

YUMA INDIAN DEPREDATIONS AND THE GLANTON WAR.

(By J. M. Guinn.)

The following depositions taken before First Alcalde Don Abel Stearns of Los Angeles in 1850 give the most correct account in existence of the Indian depredations on the Colorado which gave rise to the first Indian war in which the Americans were engaged after the conquest of California.

These depositions have never before been published, nor is there a correct account of the massacre of Dr. Lincoln's party given in any history of California.

Dr. A. L. Lincoln, an educated man, a native of Illinois, and a relative of President Lincoln, came from Mexico to California in 1849. After visiting the mines he returned to the Colorado river, and about the first of January, 1850, established a ferry at the junction of the Colorado and Gila. The Sonoranian migration to the gold mines of California was then at its height and the ferry business was immensely profitable. Glanton's party, mainly Texans and Missourians, came by way of Chihuahua and arrived at the Colorado February 12, 1850. Dr. Lincoln, being short of hands, employed nine of them to assist him, and the six men then in his employ remaining made a party of fifteen. Glanton, from all accounts, seems to have been somewhat of a desperado, and Lincoln would have been glad to have gotten rid of him; but he constituted himself chief manager of the ferry. His overbearing conduct and ill treatment of the Indians no doubt brought about the massacre of the eleven ferry men. The Americans and Sonorians had not suffered from Indians previous to Glanton's arrival. The account of the origin of the hostility of the Indians to the Americans, as given by Hill in his deposition is doubtless the true one. The Yumas continued to commit atrocities on American immigrants by the Gila route for several years. They were finally subjugated by Col. Heintzelman and forced to sue for peace.

When the report of the massacre of the ferrymen reached the state capital, Governor Burnett ordered the sheriff of Los Angeles county to enroll forty men and the sheriff of San Diego twenty. These were to be placed under the command of Major

General Bean of the State Militia, a resident of Los Angeles. Bean ordered his quartermaster, General Joseph C. Morehead, to provide supplies for the expedition. Morehead did so, buying liberally at extravagant prices and paying in drafts on the state treasury.

Gen. Morehead, with a force of forty men and supplies for a hundred, marched against the Indians. By the time he reached the Colorado his force had been increased to 125 men—recruited principally from incoming immigrants. On the approach of the troops the Indians fled up the river. Morehead and his Indian fighters encamped at the ferry crossing and vigorously attacked their rations. After a three months' campaign against their rations, liquid and solid, Governor Burnett, who in the meantime seems to have lost sight of the fact that he had an army in the field, issued a peremptory order to Major Gen. Bean to disband his troops. Bean ordered Morehead to return, but that valiant soldier claimed he was affording protection to the immigrants by the Gila route, and asked for an extension of time. But the orders from the Governor were imperative, and the force was disbanded.

Thus ended the "Gila Expedition," or, as it was sometimes called, the "Glanton War." It was short and inglorious, but fearfully expensive. It cost the infant commonwealth \$120,000 and was the first item of the Indian war debt that two years later amounted to nearly a million dollars and came near bankrupting the state. So far as known no Indians were killed. Neither Bean nor Morehead made an official report of the expedition.

William Carr, whose deposition is given, like Achilles, was shot in the heel with an arrow, but, unlike that doughty chieftain, he survived the wound. Carr, after his escape from the Indians, although wounded, went to San Diego to secure some mules left there by Glanton. He came from there to Los Angeles, when he fell into the hands of good Samaritans, who dressed his wounds and cared for him. The doctor who dressed his wound charged \$500. The man who boarded him put in a bill of \$120. The patriot who housed him wanted \$45; and the paisano who nursed him figured his services at \$30. The Los Angeles Court of Sessions allowed the bills and charged them up to the state. With such charges for one wounded man it was fortunate for the state that Morehead's Gila Expedition was a bloodless affair.