

districts were particularly subject to Indian depredations, and diaries, newspapers and memoirs are filled with allusions to their outrages.

One of the early white citizens of San Antonio tells of the Indians' method of attack:

The Indians were always lurking around in small bodies hiding close to town, waiting for an opportunity to strike without danger to themselves. We were compelled to learn this through many murders and robberies. They would suddenly appear from the river bottom, from behind a clump of trees, from a gully, and sometimes from the tall grass. It seemed they were always on the watch everywhere, but only acted at the most favorable moments.⁴⁷

Sneaking about frontier towns in this fashion the Indians often disturbed the citizens,⁴⁸ and frequently delayed travelers in setting out on proposed trips until several going in the same direction could form a company large enough to awe the Red Man and prevent him from attacking.⁴⁹

The Indians frequently went on the warpath to obtain horses and food supplies. Moreover they were often urged on by the Mexicans who would not accept the Texas war for independence as final and who still had hopes of accomplishing something by harassing the people in this fashion.⁵⁰ But regardless of what prompted the uprisings, death usually resulted from them.

The private secretary of President Houston concluded an official letter from Austin on February 23, 1843, with a postscript containing this information:

47 Maverick, *Memoirs*, 44.

48 Bollaert, *Manuscript*, 9.

49 *Ibid.*, III, 11.

50 Kate Mason Rowland, General John Thomas Mason, *Quarterly* XI, 181