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Weekly Alta California, Number 15, 12 April 1849 — LATEST FROM THE MIJYES. [ARTICLE]

LATEST FROM THE MINES.

Extract from a letter dated—

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SACRAMENTO CITY. April 14, 1849.

“Squire Wheeler has just come in with the news that Richard Johnson and a man named Wood, both of Oregon, with three others, have been killed by the Indians on the Middle Fork. Some men were also killed by the Indians on the Mokelumne, a few days since.

“They have lately opened some very rich and extensive new dry diggings, between Sutter's mill and the North Fork. Lumps weighing four pounds each, are said to have been found, but this is probably an exaggeration.”

Extract from a letter dated—

BENICIA, April 7, 1849.

Yuba is entirely deserted. There may possibly be 5 families on the whole river. There is plenty of gold there, but diggers became dissatisfied with 25 and 32 dollars per day. The greater number have gone south.

Extract from a letter dated—

SACRAMENTO, March 21, 1849.

In my letter to you, I gave you some information as to the best Mining districts, and advised you, if you could get any good business below, to remain there. As you have done so, I will only give you such information as may be useful to others.

The Middle and North forks are decidedly richer in gold than other parts of the country, which have yet been explored. The gold has not, it is said, been found there in so large pieces as in some other places, but in no other part has steady labor been so richly rewarded. The laborer upon these forks may too, at his option, cross over to Bear and Yuba rivers. The stores at the Saw Mill are abundantly supplied with every thing necessary for the miners' use and comfort, and the

articles are sold so cheap that it is needless for them to purchase below and toil along the road with their packs. The Saw Mill is distant forty one miles from Sutters' Fort, and the Middle Fork is about fifteen miles beyond the Saw Mill—contrary to the general opinion, the rivers are not too high to allow the washers to work to advantage, and considerable quantities are daily being washed out on both the forks.

DOWNED.—On the morning of the 12th inst., as nine men were proceeding across the Bay in an open launch, the boat by some mismanagement was swamped and sunk almost immediately. Six of the party, by swimming, reached Bird Island, from whence, after several hours, they were rescued by Col. Steuart in his launch. The other three men, when last seen, were clinging to some articles of the floating cargo, and the strong ebb tide probably carried them out to sea, where they perished. Their names were Sisto Belingeri, an Italian, and Manuel Arias and Rafael Martinez, Chilenos; all recently arrived.

SUICIDE.—A man by the name of H. B. Williams, recently arrived, committed suicide at the house of Mr. Merrill on the morning of the 17th instant, by severing the jugular vein with a piece of window glass. He was about thirty-five years of age, and came from New Orleans across Mexico to San Blas, from which place he came here in the brig Euphemia. In his journey across Mexico, he is said to have been robbed of some \$600. He was taken sick on the passage from San Blas to this place, and soon became deranged, and so continued up to the moment of the fatal act. When discovered, he was quite dead, though the attendant had left the room not five minutes before. By papers found among his effects, it appears that he was formerly overseer of the Plantation Millandon in Louisiana.

FOUND DEAD.—Peter Stephens was found dead on the afternoon of the 16th inst., in a large box in the rear of the Shades Tavern. He was about thirty years of age, and came to this country as a private in company F of the 1st Reg't N. Y. Vol's. He was honorably discharged at the end of the war, since which time he has mostly resided in this place.—He had been for months very intemperate, and to this fact is undoubtedly owing his untimely death.

At the latest dates there were about 2,000 persons on the Isthmus of Panama waiting for passage to California, and hundreds were arriving at Chagres by every vessel from the United States.

The running time of the steamer Oregon, Capt

☐ The running time of the steamer Oregon, Capt. Pearson, from New York to Panama, was 55 1-2 days. Said to be the quickest trip on record.
