

# CALIFORNIAN.

2-28-1847

MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE, }

Monterey, Jan. 11th, 1847. }

**AN ORDINANCE RESPECTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS.**—Be it known to all persons residing in the jurisdiction of Monterey, that the Magistrate of said jurisdiction and the board of Council have decreed the following:

That no person whatever shall from henceforth, hire or take into his service any Indian without a certificate from the former employer of that Indian stating that the said employer has no claims on the services of that Indian for wages advanced.

Any person taking into his employment any Indian without such certificate, and advancing any money or property to the said Indian, shall forfeit any money or property so advanced, and if it should be proved that any Indian has been enticed away from the service of his master, the person convicted of having so enticed him shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty dollars nor less than five dollars.

23-tf

WALTER COLTON, Chief Magistrate.

# California Star

3-6-1847

## A PROCLAMATION to the Inhabitants of the Northern District of California.

It having come to the knowledge of the Commander in Chief of this district, that certain persons have been and still are imprisoning and holding to service Indians against their will, and without any legal contract, and without a due regard to their rights as freemen when not under legal contract for service.—It is hereby ordered, that all persons so holding or detaining Indians shall release them, and permit them to return to their own homes, unless they can make a contract with them which shall be acknowledged before the nearest Justice, which contract, shall be binding upon both parties.

The Indian population must not be regarded in the light of slaves, but it is deemed necessary that the Indians within the Settlement shall have employment, with the right of choosing their own master and employer; and after having made such choice, they must abide by it, unless they can obtain permission in writing to leave, or the Justice on their complaint shall consider they have just cause to annul the contract, and permit them to obtain another employer.

All Indians must be required to obtain service, and not be permitted to wander about the country in idle and dissolute manner; if found doing so, they will be liable to arrest and punishment by labor on the Public Works at the direction of the Magistrate.

All Officers, civil or military, under my command, are required to execute the terms of the order, and take notice of every violation thereof.

Given at head quarters in Yerba Buena.

Sept. 15th 1846.

(SIGNED,) . . . . JOHN B. MONTGOMERY.

Commanding District of San Francisco.

Published for the government  
of all concerned.

WASH'N. A. BARTLETT.  
Magistrate of San Francisco.

# California Star

4-10-1847

## Hostile Indians.

Persons who have recently come in from the San Joaquin, bring information that the Indians in that section are becoming every day more troublesome. They have stolen a number of horses and cattle, and it is believed that they will venture to attack the settlements.

A portion of the troops in the employment of the government should be stationed on the frontiers to protect the settlers. From all accounts, some of the settlements must be broken up unless adequate protection is afforded them by the Government. There is now a large number of troops stationed along the coast, a few of whom might be spared for frontier service. One company stationed on the San Joaquin, would afford protection to a large district of country.

☐ We noticed in a former number of our paper, the departure of a company of men under Capt. Kern, from Fort Sacramento, to operate against the hostile Indians in the upper Sacramento Valley, who had for several months previous been committing depredations upon the frontier settlers. By Capt. J. A. Sutter's launch which arrived here a few days since, we learn that Capt. Kern with the men under his command, being principally Indian soldiers at the Fort, now in the service of the government, fell in with the enemy in the vicinity of the Snowy Butes, numbering about one hundred. He chased them into the mountains, where they having gained a strong position gave him battle. About twenty of the hostile Indians were killed in the battle; Capt Kern lost none. The Indians under his command fought bravely. It was with difficulty that he could restrain them from rushing into the most dangerous defiles in pursuit of the enemy. They are considered by those acquainted with them, to be the most efficient men that can be employed in the frontier service.— Capt Sutter who has had many of them in his employment for a number of years, speaks in the highest terms of their bravery and attachment to civilized life. It would no doubt be an advantage to the government to keep them in the service.

## Still Later from the Frontier.

News reached here on Wednesday last by way of the Pueblo of San Jose, that about two weeks since, the hostile "horse thief Indians" to the number of several hundred attacked the settlement recently formed on the San Joaquin, and killed every person in it; none escaped.

The Indians had so often manifested a friendly disposition towards the settlers, that they were easily thrown off their guard, and when their camps were surrounded, it is probable that they were not aware of their real danger until an indiscriminate massacre was commenced.

We have received the above in such a manner that we cannot help crediting it. The information was brought to the Pueblo by persons passing through that part of the country.

Cannot the authorities do something for the protection of the frontier, and will they not do something? Will the government not listen to the complaints of the citizens; and will the large number of government troops now here, be kept idle along the coast, without any prospect of being either of territorial or national benefit, when the Indians are continually committing depredations along the whole line of the eastern frontier, and when they are penetrating the settlements to almost within sight of the Capital of the territory, plundering and killing the inhabitants?

# California Star 4-17-1847

Note: Applegate's Cut-Off was a short cut through the desert used by immigrants from 1846 to 1850. It ran from Nevada to Oregon and down to California via Tule Lake in Northern California.

## From Oregon.

The Hudson Bay Company's barque "Columbia," Capt. Duncan, five days from the mouth of the Columbia, arrived in our harbor on Wednesday night. She brought with her only three newspapers, the "Oregon Spectator," for Feb. 4th, Feb. 18th, and March 4th. The only news of any interest contained in them, is in reference to the emigrants who took "Applegates Cut-Off," and were in consequence of the difficulties of the route, reduced to a state bordering upon starvation. The "Spectator" of March 4th, contains three communications in reference to these emigrants; one from J. Quinn Thornton, one from the Rev. J. A. Cornwall, and the journal of Thomas Holt, who with a party of men went out for the relief of the emigrants. From them we learn that these unfortunate people lost nearly, if not quite, all their property, and those which finally were so fortunate as to reach the settlements, were in the most deplorable condition.—Some of the families that were relieved by Mr. Holt and party, and through their humane exertions got into the settlements, as we glean from his journal, were those of Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Hall, Mr. Croizen, Mr. Lovlen, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cornwall, Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Harris, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Newton, Mr. Crump, Mr. Butterfield, and the widow Butterfield, James and David Townsend, and Mr. Baker. Nearly all of the emigrants finally got into the settlements, but after sufferings the most intense, from hunger, fatigue, exposure and anxiety.

