12th Infantry, finding themselves in danger of being out-flanked, took shelter in a hollow spot, affording partial cover for some twenty. No sooner had they done so than the Indians who knew and commanded every egress from the cavity, at that point, to the number of twenty-one warriors, detached seven of their number on one side and they, with the fourteen remaining on the other, opened a cross fire on the poor fellows, who could not show head or hand without certain death. Very few escaped uninjured, the rest being either killed or wounded.

It is next to impossible to ascertain the number of Modocs killed or wounded. Yesterday Capt. McKay reported that his Warm Spring Indians had taken four scalps. This may be the whole or only a portion of the killed, the Modocs being very careful to destroy, as far as possible, all traces of their casualties, burying the dead in caves or burning the dead bodies. Their wounded are supposed to be hidden in the caves. But few of them have been seen so far.

Justice to the memory of the gallant dead compels us to record the following well authenticated facts. When Capt. Thomas found himself and his men surrounded by the vindictive foe, true to his nature as a soldier he sought to cheer the soldiers on to the bitter end, to obtain if possible, life for life, and to sell their lives dearly, saying, "Men, we are surrounded, we must fight and die like men and soldiers." In his noble efforts to sustain the courage of his small command, he was ably seconded by Lt. Howe and Lt. Wright. After receiving his mortal wound, he buried his gold watch and chain among the rocks, and emptied his revolver amongst the enemy before dying.

Of the living we would write in terms of well-deserved praise. Lieut. Harris, who was similarly situated to Capt. Thomas, with a portion of his battery K, fourth artillery, set an example of bravery and determination to his men, uttering some such sentences as those already quoted. Not that it required such expressions to stimulate the men to deeds of bravery, when every man would willingly have followed either officer wherever he chose to lead, yet they show the mutual confidence existing between them. Since they were to fall it is a pity it had not been when opposed to a worthy foe, yet it is a mournful consolation that each—Captain Thomas, Lieutenant Howe, and Lieutenant Wright, the son of a soldier, met a soldier's death in defense of the government and laws of the country.

Of the men killed or wounded, it is perhaps sufficient to say they showed their bravery with their blood, the former with their lives, the latter in total or partial disability.

8:30 p. m., 27.—The reinforcements sent out under Col. Green, together with the killed and wounded, are expected momentarily. A heavy rain is now falling, which may be beneficial to the poor wounded men, alleviating their suffering and giving relief to their fevered limbs. Their arrival is anxiously looked for by their more fortunate comrades. In the camp every preparation has been made for their proper reception. When the news of the massacre reached the camp, soldiers who had grown old and gray in the service wept like babies at the fates of their officers and comrades.

6 a. m., 28.—The troops with the killed and wounded are returning. In addition to the death list given add First Sergeant Robert S. Roemer, battery, and Private James Rose, battery K, 4th artillery, who died yesterday. Sergeant Black, battery A, came in wounded, not previously mentioned. In many instances it is difficult to recognize the dead, but for some article of dress known to have belonged to them. Indian barbarity has defaced the lineaments of these killed to an extent that few Indian peace policy people would readily believe.

In the present instance the Indian policy has effected indirectly

the death of Gen. Canby and an equally noble Christian, Dr. Thomas, yet this is only the beginning. The events of the 15th, 16th and 17th insts. were a continuation of the same policy, but it requires the massacre of the 26th to add the crowning feather of glory due the Indian bureau and its supporters.

A complete list of the killed and wounded now in camp are—

Killed, Cap. I. Van Thomas, 4th artillery, battery A; Lt. Albion Howe, 4th artillery, battery A; private Robert S. Roemer, 4th artillery, battery A; private Parker, 4th artillery, battery A; private John Lynch, 4th artillery, battery K; private Jas. Rose, 4th artillery, battery K; private Joseph W. Ward, 4th artillery, battery K; private Michael Wallace, 4th artillery, battery K; Lt. Thomas Wright, 12th infantry, Co. E; private Gried, 12th infantry, Co. E; citizen Lewis Webber, Siskiyou Co.; private Wm. Boyle, company E, 12th Infantry; private Howard, Co. E, 12th Infantry; private Newsburg, company E, 12th Infantry.

In addition to the foregoing eight men were buried on the field where their names could not be ascertained. Lt. Arthur Cranston and four men of battery A are still missing.

