

Daily Alta California

1-22-1853

New and rich diggings have just been discovered, between the West Branch and North Fork of Feather river. Cayote diggings at Frenchtown and flat diggings at Rich Gulch, one mile from Frenchtown, which have been opened less than a week, yield from one to four ounces per day, to the hand. One lump of pure gold, taken from the cayote diggings at Frenchtown weighed \$129. Some very rich quartz veins are in the neighborhood, which have never been worked.—*Herald.*

Daily Alta California

1-22-1853

Marysville.

MORE INDIAN DIFFICULTIES—DEATH OF A CHIEF.—A correspondent of the *Marysville Herald*, writing a few weeks since from Lyon's Ranch, gave an account of an affray with the Indians which resulted in the death of eighteen or twenty, writes again under date of 15th inst.:

Yesterday evening, information was received that the old chief was at Frenchtown, a mining settlement across the West Branch, four or five miles distant, openly threatening vengeance upon the whites for the severe castigation they had received.

A party of eight was immediately formed, and at 6 o'clock set out from Hasty's Ranch, crossed the river, arrested and brought back the old chief, arriving before 11 o'clock. After binding him, a strong guard was placed over him to prevent the possibility of his escape, until this morning, when he was removed about a mile, to Lyons' Ranch, and after a short deliberation, it was unanimously resolved to hang him at once. Arrangements were soon made, and the redoubtable old brave, who has figured so conspicuously in every Indian affray of importance in this region, since the introduction of the whites, after calmly surveying the preparations made for his execution, met his fate with consummate bravery. He was suspended by the neck to the limb of an oak in the neighborhood

The vote deciding upon this course was unanimous, but there is at least one who strongly doubts the policy or justice of the proceeding. Time will show. There are still two chiefs remaining, and a tribe that can muster at least 250 fighting men, in the immediate neighborhood of a small scattered population of exposed and defenceless whites. What course they, together with their allies, the Tigres and Nimskews, will pursue, remains to be seen.

Lyon's Ranch would become Pence's Ranch shortly after this.

The ranch was located at the intersection of today's Durham Pentz Rd and Wheelock Rd. Frenchtown was located across the Feather River on Nelson Bar Rd.

Weekly Alta California 2-19-1853

Indian Disturbances in Mariposa.

Lieut. Moore, arrived in town from Fort Miller, assures the *Republican* that nearly all the accounts relative to the Indian difficulties in that region have been grossly exaggerated. The particulars of the depredations of the Chowchillas were, in the main, correct; but the accounts of the killing of Mr. Converse and the attack on Fort Miller were mistakes altogether. The facts of the last case are: a mule was stolen from one of the camps, as was supposed, by the Indians. Lieut. Moore with a company followed the trail of the animal several miles, and finally reached the spot where it had been killed and part of it eaten. One or two arrows were still in the body of the mule, and they were recognised as the same used by the Merced Indians, a warlike and troublesome tribe.

In the Chowchilla difficulty the Indians say the whites fired first, while the whites as strenuously maintain that the Indians were the aggressors.



Marysville, Long Bar and Oregon Gulch.

The Marysville *Express* says that miners on Feather River in the vicinity of Long Bar and Oregon Gulch are doing well. Many claims which have been re-worked pay as well as they did in 1849.

The gold prospects about Nevada and Grass Valley are reported to the *Express* as being uncommonly flattering. So with saw mill enterprises.

Later from Shasta and Yreka.

Adams & Co. furnished the *Union* with late mountain news. The messengers of Cram & Rogers' express ar-

rived in Shasta from Yreka on the 8th, traveling on foot through the deep snow of the valleys and over the mountains. They report a very severe winter at Yreka. Provisions are still scarce, though a supply had been received from Oregon. When they left, flour was selling at thirty-five cents per pound. Several teams are now on the way by the Sacramento route, the same which Colonel Freaner took for this place when he was killed by the Pitt River Indians.

The mining intelligence, so far as reported, is favorable. Three men took out \$6000 in one week near Yreka, from dirt they had thrown up during the dry season.

At Jacksonville and on Rogue River, the miners were doing well. Provisions at those places were more plenty than at Yreka, supplies being received from Oregon.

The roads from Tehama to Shasta are good, and many migratory miners scattered along them. Provisions along the route plenty and cheap.

The Nevada *Journal* of Friday came down last night, but does not contain a word of news.

