

THE TRANSCRIPT.

SACRAMENTO CITY :

Thursday Morning, May 9, 1850.

F. C. EWER AND G. KENTON FITCH, EDITORS.

TERMS:

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Agents for the Sacramento Transcript.

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G. C. Addison,	-	Vernon.
Charles Berghoff,	-	Nicholaus.
E. Richmond,	-	Plumas.
C. & A. Storms,	-	Yuba City.
Chas. S. Kasson,	-	Marysville.
John T. Little,	-	Culloma.
Albert W. Bee,	-	Placerville.
Martin F. Grove,	-	Auburn.
Thomas M. Stoddart,	-	Deer Creek.

Machinery.

In this age of the world the chance of success is small to any one who depends entirely upon main strength. Every day witnesses some improvement, by which those early to take advantage of it steal a march on all competitors. Modern genius is doing wonders in every department of life. The world is becoming civilized, if we may use the expression, by steam; and electricity is bringing hitherto distant lands into close proximity, and binding them together in nervous sympathy. The great saving in labor which has been brought about by modern improvements, and the introduction of machinery, has already had, and must continue to have an important influence upon the affairs of the world. And every new invention, which economises in this respect, should be considered a blessing to society.

An important field for inventive genius, is opened in California. There are millions of acres of land on our mountain slopes, every auriferous foot of which is destined, by means of water applied in an artificial manner, to be separated into its constituent elements—earth and the precious metal. How to wash a large quantity of earth in a short time, with the least possible amount of work, becomes a matter of great importance; for in proportion to the expense of this process will be, in a great measure, the profits of mining. Hence, all must be aware of the advantage to be gained by the use of machinery in our mines. Already have many practical men turned their attention to this subject, and perhaps no experienced miner can be found who cannot call to mind several useful machines for obtaining gold, invented and manufactured in California. And if we review the history of mining in California for the past two years, we find in that time there have been very important changes in the modes of extracting the gold. For the first few months after the discoveries at Sutter's Mill, we read that the gold in this section was obtained by simply washing the earth in tin pans. At that time, it was also published in the States, that a long trough, dug in the trunk of a tree, was an improvement upon the tin pan process, as six men could keep it in motion and pour on water, by which means more washing could be done, than if the whole six had each a pan.

Last year the common rocker came into almost universal use. In the course of the season, however, quicksilver machines began to be talked of, and several lots of the kind used in Carolina and Georgia arrived here, and brought enormous prices. These machines weighed from three to four hundred pounds, and many who paid one thousand dollars to procure one, were subjected to an expense of one or two hundred dollars in getting it to the diggings. When there, if the proprietors were not fortunate enough to stop in a favorable location for mining, the expense and labor of constantly moving these unwieldy machines generally discouraged their use.

Recently, quicksilver has come more generally into use, and the advantage thus gained is beginning to be appreciated. Where miners have decided to remain long in a single place, they can well afford the expense necessary to commence operations on scientific principles. Light machines have been manufactured, to be used in connection with quicksilver, which do away with the principal objections against the heavy rockers of Georgia origin. So great is the demand for mining implements, that their manufacture is attracting the attention of mechanics, and already may be found in every town of any note establishments devoted exclusively to this business.

An extensive concern of this kind may be found in this city, on M street, near the Pacific Theatre. Messrs. Woodcock & Burnett, the proprietors, came to this country

last year, and spent a part of the season in the mines. Being ingenious mechanics, they found, after a little experience, that a vast amount of labor could be saved by having proper tools to work with. They came to this city and established themselves in their present location, and commenced making such machines as were called for. Meanwhile, Mr. W. built a machine on a plan of his own, which has since been used a good deal, and it certainly has the appearance of being an important improvement. It is called "Woodcock's Double Action Machine." It is about five feet long, with a coarse riddle over the whole length of the top, and a fine riddle extends about three feet underneath the coarse one; the latter carrying off the principal part of the sediment that falls through the one above, while the fine gold or dust falls through it into quicksilver. It is so constructed, that the coarse gold lodges before it reaches the quicksilver. The whole apparatus weighs only seventy-five pounds, and it can be divided into two parts of about equal weight; thus it can be moved from place to place, without difficulty. From four to six men are required to work this machine to advantage.

