

THE TRANSCRIPT.

SACRAMENTO CITY:

Thursday Morning, April 25, 1850.

F. C. EWER AND C. KENYON FITCH, EDITORS.

TERMS:

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STEAMER PAPER.

THE SACRAMENTO TRANSCRIPT, FOR THE STEAMER PANAMA.—Will be published early on Friday morning, on a large sheet, prepared expressly for circulation in the United States.

It will contain a large amount of interesting mining intelligence, a list of vessels in port, with their tonnage and depth of water, together with other facts in relation to the commercial advantages of Sacramento City. Also, an account of the late fire in Sacramento City, and the danger of an overflow we have escaped, by the rapid construction of a levee.

A general statement of the present condition of California, with descriptions of a number of new towns lately commenced, together with items of general interest, will also appear in this issue.

The steamer paper can be had, done up for the mail, which leaves on Saturday, at the counter of the Transcript Office. Price, 50 cents per copy. The edition is limited, and persons to be sure of receiving papers, should leave their orders early.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN THE TOWNS ABOVE, AND IN THE MINES.—A large number will receive the Transcript of this morning, who have not before been subscribers. The arrangements made for its prompt delivery, are the best that the circumstances will admit of. There is not, at present, business to pay for running expresses to all the points where it is desirable to send papers. The rapidity with which new towns spring into existence, puts them all in advance of any provision for the establishment of Post Offices, and the transmission of regular mails. It has, consequently, been necessary to procure the services of several gentlemen, at the various central points, to act as agents in supplying a large class of the people of Northern California with the news. By the liberality of several of the accommodating captains of steamboats running between this port and the towns, we shall be able to send our paper to our agents, as regularly as it is published, who will dispatch them to the mines, by the best available means, and also supply all within their vicinity. We feel under lasting obligations to the commanders of several of the steamers of the Sacramento, and we are sure our readers will also, for the noble spirit they have shown, by voluntarily offering to deliver packages of the Transcript, at all the points at which they land. In no other part of the world could such liberality be looked for, and we are sure those benefitted by it, will not neglect any opportunity of bestowing their patronage where it is so well deserved.

Our agents in Culloma, Placerville, Auburn, and at other places on the North and Middle Fork, will receive their papers by the various expresses, until they can make such arrangements with teamsters daily leaving this city for these mines, as will furnish a more frequent communication.

The Levee.

SECOND ARTICLE.

In the last number of the "Transcript" we gave a general account of what had been done to protect our city from inundation during the present high stage of waters in the Sacramento and American Rivers, and endeavored to discharge our duty by doing justice to Mayor Bigelow for the services he has rendered the city. So much was to be said on these subjects that we were unable to make any remarks touching a permanent levee, which is, we understand, to be raised immediately around our city. On the first page of our last paper there appeared also an ably written report, showing the advantages of a levee, together with its entire feasibility. In the present article we shall close the subject by making a few remarks upon the contemplated levee.

Of course, it is a settled fact, that there is no necessity for the city to be completely enclosed by an embankment. If the mouths of the sloughs at the east, which are fed by the American river, are closed, and a proper levee constructed along the banks of that river, there will be no danger whatever of the waters pouring in upon us from that direction, as they did last winter. It might, however, be supposed, that there would then be danger of an inundation, caused by the "backing in" of the waters of the Sacramento, from below. But, after the sloughs at the east, which were introducing the waters on to the town plat during the present freshet, were closed, it was ascertained that there was sufficient fall to the land at the south, to carry the waters of the Sacramento off, by way of the Russian Embarcadero, even if there

should be a lateral pressure, of four feet of water on the levee at the immediate borders of the town. To speak in general terms then, we merely require a levee along the banks of the American and Sacramento rivers, in order to render our city perfectly secure hereafter, against any freshet.

The next question arises with regard to the proper locality from whence suitable material for the construction of the work can be obtained. At the end of Seventh street, on the American river, there is a sufficient quantity of earth for a part of the work, and the balance can be obtained a short distance below Y street. The material is of the best and for the entire construction of the levee, the earth will only require to be removed a mile from each point.

It will be remembered that a proclamation has been issued by Mayor Bigelow, calling upon the people to give their suffrages either for or against the raising of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to defray the expenses of a levee. This proclamation has been issued from the fact that the Common Council are not allowed by the City Charter, to raise by taxation, a revenue to exceed one hundred thousand dollars per annum, without direct authority from the people. The day on which the people are to decide the question, is next Monday, the 29th inst. Taking as a basis that one hundred and sixty thousand cubic yards of earth will be requisite for the completion of the levee, we cannot see why this sum will not be amply sufficient for the entire cost of the work. We are aware that the general supposition is that the earth cannot be removed for less than one dollar per yard. But men can probably be procured, who will work on dry ground at such rates, that there will be no difficulty in getting the work done at seventy-five cents a cubic yard. In addition to this, if experience has taught us anything in relation to human nature, we may conclude with some degree of certainty, that the "chain gang" will be steadily on the increase up to a certain point, and that valuable aid may be expected by the city, from this quarter, free of expense.

