



powered by



A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present

Sacramento Transcript, Volume 1, Number 1, 1 April 1850 — %i Stockton and the Southern Mines. [ARTICLE]

Stockton and the Southern Mines.

We have received the last number of the Stockton Times dated March 23. From it we receive that the Stocktonians are agitating the subject of the establishing of a Town for the place. Many of the citizens, however, entertain serious objections to this project, and the Times advocates it with vigor, and we judge it to be in the right.

On account of the removal of three of the wharves, that formerly lay in front of the town into the Mormon Slough, the lots at the end of the town rose considerably in value. In one day every vacant lot throughout the whole extent of Centre street was eagerly bought up. One lot brought \$10,000, cash; and another sold for as high as \$6000.

At an election held in Stockton on the 24th inst., for one member of the Assembly, in place of the Hon. J. F. Stevens, resigned, the vote stood as follows: Dr. E. B. Bateman 97, G. R. Howell 105, J. W. Paine 102, R. Duthie 65, J. H. Morse 23, scattering 3. By returns received last night from the Sonoran Camp, Dr. Bateman's majority in that

place is 27.

We regret to learn that on the Stanislaus there has been trouble with the Indians. In relation to this subject the Times gives the following particulars:

A friend from the mines has favored us with the particulars of a deplorable event which took place recently on the upper Stanislaus. Some six weeks since, one William Hunter and another man, residing at Carson's Creek, purchased two mules from a mau named Parkno, which were stolen a few days afterwards. They tracked them to near an Indian ranche, where they saw an Indian and a boy, who told them the mules were at the ranche, and that Parkno was there also. When within 100 yards of the ranche the Indian started to run. Hunter immediately shot him and then knocked down the boy, and would have killed him, but for his companlon. A body of Indians fired upon them with arrows, but they escaped unhurt. The Indians afterwards had "a talk," and all agreed to let the matter rest. But notwithstanding this, Hunter was afterwards heard to declare that he would take the price of his mule in Indian scalps, which unfortunately reached the ears of the Indians, and hence probably occurred the catastrophe which followed. Not long subsequent to this event, a party of twelve, consisting of Hunter, his brother, F. B. Hoskinson, J. Shelton, H. B. Cottrell, D. Parker, A. P. Osborne, and five others, started on a prospecting tour among the forks of the upper Stanislaus. The party separated, Hunter, his brother Hoskinson, Shelton and Cottrell, in one party—the other seven proceeding up another cañon. In a deep and narrow part the former party was suddenly assailed by a shower of arrows, and Hunter and his brothes fell mortally wounded. Hoskinson and Cottrell made a rush for an opening where the Indians would not be likely to attack them. Shelton seeing his companions fall, stood by until told by them to save himself if possible, that they were dying—Shelton left them, not, however, until the Indians commenced throwing down rocks, one of which struck one of the dying men. Shelton, after much fatigue and suffering, reached Murphey's New Diggins, twelve miles above Carsou's creek. Strange to say, although the arrows fell thick around him, he was untouched. He fired several times, and thinks he brought down two or three Indians. Osborn and Parker, and their party, were also attacked but all escaped with the ex-

were also attacked, but all escaped, with the exception of Parker, who was struck by an arrow, which, but for his shoulder-blade, might have proved mortal. Hoskinson, of Hunter's party, was wounded in the fleshy part of the hip by an arrow. Hunter and his brother were killed about twenty miles above Pass le Pine.

Since the above occurrence, a trader at Carson's, while bringing in part of a beef, had one quarter stolen by Indians. On his return to the spot where the beef was killed, he was grossly insulted by the Indians, and one of them proceeded to draw his bow upon him; when, as a matter of safety, he shot him down—a thing to be regretted, but, under the circumstances, probably justifiable.

HIGH WATER. Heavy rains high up the river, and the melting of the snow on the mountains, have swollen the Sacramento to a remarkable height. It is still slowly rising, but from present appearances, there is very little danger of an overflow, as we are informed by good authority that during the last twenty-four hours the water has only risen four inches, and at the time we write the weather is several degrees cooler than a few hours previous. This will have a tendency to check the thaw above, and at the time the water was rising last evening it would take several days for it to overflow the lower lands of our city.

After the Spring freshets are over, it is in contemplation to commence operations on the levee, and there is no doubt that a work will be constructed without severely taxing the citizens, which will for all time to come be a relief to the residents here above all apprehension of danger.