The papers from Sacramento of yesterday are utterly void of news. They do not contain a local paragraph of sufficient interest to reprint; but from the *Union* we clip a few items from the interior:

Exciting News from Tehama—Indian Thefts— Terrible Vengeance of the Whites.

Mr. Lurk, of Adams & Co., furnished the *Union* with the following exciting news.

The Indians have committed so many depredations in the North, of late, that the people are enraged against them, and are ready to knife them, shoot them, or inoculate them with small pox—all of which have been done.

Some time since, the Indians in Colusa county destroyed about \$5,000 worth of stock belonging to Messrs. Thomas & Toombs; since which time they have had two men employed, at \$100 per month, to hunt down and kill the Diggers, like other beasts of prey. On Friday, the 25th ult., one of these men, named John Breckenridge, was alone, and armed only with a bowie knife, when he met with four Indians and attacked them. They told him to leave, and commenced shooting arrows at him; but, undaunted, he continued to advance, and succeeded in killing one, and taking one prisoner, while the other two escaped. He immediately proceeded to Moon's Ranch, where the captured Indian was hung by the citizens.

On Friday, the 25th Feb., stock was stolen from Mr Carter of Butte county, to the value of \$3,000. Mr. Carter went forthwith to the camp of the well known stage proprietors, Messrs. Hall & Crandall, and thence started with a party of twelve men in search of the Indian depredators. After a fruitless search in the vicinity of Pine and Deer Creeks, the party became impatient, and dispersed on Sunday evening. Returning home, one detachment of the party discovered a half-breed by the name of Battedon, and took him prisoner. The man, fearing for his own life, agreed to show the cave where the Indians were concealed, if they would release him. Notice was sent round, and the people assembled again at Oak Grove on Monday, from which place they started at midnight for the cave.

Arriving there at early daylight on Tuesday morning, rocks were rolled into the cave, and the wretched inmates, rushing out for safety, met danger a thousand times more dreadful. The first one that made his appearance was shot by Capt. Geo. Rose, and the others met the same fate from the rifles of the Americans. Altogether, there were thirteen killed; three chiefs of different rancherias, and three women. Three women and five children were spared; and it is but doing justice to say, that the women who were killed were placed in front as a sort of breast-work, and killed either by accident or mistake. Capt. Rose took one child, Mr. Lattimer another, and the others were disposed of in the same charitable manner among the party.

On Tuesday night, March 1st, three work oxen belonging to Messrs. Bull and Baker were stolen from a corral in Shasta city, and on Thursday morning twenty-six head were driven off at Red Bluffs; value near \$4,000.

Daily Alta California
May 19, 1853

We are indebted to Adams & Co., for late Sacramento papers. We glean but little news from them. The following is from the Marysville *Herald*:

RUM AND MURDER—In the neighborhood of Oregon Gulch, near Spring Valley, on Feather river, an individual generally known as "The Frenchman with the Indian Wife," on Tuesday, the 10th inst., murdered a young man, (a half breed Indian,) who was stopping with him. The cause, as stated by the murderer himself, was that they had been enjoying themselves, when a dispute, and as usual, a quarrel arose. Louis, the young man, said if he had a pistol he would blow the top of his head off—upon which he, the Frenchman, reached out to the corner of his tent for his rifle, and shot him dead.

As an illustration of the apathy which exists in that neighborhood, in relation to such trifles as homicide, our informant states that no notice whatever had been taken of the transaction by the residents.

Butte Record 11-12-1853

APOLOGETIC —In consequence of a severe thrust from a Bowie knife in the hands of Mr. H. A. De Courcey, on the person of Mr. L. P. Hall, we are deprived of the services of the latter gentleman, upon whom we relied principally for assistance. This unfortunate circumstance, occurring as it did, on the evening previous to the day on which we designed issuing our paper, renders our situation the more perplexing, as it was the day previous to the one proposed for our issuing the first number of this paper, and has been the occasion of many errors and imperfections which would not otherwise have occurred. This unfortunate circumstance has, much against our will, placed us for the first time in the editorial chair, and forced us to take up the quill; and we are free to confess that our education and capacity are totally insufficient for the proper discharge of the high and responsible position.

The above will, we trust, be a sufficient apology for the imperfect manner in which this, our first number, is thrown together. We therefore throw our banner to the breeze, trusting that a generous public, on whom we rely for support, will appreciate our unpleasant situation, pledging ourselves to do better in future.