If, what we say, proves true, the entire expense of protecting the city amply this year, will fall below the estimated amount. Certain, it is, our citizens are awake to the necessity of a levee, and one will be built ere another year expires. This, together with the comparative ease with which the present temporary levee has been constructed, shows that no apprehension of an overflow can hereafter be a drawback to the prosperity of our city.

Arrival of the Steamer Panama.

The steamer Panama arrived at San Francisco at daylight on Monday morning, with 289 passengers, and dates to the 15th March from New York.

The Panama brought \$383,629, in specie, to several houses in San Francisco.

Col. Fremont had arrived in Washington, and immediately after, the California delegation presented a well written document to Congress, accompanied with certified copies of the Constitution of the state, together with their credentials, and asking, "in the name of the people of California, the admission of the State of California into the American Union."

The slavery question still occupied almost the sole attention of Congress, and the excitement on the subject was unabated. Senators Webster and Calhoun had made brilliant speeches in the Senate, and Senator Seward made another, which was badly relished by the Southern members.

From February 28th to March 12th forty-nine vessels had left New York, with passengers estimated at 1500, while 500 left for the same destination by way of the Isthmus.—This gives a total of 62,000 persons who have left New York for California, in nearly one thousand vessels.

The steamship Northener has been purchased by the Empire and Crescent City line, at \$180,000, and is to be sent around to ply between Panama and San Francisco.

The steamships Sarah Sands, Gold Hunter, Carolina and Isthmus, all arrived at Panama on the 25th and 26th March—all to sail with dispatch for San Francisco.

Senator Gwynn has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, giving his views of the proper legislation for California, connected with that department.

We make the following extract from a private letter, dated Boston, Mass., March 12, 1850:

"As for business here, it is very good now. Goods of most kinds are from 10 to 20 per cent. higher in price than when you left a year since. We have had a very pleasant winter, with only a week's good sleighing in the month of January, since which time it has been pleasant. The gold fever has taken hold of multitudes of the people, and tickets for Panama by the steamers are all sold up to June. I am tired of the dry goods business, and am now about visiting the gold regions of California."

The committee in the Senate of Pennsylv-

vania to whom the matter was referred have reported favorably on the application of Mr. Forrest, for a divorce from his wife.

A "Democratic Union California Club" has been formed in New York city for the purpose of commencing a movement for the immediate admission of California as a state.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.—The Democrats have elected their State officers and a majority in the Legislature, by a larger vote than at the last election. The Free-soil vote was not so large.

Hock Farm—Agriculture.

About eight miles below Yuba City, as you ascend Feather river, the residence of Capt. Sutter meets the view, and commands the admiration of the traveller. It is situated on a high and beautiful plain, which presents as far as the eye can reach a verdant and flowery landscape. For miles above and below this place, the level plain which extends far back from the river, is remarkable for its uniform appearance, and picturesque scenery.

The Hock Farm comprises about six hundred acres of this plain, around which a deep ditch has been dug in lieu of a fence. Near the bank of the river, and close to a steam boat landing, stand the residence and out buildings of Capt. Sutter. Above and below these, are large gardens, which in their appearance at present give the best possible evidence that California is not altogether a barren, unproductive region, as is sometimes reported. The hardy pioneer who owns this place, has heard the unfavorable reports concerning his adopted home, and here he is laboring to show all who are open to conviction, that the earth will reward the husbandman for his toil, if he deserves aught of her.

He is sanguine of success, and he has good reasons for his expectations. Already may be seen in his gardens, green peas in blossom, which give the best evidence of the good qualities of the soil, from their rank growth and healthy appearance. A large variety of vegetables are in a flourishing state, while radishes, lettuce, onions, beets, etc. etc., he has enough and to spare. Scarce a steam boat touches at Hock Farm, that does not bring away a choice variety of the products of his gardens, to regale his friends at a distance.

Back of these gardens, large fields of wheat may be seen, and to see them is all that is necessary to convince the beholder of the adaptation of the soil and climate to the production of this important article of consumption. Here in one field are eighty acres, and in the best grain sections of the States, it would be hard to find a more even, healthy looking crop. It is already two feet high, and the harvest will soon tell the result of the experimental crop in this part of California.

Indian corn is also receiving attention here, but thus far its appearance is not very flattering.

A space of about half an acre has been thickly planted with a choice variety of the grape, and the shoots appear from almost every scion, giving the most encouraging hopes of a successful cultivation of the vine. In fact, there is every prospect of the soil in this section being cultivated with profit and pleasure to a class of our people, who, from their former habits, are attached to agricultural pursuits.