DROP IN THE BUCKET. We have just

a favored through the politeness of Mr. —
kerson with the examination of a large
splendid specimen of gold and quartz,
weighing one hundred and twenty-seven
ounces.

This lump was found a few days since by
a gentleman named Netherby, in the Au-
gusta Dry Diggings, and is now owned by
Mr. Nickerson, who values it at upwards of
one thousand and fifty dollars. It is one of
the most singular and beautiful specimens
I have ever seen. The quartz is of a very
pale color, and fine particles of gold are
scattered and regularly commingled with it.
Its specific gravity, &c., have been deter-
mined, and the conclusion arrived at that the
gold dust is thus thoroughly and plentifully
mingled throughout the whole lump. If
there is such a curiosity for this land of gold
wonders, what would it be in the States.

NEW PORTS OF DELIVERY IN OREGON. The
President has proclaimed the ports of Nesqually
(Duget's) and Portland, in the collection dis-
trict of Oregon, in the territory of Oregon, to be
authorized ports of delivery, with all the privile-
ges authorized by law to such ports.

CIRCULARS, HAND BILLS, CARDS, &c.—We
take the liberty respectfully to inform our
mercantile friends, and others, that we are
prepared to execute all descriptions of **JOB**
PRINTING, with neatness and despatch, and at
reasonable rates. Our materials are new and
of the most fashionable manufacture, and the

long experience of most of the members of our firm in this line in various cities of the United States, enables us to safely promise that our work shall compare favorably with anything of the kind in California.

Among our assortment of materials we have secured one of the celebrated CARD PRESSES from Hoe's Foundry, which will be put up in a few days, and enable us to execute this kind of printing with advantages not before possessed in California.

POST OFFICE MEETING. A large and enthusiastic meeting of our citizens assembled in front of our Post Office yesterday morning. Arranging themselves in two single files, their intent evidently appeared to be to procure letters brought by the last steamer. The files reached at least sixty yards from each window. But as it took some time to serve each one, and as our people never neglect an opportunity to "kill two birds with one stone," so on this occasion the time was improved by one of the candidates for Mayor who delivered himself of a speech. Colonel Grant had an audience sure not to desert him this time, and "kept himself before the people," in his usual quaint style.

STOCKTON TIMES.—This is the name of a paper lately started in Stockton, the second number of which is before us. Editor, John White. It is printed on a double cap sheet, and its columns are well filled with advertisements, which speak well for the business

...gements, which speak well for the business
of our thrifty neighbor. We wish the editor
prosperity in his vocation, and welcome the
"Times" to our exchange list.

ASSAYING METALS.—The assaying is the most curious and scientific of all the business in the mint. The melters take the gold dust, melt it, and cast it into a bar, when it is weighed accurately, and a piece is cut off for the assayer. He takes it, melts it with twice its weight in silver, and several times its weight in lead. It is melted in small cups of bone ashes, which absorb all the lead; a large part of the silver is extracted by another process, and the sample is then rolled out to a thin shaving, coiled up, and put in a sort of glass vial called a matrass, with some nitric acid. The matrasses are put in a furnace, and the acid is boiled sometime, poured off, a new supply put in, and boiled again. This is done several times, till the acid has extracted all the silver and other mineral substances, leaving the sample of pure gold. The sample is then weighed, and, by the difference between the weight before assaying and after, the true value is found. All the silver over and above five pennyweights for each lot, is paid for by the mint at its true value. The gold, after it has been assayed, is melted, refined, and being mixed with its due proportion of alloy, is drawn into long strips, (not unlike an iron hoop for a cask,) the round pieces cut out with a sort of punch, each piece weighed and brought to right size, and put into a stamping press, whence it comes forth a perfect coin.—*Scientific American.*

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A melancholy occurrence happened at the Texian Dam, three miles below Hawkin's Bar, on Sunday last. A poor fellow known by the sobriquet of "Welsh Peter" in attempting to cross the

“Welsh Peter,” in attempting to cross the river, met with an untimely end. In consequence of the recent heavy rains a considerable rise in the river had taken place, and it is supposed that, although he was known to be an excellent swimmer, the deceased was either carried down by the force of the current, or that in consequence of the extreme coldness of the water he lost the use of his limbs, and thus met with his unhappy death.

Last week's showers have put a stop to all mining operations in many places on the river Toalome.—[*Stockton Times*.