Messrs. W. & B. also manufacture the Burke Rocker, long in use in the gold mines of Georgia. They have reduced its weight from three or four hundred, to seventy-five pounds, while the machine still retains all its original qualities. The common rocker is constructed by these gentlemen in an improved manner, as by a trifling alteration in the construction of the upper part, quicksilver can be used, it is said, advantageously. These machines only weigh from fifteen to twenty-five pounds, and, whenever the miner wishes to move, ten minutes time is all that is necessary to make preparations for a journey. Hence these machines are extensively used, and will continue to be, till people become less restless, and commence operations on a more permanent basis than has heretofore been the case.

From the Middle Fork.

We have been permitted to make the following extracts from a letter addressed to a commercial house in this city. We publish it with the assurance that it is from a gentleman not interested in influencing miners in the direction from which it emanates, but that it is a private letter, which the writer did not expect would be published. It will be found quite interesting.

MACSVILLE, Middle Fork, April 29th.

Dear Sir:—This place has grown into quite a town since I came up here, and is known by a half a dozen different names, among which Macsville appears to be the most popular, on account of the great number of "Macs" in this place.

There are about twenty-five trading houses or stores here, a few of which are in tents and canvass houses, but the greater part of them are substantial frame buildings. Besides these, there are half dozen gambling houses, and three amphitheatres or large round tents. Each of the latter have a band of music employed, and appear to be doing the most business at present. They are thronged every night, and are pretty full through the day. All the gamblers from Coloma, Hangtown and Weaver, have flocked here, and even Sacramento and San Francisco are pretty well represented by these gentry.

The snow has disappeared for twenty miles above this, and the miners are beginning to work again. I have been speaking to a gentleman who has just returned from the El Dorado Canon, four miles above this, and he says it is turning out fully as rich as was expected. A party of five men commenced in the morning, and up to the time he left, (11 o'clock,) had taken out five pounds of gold, and then they were only cutting a ditch preparatory to turning the water.

They are laying claims in all the canons and ravines in this section of country, and I think you will hear of some "rich doings" here, before the summer is over, for there was very little or no work done in them last season, and there is no doubt about this being the richest part of the mines.

Our gold here is all in coarse slugs and lumps, the finest of which is coarse enough to shoot deer with. The finest specimens in all California, are found here. I have seen pieces of gold and quartz here, weighing a pound, and the quartz would be so perfectly transparent, that you could read a newspaper through it, where the gold did not intervene.

A great number of the miners that came up here, (unacquainted with the "diggings" in this particular section of country,) return disheartened; they did not know how to prospect for gold here. It is from four to seven feet to the bed rock in the dry diggings, and persons unacquainted here, never think of going that deep for prospecting purposes. Provisions are remarkably cheap here now. I have seen a good many sales at 25 cents per pound, but it generally retails at about 50 cents.

Yours, respectfully,

A. McD.

Bloody Doings on the North Fork.

About two weeks ago a party of Indians came stealthily upon a few miners who were sleeping after their work was over, in their tents, on the North Fork, some twenty miles above Auburn. Before the Indians gave any warning to the whites of their presence, they killed two, wounded another, and then succeeded in making their escape. On Friday of last week, a trader, who was traveling with his team, was surprised by Indians when about fifteen miles above Auburn. Two arrows from their bows took effect on his person, and he only saved his life by a precipitate flight. They carried off his coat, which he left on his wagon, with six hundred dollars' worth of dust in the pocket. They also robbed his wagon of the valuable goods it contained, and killed several of his oxen. The accounts of these outrages spread rapidly; and on Saturday last a company of about twenty men, part of whom were mounted on horses, started from Auburn and Kelly's Bar, in pursuit of the Indians. They found them encamped in a valley, near Illinoistown, about a mile and a half from the North Fork, and some twenty miles above Auburn. It was thought the Indians were a hundred strong. They were armed with bows and arrows, and had one gun. The whites immediately fired upon them, whereupon they ran, scattering in all directions. After this the whites were occasionally shot at by the Indians, small parties of whom were found here and there in ambush, from which they were driven as often as discovered. Two of the whites were wounded with arrows, but not fatally. The loss of the Indians could not be ascertained. Twenty-five dead bodies were found, and it is supposed they concealed and carried off others of their dead. Among their dead were found a woman and a child. The party returned to Auburn, having with them several scalps, which were exhibited in that place in the early part of this week.