For the offence referred to, Mr. D is held in custody, to await his trial at the Court of Sessions. The assault was unprovoked.

DeCourcey and Hall were employees of C. W. Stiles, who had newspaper experience. The loss of these two employees hurt his ability to publish the paper.

BUTTE RECORD.

Vol. 1.

Bidwell, Butte County, (Cal.) November 12, 1853.

No. 1.

THE BUTTE RECORD
 Is published every Saturday morning, by
C. W. STILES & CO.,
 From the office in the Record building on Miner st.,
 five doors west of the Plaza.
 Prepayment (payable invariably in advance) for
 one year, \$7 50
 Six months, 4 00
 Three months, 2 50
 Advertising, per square of ten lines or less,
 first insertion, \$3 00
 Each subsequent insertion, 1 50
 A liberal deduction will be made in favor of
 those who advertise by the year.
 All business cards inserted on reasonable terms.

All articles of clothing are made of silk or cotton. The former appears to be very abundant, as rich dresses of it are worn even by the common soldiers on festive days, and it may be seen on people of all ranks, even in the poor towns. The fabrics are at least equal to those of China. The cotton of Japan seems to be of the same kind as that of the West India colonies. It furnishes the ordinary dress of the great mass of the people, and also serves all the other purposes for which we employ wools, flax, furs and feathers. The culture of it is, of course,

ordinary mortal may see any part of him but his feet, and that only once a year; every vessel which he uses must be broken immediately; for if another should even by accident eat or drink out of it, he must be put to death. Every garment which he wears must be manufactured by virgin hands, from the earliest process in the preparation of silk. The adherents of the original Japanese religion, of which the Kinrey is head, adore numerous divinities called Kami, or immortal spirits, to whom they offer prayers, flowers, and sometimes, more

THE TELEGRAPH.
 "Canst thou send lightning, that they may see, and say unto thee, 'Hine we call'?"—SEASIDE.
 It is even so. The inquiry has been answered in one grand and magnificent sense. The querist and man of patience little dreamed, when using this splendid metaphor to give greater effect to his reproach, and to illustrate the power of Omnipotence, that he was but uttering a eulogy upon science, while he claimed for the Deity but an attribute within the province of mortal triumphs and mortal genius. "Canst thou send lightning,

THE PROGRESS OF RUSSIA.
 There is something really grand and imposing in the steady march of Russian dominion since Peter the Great first consolidated his Empire into a substantive state. On his accession in 1689, its Western boundary was in longitude 30 deg., and its Southern in latitude 42 deg.; these have now been pushed to longitude 18 deg. and latitude 39 deg., respectively. Russia had then no access to any European sea; her only ports were Archangel, in the Frozen Ocean, and Astrakhan, on the Caspian; she has now access to

SALUTATORY.

We this day commence the publication of a weekly paper, which we design to be permanent at this place; and, in accordance with a custom which has grown venerable, we submit an outline of the principles which shall guide and govern us in its control. We shall use our utmost endeavors to make it what its name purports—a RECORD of the County of Butte; and we firmly believe that, with the constantly increasing facilities for communication with all portions of the county, by means of expresses, we can make it acceptable to all. We believe such a medium to have been long needed. From its large extent of territory, transactions of the most interesting nature are oftentimes being enacted in one portion of the county, of which the residents of distant portions remain ignorant, or are informed too late to insure concert of action in relation to many important public measures. To aid us in our efforts, we solicit communications of general interest from each and every one. Mining news is particularly solicited, from all parts of the county, for we earnestly desire to make the RECORD a welcome friend to the miner. Such inquiries as properly come within the scope of our knowledge, will be cheerfully and promptly answered, either through our columns or otherwise, as may be most suitable.

The RECORD will be purely Democratic in politics. We shall firmly and boldly advocate the principles of the party, as applied both to the State and National governments. Believing, as we do, that it has been by the observance of those principles that the nation has attained its present glory and greatness; that they are still the surest means of maintaining and adding to that glory and greatness; that they are the most effective means of maintaining the perpetuity of the American Union, without which we cease to exist as a confederated republic; that they are the surest means of conferring the greatest amount of happiness on the greatest number, we shall labor in the Democratic cause with a cheerfulness and hearty good will, limited only by our ability. Some may produce a greater amount of good, but none shall exceed us in honorable efforts to do as much.

