

I visited the Mission of San Gabriel a day or two ago, but found nothing there worthy of note. The command of Col. Cooke is encamped close in the vicinity of this place, and number about 500 well armed men. The Indians are becoming troublesome even here, and a number of skirmishes have occurred between them and companies detached to chastise them. Col. Fremont, I understand, leaves for above to day. His men are on the way, and by the time this reaches you, all will be in the Capitol.

I have visited the "tar springs," as they are called, a short distance from this, and found them worthy a visit. This region of country though deficient in wood, nature seems to have supplied with an almost endless quantity of coal, valuable for home consumption only in the North; the tar or pitch, spread upon the straw roof of the houses of the natives, supplies the place of shingles, slate, or tin.

The warm springs shall receive my next attention, and I am informed of lead mines in the vicinity. Taking all into consideration, this country contains both the rich and the rare, and I have come to the conclusion that there is more in California than was ever dreamed of in the philosophy of many. Your's truly,

RALPH STACKPOLE.