Wounded—Private Jos. Broderick, battery A, 4th artillery, left thigh; private Matthew Murphy, company E, 12th Infantry, ring finger; private Jas. McMillan, battery A, 4th artillery, palm of right hand; private John H. Gifford, battery K, 4th artillery, back of thigh; Corporal Jas. Noble, battery A, 4th artillery, neck; private Chas. Cuff, company E, 12th Infantry, hand; Serg. M. Kennedy, company E, 12th Infantry, right elbow and breast; private Jas. T. Butler, company E, 12th Infantry, both temples; private John Higgins, battery K, 4th artillery, through the hand and shoulder; private Francis Ralla, battery K, 4th artillery, left leg; private, George Handewall, company E, 12th Infantry, right hip; private Wm. McCay, battery K, 4th artillery, right buttock and right hand; private J. B. McLaughlin, battery K, 4th artillery, both feet and right shoulder; Serg. Aug. Breck, battery, 4th artillery, right arm and mouth; 1st sergeant Clayton, company E, left leg; private W. Brennan, company E, 12th Infantry, both arms fractured; Lieutenant G. M. Harris, 4th artillery, back; surgeon B. Seming, U. S. A., right leg.

NEW YORK, 29.—County Commissioner Duncan has succeeded in exciting the opposition of the Sailor Boarding Houses to an extent almost to paralyze the commerce of the port. Vessels with valuable cargoes on board have been detained more than a week and no prospect of getting crews. The commissioner has telegraphed to the commissioner in Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore to send along seamen by railroad, but the boarding house keepers there decline to furnish men, hence none come.

It is thought from all the facts related in connection with the Richmond switch disaster, that there were some half dozen people lost whose bodies are not represented even by a single fragment recovered. Either the intense fire consumed them, or they are in the water near the scene of the disaster.

Frederick Hessick of 343 Third st., quarrelled with his wife yesterday. She called on a workman, Peter Ritter, to take him away. In the struggle that followed, Hessick was stabbed fatally. Ritter was arrested.

WASHINGTON.—Captain Thomas, killed by the Modocs, was the son of Lorenzo Thomas, formerly adjutant general of the army. Lieut. Howe was the son of Maj. Marshall Howe, son-in-law of Gen. Barry, commandant of Fortress Monroe. Lieut. Wright was the son of the late General George, and nephew of the late General Sumner.

NEW YORK, 29.—The Indian commissioners, in their discussion last night, thought their most important field was among the Sioux Indians, who number about 35,000, many of whom may be disposed to give trouble if a satisfactory arrangement is not made with them in regard to the Northern Pacific Railroad. Spotted Tail's band is restless because of the recent murder of some chiefs. A rising is feared in the Black River and Powder Hill country, should a new expedition seek to open that country. The commissioners will have a council with the Nez Percés in the summer, and they do not expect trouble with the Klamaths, Snakes,

or other Indians in the Modoc country.

A New Orleans dispatch says a detachment of the Metropolitan Brigade, sent to Livingstone parish, met a strong crowd and resistance along the line. The *Courier* states that fighting commenced on Sunday morning, and he heard the booming of cannon during the day. The force of armed citizens in the field is said to be 400.

The body recently found in the river at the foot of Seventh street, Brooklyn, has been ascertained to be that of Theodore Schreiner, the organist of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, Williamsburg. It is not known what led to his death. He has been missing since Feb. 15.

A dispatch from Constantinople says the Sultan of Acheen has sent an official note to the Sultan of Turkey, requesting him to act as arbitrator in settling the dispute with the Dutch government.

The aggregate of supplies offered the Indian commissioners, to-day, amounted to fifty millions. The prices were very low and competition greater than ever was known. The price of the beef delivered at agencies, amounting to thirty million pounds, ranged from \$1.96 to \$6.50 per hundred pounds. Flour, \$1.85 per hundred pounds to \$6.50; wheat, 90 cents per bushel to \$1.35; bacon, 10c. per pound to 18c; coffee, 20c. to 29c.; sugar, 7c. to 18c.; tobacco, 39c. to 60c; soap, 4c. to 14c.; saleratus, 6c. to 18c.; salt, 1c. to 8c. A large crowd was in attendance representing almost every western State and Territory. The opening of the bids occupied three hours and a half, and it will take two or three days to make the awards.

ALBANY, N. Y.—Various ship owners presented a remonstrance to-day, against the passage of the bill increasing the head money on immigrants, alleging that the advantages to the State by immigration would justify the State in taking charge itself of sick and pauper immigrants.

BROWNSVILLE.—Belknap, Sheridan and party left to-day, by steamer, for New Orleans, via Galveston; they are expected to reach New Orleans on Wednesday. The visit of these officers to this section has created the best feelings among the people, who regarded it as an evidence that the government took an interest in frontier affairs.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29.—A street fight occurred last night between Gleason, contractor for the Alms house, and supervisor Tim McCarthy. Several severe blows were exchanged, when friends separated the combatants. McCarthy was most injured.

The grand jury has ignored the charge of perjury against Gleason.

The news from the lava bed this a. m. caused the most intense excitement, and it is the topic of universal conversation.