The following is the account of the death of Mr. Newton:

"Three Indians came to Mr. Newton and gave him to understand that he had better camp where he was; if he went any further he would not get as good a place, and accordingly he camped.—The Indians begged something to eat, and some ammunition, with the promise to fetch in a deer: one of the Indians could speak a little English.—He gave them three balls and some powder. The Indian that could speak English, loaded his gun with the three balls, and remained about the camp. Mr. Newton suspected that all was not right, and wanted them to go away, but they would not go. He thought he would watch them, but happened to drop asleep, and one of the Indians shot three balls into him: he was laying outside of the tent—he jumped inside of the tent to get his gun, and one of the Indians got an axe, and cut his leg very nearly off. He died the next day of his wounds. The Indians robbed the tent of some articles, and took an American mare and packed her off."

## To the Public.

Circumstances which I am not now at liberty to make known through the medium of the columns of the paper, having rendered it necessary that all connection between the publisher of the "Star" and myself should cease. I therefore closed my editorial labors for the paper with the last number.

E. P. JONES.

## Our Town.

The town of San Francisco is progressing in population with a rapidity almost without example, certainly with no example on the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Not less than fifty houses have gone up within the last month. Every man now here, finds constant employment, and if thousands more were here in search of labor, they would find it, and receive for their services as much as any reasonable man would require.

Lumber, adobies, brick and lime, are much wanted, and whoever embarks largely in the manufactory of these building materials, for consumption at this place, will reap a rich harvest of profits. The high price now demanded for them, renders building expensive; and the houses now going up, are consequently small. But another year, we trust will remedy this difficulty. Unless those who have the control of lumber, and other building materials here, shall see fit to furnish them at fair rates, they will find ready made houses coming out here in ships, from the states, and that speedily.

Numerous merchant vessels are arriving here almost daily, furnishing our wholesale and retail commercial houses, with large supplies of merchandize of every description. San Francisco, is now a point, where many articles of merchandize can be furnished nearly as cheap, as they can be in the United States, carriage and commissions excepted. Merchants along the sea-board to the south, can do better by coming here to replenish their stock of merchandize, than by sending to the Islands.

It was stated in our paper of last week, upon information which was judged to be correct, that the Indians had made an attack upon, and massacred all within the limits of the settlement recently formed on the San Joaquin. This, we are pleased to learn is incorrect. A launch, direct from the San Joaquin, arrived here on Tuesday last, furnishing us with the intelligence.

# California Star

4-17-1847

*For the California Star,*  
TULERIES, April 12th, 1847.

Number 14 of your excellent journal has just reached us. Number 13 did not come to hand. Here, away, alone as it were, it is with unusual interest that I peruse its contents; its name being most appropriate—truly is it a STAR, whose rays become most cheering in this region of mental darkness; let us then hope that it will continue a fixed luminary, shedding its light abroad—"shining for all."

You have, I perceive, given credit to a rumor, for you publish the massacre of some settlers on the San Joaquin river by the Indians. Probably you allude to the settlement forming on the "Stanislaus," called New Hope; and who knows but it may be my little party to which you have reference. At any rate, you may assure your readers that such is not the case; that the Indians, though indulging in their natural propensity to thieves on all occasions, have made no attempt (and I am correctly informed,) to either kill the settlers, or destroy the settlements. I visited, and made a noonday halt at New Hope, on my way hither. The settlers (some 10 or 12 in number,) appear contented and energetic—have three or four houses completed, and as many more under way. About eight miles this side, I fell in with the renowned Felipe, of horse thief notoriety, at the head of about 30 Indians, all well armed (in their way,) and mounted, and no doubt then on an expedition of plunder. They did not molest us, however.

This letter leaves me encamped upon the banks of a small stream, called by our Indian guides "Tallalomes." Thus far have I passed "on without impediment." The Indians about the Joaquin seem actively employed in fishery, catching and drying vast quantities of salmon, with which the streams at this time abound. Occasionally we meet with a wild, wicked looking party of warriors, with horses and arrows innumerable, who never fail to express their wonderment at the ungovernable roving propensities of "los Americanos." With such a set about me, it requires all attention to the packs, and notwithstanding our vigilance, they contrived to make away with a serappa, or Spanish blanket, owned by one of my men, and a pair of "inexpressibles" belonging to myself.

Our journey thus far has been fraught with adventure. The excitement of the hunt is on all occasions courted. Countless herds of elk feed almost undisturbed upon the river bottoms, and grizzly Bruin of the mountains is always at hand when wanted.

Imagine now, ye sea-coast sufferers, and more particularly, residents of San Francisco, driven into your dwellings by "old Boreas, blustering railer," on the approach of 2 P M, the beauties of a Spring season in the enchanting Valley of the Joaquin. One continuance of most heavenly weather—one never-failing succession of glorious landscape! Oh! 'tis a fairy land—but you would spoil the picture by associating the "Diggers" with the sublime, and I will desist, remarking nevertheless, that the portion of the valley through which I have travelled, in point of beauty, fertility, &c, has exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

After a halt of a few days, I shall continue on to the River Mercy. The Indians tell me of a stream, lying directly on my route thither, which has lately overflowed, and deluged the country thereabouts. I have heard too many exaggerated accounts of this stream to place any confidence whatever in the report; notwithstanding, the Joaquin itself has for the last few weeks continued to rise slowly, until it has attained its more than usual height, it is now, however, on the decrease.