It cannot be denied that a large portion of Northern California is not a good agricultural country. Who ever heard of a rich mineral country being also a good grain country? It cannot be expected. But the alluvial bottoms that line our rivers furnish many favorable places for raising fruits, vegetables, and many kinds of grains, and a still larger portion of our State is of incalculable value for grazing. California is celebrated for the droves of cattle, horses, mules, sheep, and goats that roam over her hills and valleys; and in her meat markets are evidences of the luxuriant feed she furnishes for them. Raising stock is destined to be the support of hundreds, and perhaps thousands of the people of the Eureka State; and we shall expect ere long to see the green meadows that line our rivers fenced off and owned by private individuals, who will find both profit and pleasure in such pursuits.

Speaking of fences, suggests the question of how can these lands be enclosed? for there is no suitable timber near, and the expense of bringing wood for this purpose from Oregon, or around Cape Horn, is so great it cannot be afforded. Still there is a way to enclose these lands that can be made available. In many of the prairies in the Western States and Territories, where timber is scarce, it has been found that a fence can be made of wire, cheaper than in any other way, and when once constructed these fences do not rot down in a few years. They are made light, in join s, so that they can be taken apart and moved wherever desired. When put up they are proof against the intrusion of the smallest as well as the largest animals. Several gentlemen have already sent to the Atlantic States to have small lots of wire fence manufactured and shipped to this country for their individual use.

Correspondence of the Transcript.

NORTH FORK OF NORTH FORK, YUBA, April 14, 1850.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—According to promise I take my pen in hand to give you a slight sketch of the mines in this direction. But the opportunities of transmitting news are few and far between; so this is my excuse for not writing sooner.

I left your city early in Feb., buoyant with the hope of soon reaching a country where fortunes could be made in a few months, but little did I think that so much hardship had to be endured. Still I am very far from being discouraged; there is gold up here in abundance, but it cannot be worked for at least two months to come. You requested me to give you a sketch of the country we passed through. I will strive and do so, although not a first rate hand in such descriptions.

We left Marysville by the mule trail to Foster's Bar; this is at first a beautiful, level prairie until you approach the mountains, which you do so imperceptibly that if it were not for the sudden change of herbage from prairie to mountain plants, you would hardly be aware of it. This takes place about fourteen or sixteen miles from Marysville. After this you pass over a high mountain affording one of the grandest prospects I ever saw. You continue through a succession of mountains each one a trifle higher than the other, until at last you approach one two miles long in descending. This brings you to Bullard's Bar, one and a half miles below Foster's. From here to the latter place the trail leads over rocks and narrow ledges difficult to pass along, and where one false step would precipitate you fifty feet into the Yuba—here a raging and rapid stream. At Foster's Bar you cross the river and continue the trail over some of the roughest mountain passes ever travelled by mankind; indeed, two of the mountains were very near obliging me to turn back. After passing over this spot of ground, you reach this spot, the Eldorado of your hopes. You find it still more dreary and desolate, if possible, than the rest, but the few pale faces you see as sure you that at the proper season it will amply repay all toil you are at to reach it.

Well, now arrived here, you wish to learn the richest place; you prospect round and find the gold disseminated all through the banks and gulches, not in dust or scales, but in good heavy pieces, weighing from one bit to an indefinite number of ounces. But there are drawbacks to deter the hardy miner.—First in order, comes his board bill, and he is astonished on going to the store to find that flour is \$5 per lb.; salt pork, ditto; mouldy biscuit, ditto; in short nearly all the necessaries of life at the same rates. Drawback, the second, is the snow always at this season deep, but at present particularly so. Drawback, the third, you find yourself unsafe at all times, owing to the Indians. These, it is true, were or pretended to be so friendly, but always would steal all they could lay their hands on. This grew so grievous at last, our boys turned out and burnt one or two of their rancherias. In revenge they murdered some of our boys, and then commenced the war in earnest. I suppose, at the least calculation, seven whites have been killed, and seventy or eighty red skins. We are at no time secure from them while hunting or digging, and are therefore obliged to go armed about. Still, the diggings are rich enough for some of us to risk all these disadvantages, with a certainty of making a goodly pile when the mining season does arrive.

The country is remarkably healthy, and, with the exception of some scurvy and rheumatism, we do not know what it is to be sick. The mining season here is from June to December or January, as the season will admit. We have lost a few by the upsetting of canoes, and when this occurs it is almost certain that the unfortunate individual drowns, owing to the extreme coldness of the water.