The columns of the RECORD will always be open to any thing pertaining to the interests of Butte County; and however ardently we ourselves may advocate any particular means or policy, we shall always be willing to permit fair and candid discussion.

With this outline we present our sheet to the public, and respectfully ask it and the party to assist us in performing what we promise.

C. W. Stiles would sell the paper several months later to George Crosette. He later tried mining at Spanishtown in 1856 where he sent several letters to the new editor of the Butte Record about the new town in the foothills above Oroville. Stiles left Spanishtown in Nov. 1856. Later Stiles was editor of a newspaper in Red Bluff.

BUTTE RECORD.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1853.



Shown above is recently-discovered oil painting by Henry Mighels depicting extensive placer mining operations on the Feather River near Bidwell Bar during the 1850s.

Picture above from Butte County Historical Society
Diggins Vol. 41, No 1, 1998. Photo courtesy of James Lenhoff

FEATHER RIVER MINES AT AND NEAR BIDWELL.—We have no desire to overrate the mines and their prospects in this locality. In truth, we would have to set down the amount already taken out of some three claims at an enormous sum, to approach exaggeration. As the Sailor Claim seems to be of the most importance at the present time, we give a brief, and as correct an account of it, as the opportunities we have had will admit of. The river being flumed for about 1,200 feet, the several companies have been at work in its bed from four to six weeks; the celebrated Union Claim having been the most successful, and the Sailor Claim next. The latter claim was divided into 19 shares, and worked 60 hands, day and night, averaging \$2,000 per day. The Union, 24 shares, worked 125 hands day and night, averaging \$9,000 per day. The Wolverine Claim, 12 shares, worked 60 hands, averaging about \$2,500 per day. The Cove Claim, embracing two or three small companies, in all 20 shares, worked 50 hands, averaging \$2,000 per day. These are known as the Sailor Claim, being a joint stock company so far as the Flume and Dam is concerned, on the whole we may safely say, that it is the most imposing and substantial piece of work, in California, and no doubt, the richest by far; that was ever worked in this country. The greatest amount taken out any one day, was £85 by the Union company.

We shall take occasion hereafter, to notice the operations of the Fairfield Claim, the Adobe, Murphey, Island Bar, and South Feather Flumeing Company, and others that are paying well, we must say that in our opinion we are surrounded by the very richest mining district that has been discovered in California.

Since the above was written, considerable rain has fallen, and done immense damage, washing away the greater portion of the flumes dams &c.. which will no doubt, put an end to farther operations in the bed of the river. Already preparations are being made for digging in the banks; in fact we expect to see before spring, several of the small hills in our vicinity, entirely demolished by the Pick and Shovel.

Butte Record 11-19-1853

EVERTS, SNELL & CO'S

Feather River Express.

Connecting with ADAMS & CO.

We would respectfully inform the public that we are now enabled to forward TREASURE, VALUABLE PACKAGES, LETTERS, ETC, ETC.

With unrivalled despatch and security, and upon the most reasonable terms, to and from the following places, viz ;

American Valley,	Wyandott,
Chandlerville,	Bidwell's Bar
Gibsonville,	Evansville,
Hopkins' Creek,	Hansonville,
Morris' Ravine,	Long's Bar,
Onion Valley,	Nelson's Creek,
Port Wine Diggings,	Poorman's Creek,
Spring Valley,	Rich Bar, Middle Fork,
Sears' Diggings,	Stringtown,
White Rock,	Smith's Bar, N Fork,
Barker's Ranch,	City of '76,
Canyon Creek,	Butte Creek,
Grass Valley,	Forbestown,
Jamison's Creek,	Honcut City,
Natchez,	Lexington House,
Oregon Gulch;	Ophir,
Rich Bar, North Fork,	Pine Grove,
Strawberry Valley,	Rush Creek, S. Flat,
Spanish Ranch,	St. Louis,

Collections, orders, etc., attended to with promptness and fidelity. SAFFORD & KERBY agents. EVERETT, SNELL & CO. Nov 19.

The two Rich Bars mentioned here were both actually named Rich Gulch. There were two until one was more commonly known as Thompson Flat in 1854.

BUTTE RECORD.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1853.

NOTICE.--As the names of Messrs. Decourcey and Hall have frequently been mentioned by the press as being connected with this paper, or this Office, we deem it an act of right and justice to ourselves, to state that neither of those Gentlemen ever was, and in all probability neither of them ever will be concerned in this Office, we mention this as a matter of business, not to do injustice to either of the above named Gentlemen.