I have nothing more to add. I am endeavoring to journalize the events of my travels, and on my return, I shall be able to furnish you with

something interesting for publication. By the time this reaches you, I hope to be many miles from this, on my way to the "great lake" which to answer accounts, must be a choice portion of California. Meanwhile, may your STAR become the star of our country, proclaiming far and wide the virtues of our adopted home.

I remain as ever, yours.

TULE ROVER.

# CALIFORNIAN.

6-26-1847

*For the Californian.*

## INDIAN TRADITION, OF THE BAY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Mr. Editor:—I have frequently heard, since my arrival in California, that there was an Indian tradition, which was universally received among the Indians here, that, at no great length of time past, the Bay of San Francisco was an inland sea of fresh water; that there was but a very narrow drain, an outlet and that was at the point where the Paberas river now empties into the Bay of Monterey.

I have recently conversed with a very intelligent gentleman, who, with one of the Missionary Priests, visited several of the Indian Villages, in the neighborhood of Sonoma, which is now on the North side of the Bay. they found several, sensible old Indians who confirmed the tradition; one of them, said he had learned from his father, that his grandfather, had been in the habit of attending the annual feasts at Monterey, and that they travelled by land, having nothing more than small Mountain streams to pass, which they could easily wade. That the place which is now the entrance to the Bay, was then a Mountain, but not more than about one league wide, and that during the time of the grandfather of the chief who gave my informant the information, there came an earthquake, which rent the Mountain asunder, and opened the present passage of the Bay to the Pacific.

If the above tradition is true, the lower arm of this great inland sea must have been about seventy-five miles long and about twenty-five, wide, including the Bay of San Pablo, and if the Straits of Carquinez was then open, it formed a narrow connexion between this arm, and the sea which must have covered the great Tulary Plains. The extent of the interior, or Tulary Sea must have been about six hundred miles long and about fifty miles, wide extending along the foot of the California mountain nearly North and South. There can be no doubt of the fact, that what is now the great Tulary Lake was once a part of this great sea of waters.

Kings River, a navigable stream, rises in the California mountain and empties into the lake, there are also, a number of smaller streams which discharge their waters into the lake, and yet there is no outlet from the lake. There is however a low flat plain between this lake and the San Joaquin river and about fifteen miles out of the forty, which is the distance between them, there is a wide lagoon, or channel, and the other 25 miles, is a Tuly marsh, which, at very high water is overflowed, and the waters from the lake passes into the San Joaquin river.

The whole face of the country give the strongest evidence of the truth of the tradition. At the entrance of the Bay, the mountains rise very high on either side; The rocks steep and craggy; and bear marks every where, of having been once, seperated by violent convulsions; the channel is very deep in the pass and in some places rocky bottom. There are several high pointed rocks which stand considerably seperated from the main land, and near the mouth, there are several rock islands—with good channels on either side.

The whole of the valleys of the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Santa Clara bear, every where, marks of having been recently covered with water, and from the shells and other deposits it is equally evident that it must have been fresh water, these facts make it more certain that the opening through which the salt water passes, must be of recent duration.

There are many different kinds of sea shells, and salt water productions which are smaller than they are out side, and in every respect show that they have not been always here.

The trees in the valleys are young and are now rapidly increasing both in number and size.

In another number, I shall describe more minutely, the face of the country and the appearance, timber and minerals of the mountains, which may be of some service, both, to the agriculturalist and the mineralogist.

OBSERVER.

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**CALIFORNIAN.**

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 26 1847.

**AGENTS FOR THE CALIFORNIAN.**

The following persons are authorised to receive subscriptions for the CALIFORNIAN.

W. W. Scott, at Sonoma.

Capt. J. A. Sutter, at New Helvetia.

T. H. Green, at Monterey.

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**SLAVERY IN CALIFORNIA.**—There has already been much said in the United States on the subject of slavery in California, and some warm discussions in Congress, it is unfortunate for them, that they know so little of the wishes of the people who are here, and of the climate and location of the country.

On a former occasion, speaking on that subject, we stated that not one in one hundred would be in favor of the introduction of slavery here. We have since conversed with a great number of persons and have not found one who was not bitterly opposed to the measure. We cannot, of course, know who will come here, but we feel perfectly confident that if the warmest advocate for that institution were to reside for one year in California, he would change his notions, and if the subject at any future time is to be left to the people, they will decide against it almost unanimously. And our object in alluding to it at this time is to relieve the minds of all parties at home, and as far as practicable, prevent persons emigrating to this country from bringing their slaves with them. Several have done so, and they have been much pleased to get clear of them on any terms they could. We feel no hesitation in advising our friends at home, not to bring them, not only from the fact, that this must, in the nature of things, be a free state when it becomes a state, but their slaves would be worth nothing if they could hold them.

Another object which is not less important is to prevent the emmigration of free colored persons.

We have thirteen reasons for believing it bad policy to suffer them to come and live among us.

The first is that it would be bad for them. It is not at all likely that the white population will allow them equal rights, and if they are under the necessity of trying the position of servants, they are deprived of many advantages which they have at home; for many years their numbers will be too small to afford them society among themselves, and therefore they must seek association among the whites, where they are constantly liable to be insulted and imposed upon, and in the main, deprived of all the comforts which could make life desirable even to a black man.

