

MODOC WAR INCIDENT.

(continued from first page)

April 11, 1873, and a beautiful morning. As our men approached the place of the Indians, five or six in number came out from the rocks on the other side. They all wore blankets and it was under these that their guns were concealed. When the two sides met, all shook hands in friendly greeting and entered the tent. They were only there a few minutes when we saw a man rush out of the tent, and then another and another. Then we saw puffs of smoke, and we knew what was on. Without waiting for the command every soldier sprang to his feet, rushed down the hill and grabbed his gun. We lined up instantly and went to the rescue on the run. On the way we met Riddle and his wife, Wi-ne-mah, running for their lives, in fact that the Indians had taken several shots at them.

A GHASTLY SIGHT.

"Upon reaching the place a ghastly sight was presented. In a short time the Modocs had stripped two of their victims, General Canby and Dr. Thomas of everything they wore, and Meacham, who was left for dead, only had on a pair of red flannel drawers. His scalp had also been partially torn from his head. The soldiers were wild for revenge and would have charged right into the lava beds, but cooler headed officials prevented it—and it was well that they did, for none of us would have gotten out alive. The bodies of the dead were conveyed back to camp, and Meacham was restored after a long time.

PREPARED FOR NIGHT CHARGE.

"The command had a signal station above camp and General Wheaton was at once signalled from this point to march that night at exactly midnight and meet our command in front of the Indian stronghold, from which point it was intended to attack the Indians and kill or drive them into the lake.

"We marched promptly on the hour. We had to go in single file in order to get through the rocks and boulders. We were fully four hours in making the trip, and had just about consummated it when a soldier fell over a boulder and accidentally discharged his gun. This gave the alarm to the Modocs. They had already been on the lookout, but so far had not discovered us.

SOUNDED LIKE DEMONS.

"When the gun was discharged an Indian scout hidden in the rocks below us gave a yell that I shall never forget! It was the characteristic shout of warning of that tribe. The echoes of the signal had not died away when another one took it up, and another, until the whole promontory rang out like the din of a thousand coyotes. A desultory firing began and daylight soon dawned. Then the three days' battle of the lava beds began. Step by step we advanced, joined by General Wheaton's command on the other side of the line, and we concluded that the work was about finished. We expected them to surrender at any time, when, to our surprise, they began firing upon us from the rear. In some manner they had slipped through our lines, and broken up into squads, and hidden among the lava rocks like snakes, pouring a deadly fire into everything that approached them.

"The story of the finish is well remembered. No one who has never been in those lava beds has any conception of the country. To give an idea of the location, a handful of Modocs killed 47 out of 60 men who dared to enter the place, and the Modocs did not receive a scratch. But those who have read the history of those times are familiar with the results.

"The Modocs were the most intelligent Indians in the Pacific country, and therefore, when aroused, were

the most dangerous. They were feared by all of the other Indians. We had a lot of Warm Spring Indians join our command, and they were always vamping for Modoc gore until we found the Modocs. Then they stayed close to the soldiers. When there was a Modoc Indian in the neighborhood, the Warm Springs Indian seemed to lose all the nerve he had. I remember, one day, we cut two Modocs off in an opening from their main band, and ran them down and killed them. There were about 30 Warm Springs Indians with us, and you ought to have seen them that night! They placed the scalps of the Modocs on a pole, inaugurated a first class war dance and kept it up all night. They had never gotten close enough to even get a shot at the Modocs either."

OLD EGAN

"There were many errors published about the Indians and history of those times," continued Mr. Fitzgerald. "The story that old Egan was 'one-eyed' is all bosh. I saw Egan every day or so for months, and he not only possessed two keen eyes that saw everything that transpired about him, but he was one of the handsomest Indians I ever saw. When we were stationed at old Fort Harney, Egan was at peace with the government and visited us frequently from the Malheur reservation. He was as proud as Lucifer, also. He was a great poker player and on one visit got into a game with the boys and lost all he had. He told them that he did not care for the loss but he plead with them not to tell of the loss. They promised, but it soon leaked out through the country, and it nearly broke Egan's heart.

"But this only brings up a hundred tales of those olden times," said Mr. Fitzgerald, as he was called aside by a friend.

Lakeview Isolated.

(Prineville Review.)

The government has withdrawn from settlement a large amount of land in Lake county which is proposed to be placed in a reserve. We do not know how the people of Lake county look at this proposed reserve, but it appears to us in looking at the map that the government has overdone herself a little in this latest proposition. Lake county was bound to become one of the wealthiest counties in the state, but the withdrawal of the vast amount of lands will greatly cripple it.

Lakeview, the county seat of Lake county, which is one of the most prosperous towns in Oregon, is entirely surrounded by the reserve and they are left in an isolated position with no prospects of having their surrounding country settled up if this reserve stands as it is, and their city will in the future stand completely isolated.

A reserve may be needed in that section, but if it is, it would appear to us that it either should be greatly modified from the now proposed lines or else the government should take in the rest of the country. It should not be left in a half-way condition as it now is.

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