POST OFFICE AT OREGON GULCH

Having just returned from a tour through the above district, we feel bound to let it be known through our columns, to the Post Office Department, that the inhabitants in that region have been for over a year using every exertion to have an office established there, but so far their wants have not been heeded, we see no good reason why they should not be entitled to one. as well as other mining localities similarly situated, they propose to have it at or near Hoopers or what is now called Simmonses store, that being the most central point for a large extent of thickly settled country, as it now is, they say that although not fifty miles from Marysville that it often takes a month and then costs from one to two dollars to get each letter, will those whose business it is remedy this matter.

Butte Record 11-19-1853

MINING INTELLIGENCE.

Having recently paid a visit to the following mining districts, we were pleased to see the success which seems to meet the hard fisted miner, at almost every point.

The thriving little place called Adams Town opposite Long's Bar, is quite brisk; Rich Gulch, and Morrise's Ravine, are also very rich, averageing \$16, to \$20, to the hand, where there is water, which has been rather scarce for the past two months. Oregon Gulch, and Spring Valley, have paid well, some big lumps, were taken out last week near Simmonses' store, there are a great number waiting for water.

Several very rich quartz leads, have been struck near these places, some three or four crushing machines, have been put in successful operation. We noticed something of a rush of new comers, near Dickinson's mill, staking off claims, and preparing for extensive operations when sufficient water should come, to enable them to work; all seemed confident that a rich harvest awaited them.

I believe this Rich Gulch is at what was later called Thompson Flat

Butte Record 12-10-1853

SOUTH FORK OF FEATHER RIVER.—The miners all along on this stream are waiting patiently for water. The diggings are generally very rich, particularly in the vicinity of Stringtown, a thriving little town six miles from this place, containing several substantial hotels, stores, &c., and possessing one of the most convenient and safe ferries in the country. If a sufficient quantity of water falls this winter, there will be an immense amount of gold taken out. Oregon City, one mile to the northeast of Stringtown, promises a rich harvest to the miner. The flourishing town of Enterprise, one mile above the latter place, has just sprung up, and extensive preparations are being made for working the banks, which are exceedingly rich. The cry from all sides is, water! water!! If the season should continue dry, the effect will be disastrous in the extreme.

Butte Record 12-24-1853

The Hon. Court of Sessions. Butte County.

The most important trial during the present term of the Court of Sessions, and which occupied the most time, was that of Mr. H. A. DeCoursey, who was called to answer to the charge of committing an assault with intent to kill Mr. L. P. Hall.

After the examination of all the witnesses, the case, on the part of the people was opened by the Dist. Att'y, W. T. Sexton, Esq., who very ably addressed the jury, setting forth the crime of the prisoner alleged in the indictment. Some considerable feeling was manifested by the large audience which were present, and some sympathizing with Mr. Hall and against Mr. DeCoursey, caused by the feeling and touching plea of Mr. Sexton: This is the first effort we had heard our District Attorney make, but it certainly was a very forcible one, and we think the people of this county have a faithful, able and industrious advocate, in their young and talented prosecutor, W. T. Sexton. He discharges his duty in a bold and fearless manner, and with tact and ability, that would do credit to old and distinguished lawyers.

The argument for the defence was made by his Attorney, Mr. P. H. Harris, who remarked to the Court that the nature of the case, and the duty which he owed to the defendant, would occupy considerable time; and with more than ordinary ability did he discharge that duty. The manner in which Mr. Harris manages a case, his appeals to a jury in bringing up testimony and the law touching the case, is delivered in a most happy and forcible style—in truth, often during his argument in defence of Mr. DeCoursey, he was truly eloquent, and showed oratorical powers rarely met with. His remarks were listened to with marked attention throughout, by all present.

After the case was submitted, the charge of the Hon. Judge Hobart to the jury was given in a lucid and most emphatic manner: he seemed to feel the responsibility resting upon him, and he so discharged it. A more dignified and impartial charge, in a few words, it has seldom been our lot to listen to. The jury retired at 10 o'clock, and after deliberating until the next morning, announced to the court their inability to agree, and they were discharged. Another jury was ordered to be summoned, who were empaneled, and on the new trial, were also unable to agree, and were discharged. The defendant was therefore let go on his own recognizance, to appear at the next term.