Another powerful reason is, that their presence here would be a serious injury to the white population, because it would have a tendency to degrade the labouring men who might be forced to labour with them; it is certainly of the first importance to the prosperity of any country, that labour should not only be well rewarded, but that those who labour should be respected; it is a great curse to a country for it to be looked upon as disreputable for a man or woman to labour with their own hands.

A third reason why free blacks should not settle in California, is, that we have an immense population of Indians who were born on the soil, and have neither the disposition or the means of living any where else, and they are willing and capable of being good servants and labourers, they can work much cheaper than an American coloured man, and can live at one fourth of the expense, and as they are natives of the country, it is nothing more than our duty to protect them and provide them with the means of acquiring an honest support.

We have ten other good reasons, which we shall give hereafter, but we shall certainly use all the influence we may have, to procure the passage of such laws as will effectually prevent them from settling among us, whenever there is a law making power in California.

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To the Editor of the CALIFORNIAN.

Case of Yount, vs Chiles.

Sir,—I have but just observed in your paper of the 3d inst., an extract from the records of the Alcalde's Court of this District, which without explanation is calculated to convey an erroneous idea of the trial of the above case and its issue. It is true that the extract is materially correct, but by itself and unaccompanied with a knowledge of the facts connected with the suit, may give to a casual reader a false impression as to its result. In the first place sir, I wish it to be distinctly understood by your readers and the community at large, that the certificate given by me to Mr. Yount and appended to the statement in your paper referred to, was not a result of the trial, nor was it forced from me by anything that transpired on that occasion. On the contrary, it had been repeatedly offered by me to Mr. Yount, long previous to the trial, and I stood ready to give it, whenever he chose to accept it. (And in this connection, let me draw the attention of your readers to that document. It will be observed, that therein I have made no retraction or denial of any words heretofore uttered by me, but it is simply an acknowledgment, I have always been willing to make that I never intended to charge Mr. Yount with larceny, or with stealing or cutting the brands out of any of my hides. In the certificate, I state that the words charged (in the declaration) to have been uttered by me were "false and untrue," but not that anything I ever actually did speak was either "false" or "untrue." Let this be borne in mind. The fact is, I never believed, that Mr. Yount himself ever killed any of my cattle, nor did I ever, say so, I am rather inclined to charge it upon his Indians, for it is known that his Indians have, stolen, and that he has refused to punish them for the offence, alleging that if he did so he feared some of them would run away from him, this fact was proved on the trial.

But instead of accepting this certificate, he chose to resort to litigation and endeavour to procure pecuniary compensation. Allow me to give a brief sketch of the trial and the facts brought out by the testimony, that your readers may be able to arrive at a more correct conclusion in the premises. The suit was brought to recover damages from me for alleged injuries to Mr. Yount's character; the damages were laid at \$15,000. The alleged slanderous words are given in the extract from the records already published, but the innuendoes and anermento in the declaration are not set out. The testimony adduced on the trial was substantially this; That Mr. Yount had contracted to deliver to me a certain number of cattle in payment for services rendered him by me that on the delivery of the cattle, I was not afforded sufficient aid to get them from his farm, in consequence of which I did not succeed in doing so and some of them remained on his premises. That afterwards, a hide with my brand upon it, was seen hanging up in his mill. That on another occasion a hide with a piece cut out from the place where brands are usually placed, was sent from Mr. Yount's farm to the embarcadero and that these facts were the subject of conversation in the neighbourhood. That after this was the case I had made use of the slanderous words alleged in the declaration, in the course of private conversation with personal friends of Mr. Yount.

This, I believe sir, is a true and correct statement of the facts brought out in the evidence, connected with this affair. Now, sir, after the circumstances above stated, had occurred, and Mr. Yount had taken offence at my remarks, I offered him the certificate published or one in substance the same, (and it was a standing offer from that time to the day of trial,) in order to arrive at an accommodation. It was never accepted. Mr. Yount preferred to bring a suit, and he claimed \$15,000, damages. He brought to his aid three able and eminent counsel, the case was ably argued, and the jury after a lengthy consultation, were unable to agree upon a verdict, and were consequently discharged. It was afterwards understood that they stood six for the Plaintiff, and six for the Defendant. The matter of costs was then left by Mr. Yount and myself to Referees, who decided that each party pay their own attorneys, and divide the costs of Court equally between them. I then gave him the certificate on condition that he should pay me a balance claimed by me of \$30,00 for the deficiency in the value of the cattle, and also, that he should fulfill an agreement long since made by him to pay \$75,00 on my account to Mr. Peter Lawson. These conditions have since been complied with.

Your readers will be able from this account, which I assert on the faith of a man to be strictly and entirely correct, to judge which has been the successful party in this case. This however was not what I wished most to establish. That was, as I have before remarked, the fact I had not withdrawn or retracted any words uttered by me, but had simply disclaimed conveying a certain idea. With regard to this the certificate speaks for itself. I may here observe, that it was proved by a reliable witness, that he was told by three persons, by him named at the time, two of which were present at the trial that "Yount's word was not worth five cents."—The two referred to as being present were not called upon to contradict the witness. The counsel for the plaintiff strenuously objected to this proof being received, and the court after argument sustained the objection and required the defendant to confine himself to the character of the plaintiff for honesty, and not to bring in the question of his truth, and even after this some of the witnesses were prohibited from stating what they knew as to the plaintiff's character for honesty.