There seems to be no doubt that Tyler Curtis, after marrying Miss Annie McKenzie, has left the State, victimizing his creditors severely. Miss McKenzie was seen to go on board the steamer *Great Republic* on Saturday, and it is thought that Curtis was concealed on board. There are some, however, who say they saw them here on Saturday night.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29.—The friends of Tyler Curtis assert their belief that he will return to the State and settle with all his creditors. Bryant & Caseanne say that he declared his intended departure to them several days before he left.

Business is much depressed there being scarcely a movement from first hands. It is very difficult to obtain drayage. The number of ox and mule teams is increasing. There is little abatement of the epizootic.

Captain Thomas, killed by the Modocs, leaves a wife and two children in the Presidio. Lt. Wright leaves a wife and child at the camp in Gaston. Lt. Howe, recently married the daughter of Maj. Gen. W. S. Berry, Col. of the 1st artillery. Lt. Cranston leaves a wife and child in Washington.

In the Bogart court martial to-day, Bogart said his counsel had not arrived, and he deemed it unsafe to proceed without him, and he asked an adjournment till tomorrow, which was granted.

OTTAWA, 29.—The Grand Trunk Railroad Arrangement Act has passed both houses of the Dominion Parliament.

SAN FRANCISCO, 30.—A dispatch from Portland denies the truth of former reports that the Indians of the eastern and southern part of Washington Territory are threaten-

ing war. It says that all are peaceable and on the reservation. Pow wows were mistaken by new comers for warlike preparations.

The epizootic is decreasing. A Telegram returned from Europe last eve, having perfected arrangements for establishing the Anglo-California bank. The steamer *Whipple* took a large number of people to Benicia, to-day, to witness the opening of the Central Narrow Gauge railroad.

The news of the decision in favor of the Hermes Mining Co. causes intense excitement among the street brokers. Raymond & Ely fell a once \$24 from last sales yesterday, and heavy losses in Raymond and Ely are expected as purchases have been made in expectation that the company would win the suit. One operator said he had lost \$10,000 where he expected to gain twice that amount. The result of the operations at the stock board is looked for with great interest.

WASHINGTON, 30.—A telegram has been received from the special commission at Vienna, appointed by the President to examine into alleged irregularities of the original commission, to the effect that some of the suspended commissioners appear to be implicated on charges of improperly receiving money. It leaves the following persons free from the charge of any irregularity: Doctor Anthony Ruppouer, Thomas McElrath, Lewis Seasongood, S. J. Batton, G. L. Bodgett, H. G. Garrettson, Edward Gathel, Clayton McMichael, Isaac Cook, A. G. James and Wm. F. Rounds. They recommend that no part of the suspended commissioners be restored at present. It is understood that the result of the examination and the ground on which its recommendation was founded are to be immediately forwarded.

The third assistant P. M. General decides that postal cards that have been once properly transmitted through the mail, and the stamp thereon cancelled, after their being returned to the sender in a sealed envelope with a remittance may be retransmitted to the person originally addressed, with the word paid stamped or endorsed thereupon, by placing upon the card a one cent adhesion stamp.

The Postmaster General decides that no discount can be allowed to purchasers or agents who desire to keep postal cards on hand for sale to the public.

On account of the irregularities in the U. S. depository at Mobile, Secretary Richardson has decided to close that office.

KINGSTON, N. Y., 30.—The wife of Louis Pridecker, while temporarily insane, last night, from an attack of puerperal fever, arose from her bed, and taking with her an infant nine days old, leapt into a cistern under the rear of the house, and both were drowned. Her husband arose at four, and missing his wife, made a search with the result stated.

NEW YORK, 1.—A Vienna special states that the Prince of Wales and a distinguished company yesterday visited the Exposition building.

Seven thousand drays, laden with articles for the Exposition, are between the frontiers and Vienna and only twenty a day can be unloaded. It will be the end of June before the show is in full progress.

The Indian Commissioners in session here discredit the Toronto story of Americans being in the Blackfoot country, as they had a dispatch yesterday from the military station nearest the Blackfoot country, and no mention was made of disturbances.

A Washington special says the official dispatches received at the War Department to-day, give a full confirmation of the press reports regarding the latest and most terrible features of the campaign against the Modocs. As soon as they were received Secretary Robeson called upon General Sherman, and a prolonged conversation ensued. Gen. Sherman had previously expressed the hope that the press reports were exaggerated, he did not believe that our forces had been surprised, and was inclined to denounce the story as told in the morning papers, as sensational and untrue. The result of the consultation was a decision to concentrate all the available forces on the Pacific slope for the support of General Davis. This decision, however, is virtually a repetition of the results of a previous consultation. In army circles the expressions of regret and chagrin at the disaster are akin to desperation. The officers whose lives were sacrificed were well known and highly respected throughout the Army.