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Weekly Alta California, Number 17, 26 April 1849 — !!»(<»< from IIK' .Mllie*. [ARTICLE]

Latest from the Mines.

In the failure, from some unaccountable cause, of our regular correspondence from the mines, we are compelled to make up an article from the meagre and unauthenticated particulars in general circulation.

In most of the rivers where the process of gold digging is carried on, the waters are still too high to work profitably. In most of the dry diggings the searcher is well rewarded, though we have not ascertained any precise information as to the quantities extracted.

We understand that many of the new comers are sorely disappointed, and some from the United States are about to return in the California. We believe their disappointment does not follow so much from any doubts they may have as to the existence of great quantities of the precious ore, as from the life of toil, exposure and privation to which the gold hunter is subjected.

The most reliable accounts state the number of persons actually engaged in the mines at about eight thousand; and probably one-half of these are Americans, and an additional eighth Californians. The feeling is very general among the Americans and Californians that foreigners should not be allowed to dig for gold. They think that they alone should be entitled to all the advantages of the mines, and they believe that such course would secure the permanent prosperity of the country, by preventing the mines from swallowing up its whole productive industry.—

Public meetings on the subject are talked of, and it is proposed that memorials be sent to Congress, requesting a law granting permits to dig, and authorizing such permits to be given to none but American citizens.

There has been considerable difficulty in different portions of the mines between the whites and Indians. It is impossible to say who were the aggressors in the first instance, but it is no doubt true that the whites are becoming impressed with the belief that it will be absolutely necessary to exterminate the savages before they can labor much longer in the mines with security.

Two weeks since we published an account of the murder of five Oregonians by the Indians, on the

Middle Fork, and gave the names of two of the men killed. We have since learned that the names of the other three were Robinson, Thompson, and English. On the receipt of this intelligence at the Saw Mill, a party of twenty five Oregonians went in pursuit of the Indians, and came upon a large *rancheria*, on Weber's creek. A fight occurred, in which some fifteen or twenty Indians were killed, and fifty or sixty taken prisoners. The prisoners were driven down to Culloma, where all but seven were released.— About sundown the seven prisoners make a concerted attempt at escape, when five of them were shot, and two succeeded in getting away.

We hear a few complaints of sickness, but generally, we believe, the health of the miners is good.

FROM MEXICO