In conclusion, I wish to subjoin a few facts relative to the publication in your paper. At the time of our settlement the day after the trial, it was distinctly understood between Mr. Yount and myself that nothing connected with the trial or subsequent agreement was thereafter to be referred to by either party, but that the matter was to be considered as entirely dropped and concluded. We pledged our honor that this should be the case. After seeing the paper containing the publication I had barely time to obtain an interview with Mr. Yount. In that interview, I adverted to the publication, and expressed my sorrow that this agreement had been violated. He admitted the understanding to have been as I have above stated it, but said that the publication had been made without his knowledge or procurement. On effect, he refused to do so. On the same occasion he admitted that the certificate published was the same as the one I had repeatedly offered to give him. At this interview a witness who can readily be produced was present.

After apologising for occupying so much of your valuable space, in regard to a matter so entirely personal, and which I would not have done had not justice to myself required it.

I remain sir,  
your ob't. servant,

J. B. CHILES.

Sonoma, Alta California, July 12th 1847. 12-c



# Californian 8-21-1847

The next, a letter from the "Secretary of War to Gen. Kearny," dated June 2d, 1846, and from which we make the following extract :

Should you conquer and take possession of New Mexico and Upper California, or considerable places in either, you will establish a temporary civil government therein—abolishing all arbitrary restrictions that may exist, so far as it may be done with safety. In performing this duty, it would be wise and prudent to continue in their employment all such of the existing officers as are known to be friendly to the United States, and will take the oath of allegiance to them. The duties at the custom-houses ought at once to be reduced to such a rate as may be barely sufficient to maintain the necessary officers without yielding any revenue to the government. You may assure the people of those provinces that it is the wish and design of the United States to provide for them a free government with the least possible delay, similar to that which exists in our territories. They will then be called on to exercise the rights of freemen in electing their own representatives to the territorial legislature. It is foreseen, what relates to civil government, will be a difficult and unpleasant part of our duty, and must necessarily be left to your own discretion.

In your whole conduct you will act in such a manner as best to conciliate the inhabitants, and render them friendly to the United States.

It is desirable that the usual trade between the citizens of the United States and the Mexican provinces should be continued as far as practicable, under the changed condition of things between the two countries. In consequence of extending your expedition into California, it may be proper that you should increase your supplies of goods to be distributed as presents to the Indians. The United States Superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis will aid you in procuring these goods. You will be furnished with a proclamation in the Spanish language, to be issued by you, and circulated among the Mexican people, on your entering into or approaching their country. You will use your utmost endeavors to have the pledges and promises therein contained carried out to the utmost extent.

I am directed by the President to say that the rank of brevet brigadier general will be conferred on you as soon as you commence your movement towards California, and sent round to you by sea, or over the country, or to the care of the commandant of our squadron in the Pacific. In that way, cannon, arms, amunition, and supplies for the land forces, will be sent to you.

Very respectfully,

L. W. MARCY, Sec'y. of War.

Col. S. W. KEARNY, Fort Leavenworth, Mo.

# The California Star.

8-21-1847

A travelling acquaintance writes us from the rancho of Mr. Robert Livermore, and the following is a part of his letter. It will be seen that Mr. Rock, of Pueblo de San Jose, was not, as was feared, massacred, but escaped from Indian barbarity, by flight.

It is like meeting with an old friend I assure you, to come by chance in possession of your lively journal, after having wandered beyond 'humanity's reach,' and heard nothing of the world beyond the wilds. I arrived at this ranch on Sunday evening last, fatigued and a little dispirited at my want of success, and the perfidy of the Indian race in general, but a good supper, a kind host, and "the late paper," put me in better humor, and as you insisted upon my writing on every opportunity, I availed myself of this one, trusting that I shall see you ere you break the seal of another letter of mine.

I have hardly an item of *news* to communicate, save the fact that the Indians in the upper part of this valley are at war among themselves, and small parties of whites ranging the country are far from safe from attack at least. Your report that James Rock of San Jose fell victim to Indian barbarity, I am pleased to inform you is incorrect, he escaped, however most miraculously and is now, I understand, with his friends.

We have rumors here that the emigration is in the mountains of California, and an advance party already within the settlements; I think it not altogether improbable. It is time, high time, the emigrants were heard from, and we are awaiting the confirmation of the rumor. The weather is sultry, producing sickness to an unusual extent, and one of my companions, since my return from the back country, has been taken down, and rendered powerless.

I certainly never lived for a moment in a country so abounding with mosquitoes as that region watered by the San Joaquin and its tributaries, and I trust never again at this season of the year, may I be compelled to pass a night in that vicinity. The blanket is no protection, and I verily believe they would penetrate, with their enormous *bills*, sheet iron or copper. We were five days tormented by them, and I assure you we suffered *some*, and heartily rejoiced, when their infernal humming ceased in our ears.

On our return from the Tawallomes, we fell in with wild Indians in great numbers, and on the morning of the 28th of July, about 3 o'clock, a concealed party sent a flight of arrows into the camp, and made off on discovering no mischief being done. We pursued a short distance, but the rascals made good their escape, aided by darkness, while we returned to the camp. My "tramp" has been anything but pleasant, yet I have had the excellent opportunity of satisfying my curiosity regarding the valley of the San Joaquin, and which must be acknowledged the choicest garden of the country. The further you penetrate the interior of California, the more delighted you become with its general appearance, and you never cease admiring the lavish hand of nature. I have botanical and geological collections to add to my store of *the curious*. I shall be with you in a few days. *Adios*,

TULE ROVER.

