

Contrasting Thoughts about Indians in California

“It has been the policy of the Government to drive them to the West; but the white man is now in the West... The fate of the Indian is irrevocably sealed. He must soon be crushed by the encroaching tide of immigration. The hand of destiny has marked him, and soon he must fade away. The reflection to every humane heart is a melancholy one, but it is unavoidable. In the providence of God they must soon disappear before the onward march of our countrymen. Humanity may forbid, but the interest of the white man demands their extinction.”

...California Senator John B. Weller, 1852

“The settler selects the site of an Indian village - he soon wants the land with they occupy - he cuts down the oak, which for years has produced in part his daily bread...he dams the streams and cuts off his periodical supply of fish. The Indian looks on the white man as the aggressor, and stimulated by passion; goaded on by suffering and hunger; he retaliates. War with all its horrors succeeds, and the few who escape death, are removed a few miles into the interior, there to reproduce themselves to suffer in succeeding years a repetition of the same wrongs.

The policy to which, to me, appears more worthy...[is] that sufficient portions of the land, in different parts of the State, should be appropriated for the cultivation and residence of all such Indians as might need a home; here they would be ennobled, and escape that certain destruction which awaits them on every other side...Will it be said that the land is not broad enough for them and us? or that while our doors are open to the stranger from the uttermost parts of the earth, we have not spare room for the residence of the once sole inhabitants of our magnificent empire...Has the love of gold blotted from our minds all feelings of compassion and justice?”

...California Senator J.J. Warner, 1852