

THE LAST OF THE YUKIAHS.
BY ENOS BROWN.

At the time of the Spanish conquest of California the Indian population in the territory was known to have been very large. In Northern California alone it is estimated that over fifty thousand aborigines roamed in undisturbed security all over this fertile land. With the advent of the conquerors the Indians began to decline in numbers, owing to the cruel treatment of the Spaniards and the introduction of hitherto unknown diseases which were very fatal to them, so that when the State came into possession of the Americans, not one-half as many Indians remained in the country as existed a century before.

The destruction of the tribes progressed more rapidly even under American domination than under the Spaniards. The fatal vice of drink became more general among them and they succumbed to the new civilization. When the settlers of the country discovered how well the northern half of the State was adapted for stock raising, they appropriated the lands of the helpless Indians, and drove them back into regions less fertile. The Indians resented this hardship by killing the white man's cattle, and then vengeance, cruel, swift and strong, was visited upon the inferior race, and a war of extermination was waged. Thousands of Indians were cruelly massacred, and the war ended when there were no more to kill.

Sonoma County, one of the most fertile in the State, the present home of a most prosperous and thrifty people, carefully suppresses in its annals all mention of the early treatment of the Indians by its pioneer founders. Its groves were shambles where the Indians were tortured by fire and exterminated by the sword.

Certainly, no more worthless types of humanity ever existed than the California savages. They were only a step in advance of the Australian in intelligence and were not the equal of that lowest type of humanity in the ingenuity of their devices for trapping game. The original California Indian was an abject and bestial object. Neither male nor female was clothed, except in extreme weather, when their nakedness was protected in some degree by hides and skins. They ate the most repulsive reptiles, snakes, lizards and worms. Roasted grasshoppers were a delicacy only matched by a feast of tainted fish. They derived their name of "diggers" from the custom of digging into the ground for roots or game. Their sole object in living was to exist with as little trouble to themselves as possible, and they were so lazy that the laziest white who ever breathed was a monument of industry in comparison.

There still lives the remnant of this once numerous tribe at Hopland, Sonoma County, California. Only two or three hundred are left. There has been secured

to them a tract of worthless land upon which they have settled, and where they make a feeble pretense of raising vegetables and fruit. They own a little stock and are called civilized.

The church, out of its large charity, has sent them a missionary who has taught them agriculture, and has labored unceasingly to improve their condition and morals. They have a school where the youth are taught the rudiments of education and instruction given them in the common utilitarian arts. The women make good seamstresses and fair cooks, and both sexes,

plies them, but an Indian will barter everything he has for a bottle of whisky, and generally finds some unscrupulous dealer to supply him.

To this cause, and to diseases incident to civilization, the decimation of this remnant of the old Gallioneros or Yukiah Indians may be ascribed. Every year shows their number decreased, and a generation hence will find the last of the tribe awaiting his final call.

The World's Biggest Pump.

In a letter from Houghton, Michigan, to the Chicago

Record, the writer describes the Calumet and Hecla pump named the Michigan, which is a truly marvelous piece of mechanism. It can deliver 2,500,000 gallons of water every hour in the twenty-four without being crowded to its limit of capacity, and it will do the work with scarcely as much noise as is made by the operation of an old style sewing machine. Outside the doors of the great building which houses it no sound is heard from within, and, standing beside the monster, upon the brink of the pit connected with the lake from which the water is taken, almost the only sound heard is the noise of the suction, as with every stroke more than a thousand gallons are lifted.

Briefly, it is a triple expansion pumping engine with a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons, standing nearly fifty feet in height and requiring 1,500 horse power for its operation. It has been proved by actual tests that the nominal capacity can be easily maintained for an indefinite time without injury or strain, and that pushed to its full capacity the pump could handle approximately 75,000,000 gallons in twenty-four consecutive hours.

The duty of the pump is to furnish water for the great stamp mills of the Calumet and Hecla Company, which has twenty-two steam pumps in continuous operation, daily pulverizing 5,000 tons of conglomerate rock into sand so fine that it can be carried away by a stream of swiftly running water. The pump is housed in a special building near the shore of Torch Lake and below the

mills, and it forces a steady stream of water to the upper portions of the mill, where innumerable small jets play upon the great slime tables and jigs. Here the specific gravity of the fine particles of copper contained in the rock separate the mineral from worthless sand, and the size and force of the streams of water are so nicely regulated as to wash away the sand and yet carry with it the minimum of copper.

A BRONZE bust of Maria Mitchell has been unveiled in the Observatory at Vassar College. It was cast by the Gorham Manufacturing Company, from a plaster bust made in 1877.



THE YUKIAH INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA.



TYPICAL HUT OF THE ABORIGINES OF CALIFORNIA.

when in the chapel, are exceedingly devout. Some of the more ambitious have frame houses, but many prefer homes after the picturesque style of their forefathers, formed of saplings curved at the top and covered with straw.

These people have some virtues: hospitality, for instance. The women make baskets which are sometimes artistic, being ornamented with different colored straw, woven in angular figures and with feathers from gayly colored birds. The federal government, whose wards these Indians are, is doing all in its power to protect them from their most dangerous enemy, rum, but with indifferent success. Heavy penalties are laid upon the trader who sup-

plies them, but an Indian will barter everything he has for a bottle of whisky, and generally finds some unscrupulous dealer to supply him.

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