# The California Star.

8-28-1847 page 1 of 3

## Statistics of San Francisco

The following Table shows the total number of inhabitants, the sex and age of the whites, and the sex of the Indians, Sandwich Islanders and Negroes, viz :

| Whites,                            | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Under 5 y'rs of age,               | 28     | 23       | 51     |
| Over 5 y'rs. of age, and under 10, | 18     | 14       | 32     |
| " 10 " " " " 15,                   | 10     | 14       | 24     |
| " 15 " " " " 20,                   | 11     | 11       | 22     |
| " 20 " " " " 25,                   | 29     | 15       | 44     |
| " 25 " " " " 30,                   | 54     | 19       | 73     |
| " 30 " " " " 40,                   | 61     | 19       | 80     |
| " 40 " " " " 50,                   | 20     | 10       | 30     |
| " 50 " " " " 60,                   | 12     | 3        | 15     |
| " 60 " " " " 70,                   | 2      |          | 2      |
| " 70 " " " " 80,                   | 2      |          | 2      |
| Total whites,                      | 247    | 128      | 375    |
| Indians, (of different ages,)      | 26     | 8        | 34     |
| S. Islanders, (of different ages,) | 39     | 1        | 40     |
| Negroes, (of different ages,)      | 9      | 1        | 10     |
| Total,                             | 321    | 138      | 459    |

I have no very satisfactory means of judging of the increase of population within the year last past, but the fact I possess render it certain that the increase has been at least one hundred per cent. Of course, the whole of this increase was by emigration.

To form a correct idea of the energy, enterprise and capability of the white inhabitants, the reader should not fail to note that thirteen-fifteenths, or more than four-fifths, of the white population are less than forty years of age, and more than one half are between the ages of twenty and forty. It will also be perceived by a glance at the table that the number of white males and females are nearly the same under the age of twenty, whilst above that age the males are nearly as three to one.

To give a clearer view of the composition of the white population, the succeeding statement of the places of birth is given, viz :

|                         |    |                     |     |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------|-----|
| Born in Canada,         | 5  | Born in New Zealand | 1   |
| " " California,         | 38 | " " Peru,           | 1   |
| " " other Mex'n. dep'ts | 2  | " " Poland,         | 1   |
| " " Chili,              | 2  | " " Russia,         | 1   |
| " " Denmark,            | 1  | " " S. Islands      | 1   |
| " " England,            | 22 | " " Scotland,       | 14  |
| " " France,             | 3  | " " Sweden,         | 1   |
| " " Germany,            | 27 | " " Switzerland,    | 6   |
| " " Ireland,            | 14 | " " U. States,      | 228 |
| " " Malta,              | 1  | " " West Indies,    | 1   |
| " " New Holland,        | 1  | " " at Sea,         | 4   |

Of the number stated above as born in California, eight are children of emigrant parents. The others are Californians proper, and they, with two others born in other Departments of Mexico, (in all thirty-two,) constitute the entire Mexican population. Of the whole number, (a fact that will at once strike the reader,) three-fifths are from the United States. Not only is this true, but probably at least another fifth, including Scotch, Irish, and German emigrants, have reached this country after residing for a time in the United States.

The educational memoranda which have been collected give these results, viz :

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| No. who can read and write,      | 273 |
| No. who can read, but not write, | 13  |
| No. who cannot read or write,    | 89  |

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From this it appears that the number who cannot read or write bears a very near relation to the number of inhabitants under ten years of age. A fact not to be wondered at when we reflect that there is but one school teacher in the place, and that the town has as yet failed to erect a building suitable for the purposes of education.

The occupations or professions of the white males are as follows:

|                  |    |                       |    |
|------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Ministers,       | 1  | Gunsmiths,            | 2  |
| Doctors,         | 3  | Hotel keepers,        | 3  |
| Lawyers,         | 3  | Laborers,             | 20 |
| Surveyors,       | 2  | Masons,               | 4  |
| School Teachers, | 1  | Merchants,            | 11 |
| Agriculturists,  | 11 | Miners,               | 1  |
| Bakers,          | 7  | Morocco case makers,  | 1  |
| Blacksmiths,     | 6  | Navigators, (inland,) | 6  |
| Brewers,         | 1  | " (ocean,)            | 1  |
| Brickmakers,     | 6  | Painters,             | 1  |
| Butchers,        | 7  | Printers,             | 6  |
| Cabinet makers,  | 2  | Saddlers,             | 1  |
| Carpenters,      | 26 | Shoemakers,           | 4  |
| Cigar makers,    | 1  | Silversmiths,         | 1  |
| Clerks,          | 13 | Tailors,              | 4  |
| Coopers,         | 3  | Tanners,              | 2  |
| Gardeners,       | 1  | Watchmakers,          | 1  |
| Grocers,         | 5  | Weavers,              | 1  |

The Indians, Sandwich Islanders, and Negroes, who compose nearly one-fifth of the whole population of the town, are mostly employed as servants and porters. Some of the Indians are very expert in the manufacture of sun dried bricks, (*adobes*) and in the erection of houses from them. The Sandwich Islanders are mostly employed as boatmen in navigating the Bay, and they are said to be very serviceable in the business. Some few of the Sandwich Islanders read, and two or three can both read and write their own language. Occasionally there will an Indian be found who had been learned during the existence of the Missions to read, but such instances are rare. They are, for the most part, an idle, intemperate race, laboring only to procure the means for gratifying their passion for rum and *monte*. Some of the Indians are considered by persons having them as their property, and I am told, though I have never known of such a case, that there have been instances of the sale and transfer of them from one person to another. As there is no necessity for such an institution as slavery in this country, and as most of the emigrants who come here, are educated to respect every human being's rights, there can be no doubt that such practices, if they ever did exist, will soon become obsolete. The few Negroes who reside here are from the United States, and are as intelligent as is usual among the free Negroes of the north.