It is believed by many of the miners that white men are among the Indians, inciting them to hostilities. It is pretty certain that a German Doctor has been leading them on in some of their attacks.

A meeting was held at Auburn, last Monday evening, to raise a company of volunteers, for the purpose of scouring the country and making war upon the Indians wherever found, so long as they maintain a hostile position. Some fifteen or twenty enrolled their names. There can be no doubt of the right of men to protect themselves when their lives are endangered, and a certain degree of force is justifiable for the protection of property. We fear, however, the Indians have not always been dealt with in the right spirit in this country, and that many lives have been lost where there would have been no difficulty had more pains been taken to cultivate feelings of amity and accommodation with the aboriginal race. There are too many who are ready, at the slightest provocation, to shoot an Indian; and, possibly, the Indians have often done things consistent with their etiquette, which have been misunderstood by our people. We fear it is too late now, after so many difficulties, for our people to live in peace with them, and that hostilities will become more general than heretofore. It would be well for both whites and Indians if Government troops could be sent in sufficient numbers to the most exposed places. Otherwise there is danger of valuable lives being lost, and an irregular warfare being kept up, which many think not at all honorable to either party.

AUCTION SALES.—(For particulars see advertisements.)—N. A. M. Dudley will sell this morning, at 11 o'clock, the bark John W. Cater.

J. B. Starr & Co. will sell to-morrow morning the brig Sterling; also, a large quantity of pilot bread and other articles.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—From the Alta California of Saturday last we clip the following:

Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.—This respectable and useful institution seems to be in a flourishing condition. The members include the leading merchants of San Francisco, who assemble daily on change at the "Merchant's Exchange," for the mutual advantage of each and every merchant and trader in San Francisco. An election for officers of the board will take place on Monday evening, consisting of a President, Vice Presidents, and six members, who, with the two principal officers, will constitute a committee of appeal, in all cases of litigation.

California Guards.—The annual election of the officers of this corps takes place this evening, at Military Hall, on which occasion a full attendance of the company is expected.

The Bryant House.—The sheriff's sale of the furniture and appurtenances of this house were disposed of Saturday, at the instigation of some creditors.

California Circus.—The Pacific News of May 3d, says:

This evening Mr. Foley opens his circus, situated on Kearny, between Clay and Sacramento streets. Mr. Foley stands unrivalled in his profession, and we have no doubt of his having the most complete artistic arrangements. The city is at present without any resort of public amusement, and we have no doubt but that he will be liberally encouraged.

Additional News from Below—The Fire.

We are indebted to the "News," the "Alta" and the "Journal," for the following items of intelligence from San Francisco:

Meeting of the new Common Council.—The officers elect under the charter government, met at the Mayor's office on Saturday afternoon. Their proceedings had reference to the organization of the new city government, and also to the necessity of at once establishing a fire department. The confusion and excitement consequent upon the destruction of our establishment, is the only excuse we can offer for the meagre account of the movements of our new board of city officers. The selection of the Chairman or President of the board, fell upon Capt. Macdonald.—[Alta, 6th.

The Chamber of Commerce.—We are requested to state that the Chamber of Commerce will hold a meeting at the building in Sacramento street, one door from Montgomery, this evening. The consolidation of this association is now more than ever necessary since the fire, and will prove beneficial to the interests of the business community. The Chamber will elect its officers this evening, for the ensuing year, and it is highly essential that there should be a full attendance of members.—[Alta, 6th.

