

his neighbours on the coast, he will then see open before him that *great Oriental trade* which has contributed so much to the proud commercial supremacy of Britain.'

The news from California (besides the usual catalogue of destructive fires) shows that the country is still in a most disorderly state. The executive is too weak for the lawless bands with which it has to deal; and the increase of crime is attributed partly to the influx of escaped convicts from our Australian colonies. That the people are horror-struck by the frequency of robberies and assassinations is evidenced by the fact that Lynch-law has been established in several districts. Among the victims of this summary jurisprudence the case of an Englishman has excited a newspaper controversy—it being alleged by some (probably private friends, however) that he would not have been so treated but for the prejudice against him as a native of the Old Country. The mines continue very productive; but the operations are impeded by the Indian tribes, who have of late taken every opportunity to massacre detached parties. Several bodies of the State troops and of volunteers had moved upon the scene of these violences. Conferences had been opened with the Indians; but attacks were still occurring, and we expect that the next mails will bring bloody tidings from the foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada. If the Californian volunteers once get into warfare, the Indians will meet with no mercy; there will be *vazzias* as complete as any made by the 'moving columns' of Bugeaud or Changarnier. The hunters of the Far West, and indeed the whole frontier-men of the States, care as little for the life of a Redskin as for that of a buffalo. And to all appearance the time is not far distant when the aborigines of America will have vanished, like a heaven-doomed race, from the face of the earth. What a theme for reflection is this annihilation of races!—an annihilation to which the archaeology of almost every land bears witness. Over the corpses of his predecessors the Anglo-Saxon is now striding forward; and the death-bell is ringing for the old denizens of the Australian and American worlds.

Not even excepting the wild, demoralising life of the gold-seeker, the greatest social evil at present afflicting the Californians is the scarcity of females. Those persons are wrong who see in the relation of the sexes in the United States only an imitation of French gallantry. It is the natural result of this scarcity. For two hundred years a tide of emigration, chiefly male, has been flowing from Europe to America; and in the three years 1847, 1848, 1849, an excess of no less than 142,000 men thus entered the States, bringing in as many extra competitors for the hands of the native-born women. As these emigrants spread themselves