An attempt was made in collecting the foregoing information to ascertain the amount of capital invested in the various pursuits and occupations. The results obtained were so meagre that it is not deemed of importance to lay them before the public. The truth is, the most of the capital possessed by the great majority of the inhabitants has been employed in purchasing lots and improving them by the erection of fences and buildings. There is, though, a large amount of money employed in mercantile pursuits, and many small sums in other occupations. That the public may be enabled to form some conclusions on this subject, the following statement of the number of offices and places of business is submitted, viz:

|                        |   |                       |   |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Apothecary shops,      | 1 | Gunsmith's shops,     | 1 |
| Bakeries,              | 3 | Hotels,               | 2 |
| Blacksmith shops,      | 2 | Mills, (horse power,) | 1 |
| Butcher shops,         | 3 | " (wind,)             | 1 |
| Cabinet maker's shops, | 1 | Printing Offices,     | 2 |
| Carpenter's shops,     | 2 | Shoemaker's shops,    | 1 |
| Cigar maker's shops,   | 1 | Stores,               | 8 |
| Cooper shops,          | 2 | Tailor shops,         | 2 |
| Groceries,             | 7 | Watchmaker's shops,   | 1 |

During the year elapsed previous to the thirtieth of June, 1847, there were built in the town *thirty houses*.—Most of these structures are indeed but poor affairs, yet they constitute an important item when taken as an index of the enterprise and improvement which the town exhibits. Since June, and up to the present time, (two months) there have been built, (or are in process of erection) at least *twenty houses*. There can be no better evidence of the rapid improvement of the place than this single fact.

In conclusion, I cannot suppress a desire to say that San Francisco is destined to become the great commercial emporium of the north Pacific coast. With the advantages of so fine a harbor, and the enterprise of so hardy and intelligent a race of pioneers, it can scarcely be otherwise. Notwithstanding these conclusions are so obvious, I have heard it asserted that Monterey is destined to outstrip it. That Monterey can never surpass San Francisco, I think the following view will clearly establish: 1. San Francisco has a safer and more commodious harbor than Monterey. 2. The waters of the Bay afford an easy method of communication and a facile means of transportation between the town and the hundred lateral valleys which surround the Bay, and which are destined soon to become granaries and hives of plenty. 3. It also has a ready means of communication by water with the rich and large valleys of the San Joaquin, the Sacramento, and the American Fork, as all of these rivers are tributaries to the Bay. So far as my information goes, Monterey, although it has a fine country at its back, has none of the facilities for reaching and transporting the products of that country which San Francisco possesses in regard to the country which surrounds it. This, it seems to me, allowing all other things to be equal, would give to San Francisco an insuperable advantage.

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But it is urged that there are situations upon this Bay which afford better advantages for the building of a great city than the site of San Francisco. Santa Clara, a place situated at the southern extremity of the Bay, and some sixty miles from the Ocean, is named as one of them. I cannot believe it necessary to enter into any serious argument to prove the falsity of such an idea. So far from Santa Clara becoming the rival of San Francisco, it will be one of its tributaries, and the beautiful and prolific valley in which is situated will yield us an annual tribute of the richest products of the earth.

Great efforts are being made to establish a settlement at the straits of *Carquinez*, on the north side of the Bay, and some thirty miles from San Francisco. I have even heard it given out that that position will rival this town. I have no doubt, though I judge entirely from what I have heard said, that there will evidently be a town there of considerable size and importance; but the supposition that San Francisco will suffer from competition with *Benicia* city is absurd and preposterous. It is undoubtedly true, as contended, that ships of a large class can go up the Bay as far as that place, or even farther; but that, of course, is no reason that they will go there. On the contrary, if the wants of commerce are supplied, (as they will be,) by San Francisco, within four or five miles of the Ocean, to what purpose should ships go thirty or sixty miles into the Bay?

This article would be incomplete if I failed to mention the fact that there are two weekly newspapers printed in this place. They are called "The California Star," and "The Californian," and though of small size they are deserving of the support and confidence of the community. They are both printed in English with an occasional article and advertisement in Spanish. The "Star" was originally begun here, and has now reached its thirty-fourth number. The "Californian" was published at Monterey for more than thirty weeks, when it was discontinued and removed to this place. On its re-appearance here it was enlarged and its typographical appearance much improved. It has now reached the fifteenth number of the second series, and has the honor of being the first paper ever published in California. The "Star" is published by Samuel Brannan, Esq., formerly a publisher of some note in the city of New-York. The "Californian" was first published by Robert Semple, Esq., but since its removal to this place it has been purchased, and is now published, by B. R. Buckelew, Esq.

It is proper to remark, to prevent misunderstanding, that the preceding census does not include the officers or soldiers of the detachment of the Seventh Regiment of New-York Volunteers stationed here.

I intended to make some remarks relative to the climate and general health of the place, before closing this communication, but it has already reached so great a length that I will not trespass longer on the patience of printer or reader. Besides this, the facts which I possess, embrace only some five months, and are therefore so incomplete that correct and satisfactory conclusions can scarcely be drawn from them.

E. G.

# CALIFORNIAN.

9-15-1847

About noon we came to the Sui Sun Ranch, the property of General Vallejo. The land here is very rich, and is easily susceptible of irrigation. The only inhabitants were Indians, and they have some fine fields of corn and excellent melons. We stopped here under the shade of trees, and made our noon-day halt. This property consisting of several leagues has been surveyed and divided into sections of a mile square, as suitable farms for those who may wish to own some of the richest land in California. We lingered here as long as possible, then mounted our horses to ride that night as far as the house of a Californian about twelve miles distant. We rode slowly, and I sought the companionship of C; he gave me many a story of bloody battle and fierce adventure. 'The man, at whose house we shall stop is a particular friend of mine.' Said he. 'I was the last one that saw his brother, and the only one who ever told him his fate—We had a fight with the Indians, and they outnumbered us. This man's brother was killed, we held a hasty council and resolved to burn him, as it is a custom of the Indians to dig up and mutilate the bodies of those who are buried. We laid him down, and after covering him with bark we set it on fire, and I saw him all consumed but his hand which fell down, so the fire did not reach it.' We now reached the Ranch. Whether our reception was warmer from the fact that Charley had been the high priest who presided over the funeral pyre of his brother, a most satisfactory reason for a warm friendship, I know not; certain it is, that I never stopped at any of the houses of the country people without all was done, that they could do, to satisfy a traveller's wants.