The Journal says: "We learn that the proprietor of the Empire has already contracted for the erection of a new building on the old site. In the latter house a Mexican boy certainly perished. He was frequently seen in the streets with the bell and placard, a travelling advertiser. We learn that the owner of a small watchmaker's establishment, below the Phoenix, perished in the flames, and his partner was severely burned. Our first hasty estimate of the loss was not more than half its real amount—on a second survey, judging from the cost of the buildings and the loss of goods, it cannot be set down at less than four million dollars. A large amount of costly goods were entirely destroyed.

THE BURNED DISTRICT.—During the fire on Saturday morning, before the Wright Hall, corner Washington and Kearny streets, was near demolished, the proprietor had purchased a frame building to supply its place, and a part of the lumber was hauled on the ground before the building had quite burned down.

Juan Cima, on Washington street, on yesterday had a building far progressed towards completion. The St. Charles, formerly north side of the square, on Washington street, had a representative, in the form of a canvas house, in full blast last evening.

J. W. McCabe & Co., formerly of the El Dorado, corner of Washington street and the square, have taken the Bryant House, at a rent of \$6000 per month.—[News, 6th.

ARRIVAL OF THE ISTHMUS.—This steamship, Capt. Hitchcock, arrived on Saturday afternoon, at five o'clock, and anchored off Rincon Point. She left Panama on the 9th ult., and brought up 225 passengers. Her running time was but a little over eighteen days. She brings no later dates from the United States, nor have we been able to obtain any Panama papers later than those received by the Gold Hunter. The Sarah Sands, propeller, sailed on the same day, and the two vessels passed and repassed each other several times on the trip. The Sands may therefore be hourly expected.

The Isthmus is the first vessel of the opposition line, which is to be composed of the Columbus, Republic, and the Antelope, making in all four vessels. These ships connect with the Ohio, Georgia and Falcon, on the Atlantic, under the superintendence of George Law. The general agent at this place, is Mr. Oliver Charlick, who arrived in the ship.

The Sarah Sands, now expected, will be the first of Mr. Howard's line—embracing the New Orleans, Northerner, and one new vessel in course of completion, which with the regular mail line, will give us a weekly communication with Panama and the northern cities.—[Alta California, 6th inst.

To the Editors of the Transcript and Times:

Gentlemen: We desire through your columns to announce the pleasing fact that the sum of eleven hundred and twenty-nine dollars was obtained, clear of all expenses, by the benefit granted the "Masons' and Odd Fellows' Hospital," at the Tehama Theatre.

In behalf of the two orders we represent, allow us to tender our heartfelt thanks to the Managers, Mr. Atwater and Mrs. Kirby; the proprietors Messrs. Warbass, McDowell and Fowler; the Ethiopian Serenaders; the Editors of the "Times" and "Transcript," and the Printers, for this manifestation of their goodness of heart, as shown in the active part, and hearty interest, taken by each and all to secure for us this noble return for the sick. Mr. Rowe also deserves a large share for closing his establishment for the evening. The consciousness that your deeds were in behalf of the unfortunate sufferers, from the homesteads of our youth and love, is no doubt a reward rich and ample to your hearts; and nothing we can say can add to the enjoyment of good deeds so well done, but we regarded this public acknowledgement as due by us. That the public appreciated your kindness, is manifested in the return made.

W. GROVE DEAL,
President Board of Trustees.

T. F. MORSE, Secretary.

BEWARE OF THIEVES.—A gentleman who boards at the City Hotel informs us that yesterday morning, before he arose, a scoundrel entered his room, took his pantaloons, ransacked the pockets, and finding a bag with about sixty dollars' worth of gold dust, took it off. This thieving is getting altogether of too frequent occurrence. We trust our vigilant police will soon put a stop to it.

We tender our thanks to Richard N. Berry, Esq., for the use of late papers from the States.

Will Messrs. Hawley & Co's Express accept our thanks for the prompt delivery of papers immediately after the arrival of the Senator yesterday morning.

The clerk of the steamer "Phoenix," will please accept our thanks, for the delivery of the Transcript to our agents in Marysville, Yuba City, Fremont and Nicolaus.