Lately we have had much snow, which, together with the old snow, makes a general depth of thirty feet. This has driven the game down the mountains, another source of misery to us. We are now paying men to pack in on their backs, at the rate of \$3 per lb., and this is done from a distance of 12 or 15 miles. But "Le bon temps viendra," as the French would say; so we have concluded to bear it as long as our pile lasts.

I have now emptied my scant budget of news, so wishing you prosperity, I subscribe myself

A YUBA MINER.

PLUMAS CITY, April 23d, 1850.

FRIEND EWER:—Having an opportunity to drop you a line by the steamer, I have thought best to improve it, that you may be kept informed of the doings here. A ball comes off on Friday night—this week—at the Plumas Hotel, kept by the interesting Robinson family, in which are seven daughters, young ladies grown. A number of ladies from the neighboring towns are to be present; as also from Sacramento City. We shall be very happy to see you on the occasion, and we will promise you a few hours spent in a very pleasant manner. The hotel

is 85 feet long, of wood and iron, offering every convenience, and every necessary preparation for a joyous time is in progress. The steamer Phoenix will lay over Friday night at Plumas, to take passengers back in the morning.

I rode out to the new mines, with two friends, yesterday, and found the statements regarding them true. Our infant city is taking rapid strides. Every day brings a new resident, with his house. Teams have commenced hauling from here, and offer to take goods to the different mines at very low prices, on account of the roads being so very level from this point. We are destined to become a numerous people here, for many reasons, which are daily developing themselves. In addition to the numerous mines around us, and great ease of access to them, as also our perfect security against overflows, the rich feed for miles around us, and abundance of wood and brick clay—ninety-nine of the hundred who come across the plains this season, I am informed by the best of authority, will come by the way of Truckee river, which will lead them directly to Johnson's Rancho, just nine miles due east, from us, and the ranch houses can plainly be seen from Plumas. There is not a more level and straighter road in California, than this from Plumas to Johnson's Rancho. Five miles out, the roads fork, making the most direct course to the Deer Creek and Yuba mines possible; as also to the Rough and Ready Gold Run, and Dry Creek mines. I find we are but thirty-three miles from the rich diggings of the North Fork of the American river. Do not fail to come to the party accompanied by your friends, on Friday evening—this week.

P. S.—A large store house has been put up here, and miners trunks and chests stored for fifty cents per month.

I remain very truly, &c., G. H. B.

DEER CREEK.—We learn that a company has been formed and are about undertaking to turn Deer Creek in one part of its course from its original bed, where they intend to carry on mining operations. The plan is to dig a canal wide enough to hold the water, and then to let them in. The company expect to be amply repaid for draining and making a new bed for this well known and rich creek, although it will probably take some time to complete the undertaking. We wish the enterprising speculators all success.

THE SERENADERS. We had the pleasure of attending, last night, the Concert given by Donnell's Ethiopian Serenaders. It seems to us that "the boys" cannot be aware that these amusing performers are in town, otherwise the house would, at the low price of tickets, be jammed.

Donnell was formerly of Christy's Minstrels. His voice is good, but his execution on the Accordion is inimitable. His solo was much liked by the audience and encored. Mr. Stephens plays the violin. Mr. Ward bangs the tamborine with head, elbows, feet, knees, and every other part of the body which can be conveniently got at. Mr. Kitts performs on the banjo. Mr. Nesbit on the triangle, and altogether they have quite a lively time on the stage, and manage to create considerable amusement. Aside from the wit and humor with which they sparkle, their singing is really very good. "Wild Raccoon Track" and "Picayune Butter" were rich.

The Serenaders sing again on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Joint Resolutions on Slavery.

We give below the joint resolutions introduced by Mr. Brackett into the Assembly, on April 12.

They are manly,—in accordance with the spirit of the age,—and are an expression of the feeling of the people of California.

California is not a State to be played with by Congress. She has an opinion of her own, and that opinion will prevail. The resolutions run as follows:

Resolved, the Senate concurring, That, as citizens of the United States, we have been pained to learn that the happiness, peace and prosperity of our common country are endangered by the discussion of abstract questions, which we believe unnecessary to agitate, and which appear to be forced onward only for unholy, unpatriotic and partisan purposes.

Be it further Resolved, That the government of the United States is a government of limited powers, and that, by the Constitution Congress has no jurisdiction over the subject of slavery in the several States of the Union.

Be it further Resolved, That any attempt by Congress to interfere with the institution of slavery in any of the Territories of the United States, would create just grounds of alarm in many States of the Union, and that such interference is unnecessary, inexpedient and in violation of good faith; since, when any such Territory applies for admission into the Union as a state, the people thereof alone have the right, and should be left free and untrammelled.

Be it further Resolved, That we request the Governor of this state to transmit a certified copy of these Joint Resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, as instructions to our Senators, and as guides to our Representatives relative to their action upon the subject matter of these resolutions.