The next morning we procured fresh horses and proceeded to the Matanzas to get some beef for breakfast. My companions dismounted, but the sight of the naked Indians (what is lower in the scale of humanity than a California Indian?) who were the butchers, the fresh beef reeking with blood, the severed heads of bullocks, staring at me (excuse the bull) with their dead or no eyes (the usual accompaniments of a California farm yard) took away my appetite. After they had satisfied the cravings of hunger, cannibals as they were, we started on our way. After crossing the creek we came upon a plain, stretching out in all directions as far as the eye could reach. All vegetation on it, if it ever had any, was burned off, or dried up, and the bare face of mother earth, wholly exposed, was wrinkled and cracked by the fierce heat of a California sun.

It was now high noon, old sol came down upon us with the intensity of ten thousand gold beater power, the occasioned puffs of wind were like blasts from the great desert, the blue vault above us, glowed as with the heat of a furnace. The horses felt its influence, and could not be spurred out of a walk. Look! oh look. A lake of water upon our right; a ripple is upon its surface, and in its clear depths are reflected the trunks of the trees by its side; in the distance, a mighty river is flowing towards the sea. Is it the Sacramento? The epicure, in the contemplation of the damp and dusty bottle of the vintage of half a century, knows not half the satisfaction I feel now. The wild Arab, with shout of Allah! Allah! never spurred his swift steed towards the green oasis, smiling in the desert, with more vigor than I did mine. Does my horse see it, or does my spur lend him new life? We near it not. It flows on before us in the dim distance, still as clear and well defined as ever, a phantom, a watery deception, a lie.—Oh Tantalus! Tantalus! We appreciate your fabled punishment in the infernal regions, where a limpid stream flows by your parched lips, and as you stoop to drink it runs the other way. What crime we expiate by his Tantalian punishment, I know not.

Excerpt from an article about a trip  
to General Vallejo's Suisun Ranch  
in Sonoma. Vallejo was friendly  
with the Suisun Indians.

# The California Star.

9-18-1847

## C I R C U L A R

### To Indian Agents and others.

STATE DEPARTMENT of the TERRITORY of CAL. }  
MONTEBEY, September, 6th 1847. }

In order to have some means of distinguishing between the friendly Indians of the settlements and the horse thieves and marauders who are continually committing depredations upon the inhabitants of the country, it is directed by the Governor that all persons hiring Indians or having them in their employment, shall give every such Indian a certificate to that effect; and any Indian found beyond the limits of the town or rancho in which he may be employed, without such certificate or pass, will be liable to arrest as a horse thief, and if, on being brought before a civil Magistrate, he fail to give a satisfactory account of himself, he will be subjected to trial and punishment.

Wild Indians, and other Indians not employed as above, wishing to visit settlements or towns for the purpose of trade, must have a passport from the Sub-Indian Agent of their district.

This order will take effect on the first day of November next, and all Indian Agents, and civil Magistrates will use their best endeavors to have it carried into effect, and to bring to trial and punishment all persons who may act in violation of its provisions.

H. W. HALLECK,  
Lieut. of Eng'rs. and Sec'y. of State for California.

# CALIFORNIAN.

10-20-1847

## FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

MONTEREY, Oct. 10, 1847.

The Preble sailed to-day for Panama. Passengers Captain Hall, of the Warren, Dr. Powell, do. Midshipman Wilson, bearer of dispatches to Secretary of the Navy and of the War departments. I presume the Preble will return with Com. Jones, who leaves Washington this month for Panama.

The Independence, Cyane and Southampton sail this week. The Erie, for the States, in 10 or 12 days.

By a jury of 12 men, Indians Domingo and Manuel, have been found guilty of murder. They killed a person on the Salines plains by shooting him. They were both executed at Monterey a few days since.

The Independence, Cyane, and Erie left Monterey on Saturday last. Lieut. Halleck, late acting Secretary of State sailed in the Independence as Engineer officer in the contemplated attack on Mazatlan.

T. O. Larkin, Esq., gave a grand ball at the Barracks, to the officers and citizens of Monterey. The night was made hideous by some rowdies of the volunteer corps, who thronged the place, insulting every one who entered the place, and finished their disgraceful performances by an attempt to fire the building. The citizens of San Francisco have reason to congratulate themselves on the efficient discipline maintained here.



# CALIFORNIAN.

12-8-1847

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## PROCLAMATION.

From and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and forty-eight, if any person shall sell, exchange, or give, barter or dispose of, or in any way connive at selling, exchanging, bartering, or disposing of, any spirituous liquor or wine, to an Indian, such person shall, upon conviction before an Alcalde, forfeit and pay the sum of not less than fifty, nor more than one hundred dollars, and be imprisoned for not less than three, nor more than six months. One half of all fines recovered under this proclamation, shall go to the benefit of the informer, and the other half to the benefit of the town, or jurisdiction where the prisoner may be confined; and in all prosecutions arising under this proclamation, Indians shall be competent witnesses.

Done at Monterey, the Capital of California, this 29th day of November, A. D. 1847, and of the 72nd of the Independence of the United States.

R. B. MASON,

Col. 1st Drag's., Gov. of California.