New Town.—We had the pleasure yesterday of a delightful ride out along the banks of the American river to the site of a new town. It is situated on that locality known as "Brighton." The levee of the town is to be a hundred and fifty feet in width, on to which vessels of light draught can deposit their goods. We had the gratification of seeing also the arrival at Brighton of the first sailing vessel that ever navigated this stream. To Capt. Gelston belongs the credit of having sailed the first vessel of heavy tonnage up the Rio Sacramento, the first steamboat up the American river, and now the first sailing vessel up this important branch of the Sacramento. The town will be a pleasant resort for the denizens of our city during the few leisure hours they can steal from their business. A hotel is to be erected, and we understand that an omnibus is to run between Sacramento and this lovely village. The land around is fertile and easily irrigated, and we expect to see a flourishing little suburban town spring up there before many months.

The vessel that arrived there is called the "Curlew," and she took up as freight houses, and a quantity of merchandize descriptions.

There was quite a party of gentlemen on the ground to witness the arrival of the vessel, and view the town site. After sitting down to a substantial repast, to which we all appeared to do ample justice, and drinking—we noticed—sundry bowls of refreshing milk apiece, we mounted horse and left for the City, highly gratified with our visit.

Success to this first little satellite of Sacramento City.

STATE TAX.—It will be recollected that previous to its adjournment, the Legislature passed a bill providing for the periodical raising of a revenue to defray State expenses. According to the provisions of this bill, the revenue is to be raised by taxation, which seems to us by far the fairest and most feasible way, so far as a state, county or city is concerned, of raising any revenue for public purposes.

The bill provides that each one hundred dollars' worth of taxable property, shall pay fifty cents. Thus, the rate is one-half per cent. In addition to this, a pole tax of five dollars is to be levied on each male inhabitant between the ages of twenty-one and fifty. This is exclusive of any poll tax required for county purposes.

THE GRAND JURY.—As we stated in our last, the Grand Jury are now in session, and are ready to attend to any business that should properly come before them. During some time past, previous to the constituting of this body, many complaints must have accumulated in our midst, and we anticipate that the Grand Jury will have their hands full. At any rate, all now have an opportunity to get satisfaction by means of the law. The following are the gentlemen who serve on the jury:

C. C. Sackett, Foreman; W. W. Bennett, Lucian Curtis, O. S. Dorwin, S. J. May, J. Sharkey, John C. Edwards, Warden Paine Jacob Bennett, A. W. Samuel, W. B. Lee, W. Stillinger, J. F. Snyder, Thos. C. Oakley, Shellenborger, T. G. Bradford, M. Greenfield, J. H. Maxfield, N. Gunnison.

NEW STEAM FERRY BOAT.—Messrs. Hoag & Carlisle have fitted up the horse boat which ran between Sacramento and Washington cities, with engines, &c., and will commence their regular trips between the above mentioned cities on Friday or Saturday next. The boat will be covered with an awning and fitted up in good style. She will be called the Alpha, as she is the first steam ferry boat. The Omega is not yet. This is one of the greatest conveniences yet added to our city.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF K STREET.—Below will be found an account of the action taken by some of our citizens relative to the improving of K street. We are happy to see any movement which will tend to the general advantage of our city. K street, being one of our principal streets, is now, we hope, to be rendered passable its entire length.

The following are the minutes of the meeting:

At a meeting of the citizens of K street, held on Tuesday evening, 7th instant, his Honor the Mayor was called to the chair, and D. D. Bullock appointed secretary.

The object of the meeting was stated by the Chairman to be the improvement of K street.

A subscription list for the above purpose, amounting to two thousand dollars, was then presented to the meeting by Capt. Woodland. On motion, Resolved, That a Collector, Treasurer, and a Board of Supervisors, consisting of six persons, be elected.

On motion, the following persons were elected, viz:

Collector—Addison Martin.

Treasurer—W. S. Van Sickle.

Supervisors—Mr. Barnes, J. S. David, Robert Thompson, Major Ormsby, Dr. McDonald, Wm. N. Doughty, Jonathan Logan. Resolved, That the proceedings be published in the City papers. Adjourned.

D. D. BULLOCK, Sec'y.