

*The Colorado Indians—Murder—New Military Post—Improvements, &c.*

SAN DIEGO, Cal., June 20, 1850.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The steamer is due from Panama to-day, and I will try and post you in the current rumors, reports, &c. of and in the lower district.

The Cuchan and Yumas Indians, on the Colorado, and establishment of a military post at the mouth of the Gila, have been for some time the leading topics. The depredations of these Indians commenced about twelve months since, and have grown worse and worse up to the present time. Capt. Gladden and his party certainly had a fair settlement of all his accounts; received his dues and no more. Whilst in San Diego, purchasing supplies for his party, he was recognized by several as the identical Gladden who was publicly punished in Mexico for his rascality; and when here, one of his companions or party, in crossing the plaza, quietly drew his pistol and shot down a young lad whom he was passing, without even exchanging a word, or ever having had any controversy with him—to keep his hand in and nothing else. This was a *Mr. Brown*, who was arrested and placed under the camp guard for security, where he remained some days, until finding a corporal whom he could operate upon, when about 12 o'clock at night, with the corporal, Brown and another prisoner took their departure for other parts of the *pais*.

The immigrants generally have been as much in fault as the Indians: those with pack animals pilfering their pumpkins, mesquit beans, little patches of melons, corn, &c., and frequently punishing them for some offence, when forbearance should have been exercised for the sake of those more helpless, following. The Indians of course revenge themselves upon such parties as may be passing, where they risk no danger themselves—looking upon all white men as of one family. The horrid reports that reached San Diego about the outrages that had been committed on females, turned out to be false. Major Fitzgerald, who was in San Diego (under orders for Oregon, awaiting the steamer from below) so soon as he heard this report, which came quite authentic, started an express to San Luis Rey for the dragoons to move immediately for the Colorado—intending to abandon his trip up, and take command of the expedition. Not being able to muster more than thirty efficient men, both companies being very small, he requested Capt. Davidson, the temporary commander of the infantry at this place, to give him assistance. Capt. D. was also waited upon by a committee on the part of the citizens; he partially complied, but "required *three days* to prepare his thirty men more!" Before any movement took place the families that had been maltreated by these Indians came in, and

proved the reports to be false. In the mean time Gen. Riley had been notified of these reports, and orders have come down for companies "A" and "E" 1st dragoons, now stationed at San Luis Rey, and the three companies of 2d infantry at the Mission of San Diego, to hold themselves in readiness to march to the Colorado as soon as the Capt. Lincoln arrives with provisions—the commissary being entirely out at present. We may then confidently expect the location of a permanent garrison at or near the mouth of the Gila, within the next three months, for the protection of our suffering countrymen, now daily robbed of their all by these ruthless savages. The *ferry* at the crossing is eagerly sought by a number of different parties. Some six weeks since a company of about 20 men left Los Angeles to establish a ferry, but we learn that they are now at San Felipe, awaiting *troops*. (!) Every public place about the town has the notice of various persons and associations claiming the privilege. A company of some twenty men arrived yesterday from San Francisco, and are now rapidly making their preparations to move and establish the much wished for ferry. No company of men of sufficient strength can establish the ferry so as to pay themselves. When Lieut. Coutts was at this place last fall he fully represented to Gen. Riley the great necessity of a permanent garrison, and that *one hundred men* would be the smallest number possible to manage and control these insolent and overbearing Indians, who from their numbers feel that they are powerful, if not unconquerable. When Lieut. Coutts was *ordered*, the third time, to *leave their land*, he gave them distinctly to understand that if this was repeated to him again he should punish the whole of them severely. The only reply to this was, "you have our hearts, and we have yours. To be friends with the Americans is our wish, but we cannot agree with the immigrants." But enough of the red men.

The leading subject of nearly every correspondent in California being to show to the good public the great advantage possessed by their town, the brisk transactions of business, its ultimate prosperity, &c., San Diego cannot be overlooked. One who spent the last 4th of July in San Diego would hardly know it now. The new framed houses stick out like a "fifer's eye on muster morning." Don Juan Bandini has about completed a large and commodious hotel, and will be prepared this winter to accommodate hundreds who wish to spend the dreary months in an Italian climate. There will also be two others up before winter. No one need fear the lack of good accommodations in San Diego after the 1st of September. The city is organized under the charter granted by the legislature—Gen. J. H. Bean being elected Mayor, and Dr. Wright, Gen. Harazthy, Mr. Noel, Mr. Leamy, and Mr. Johnson Councilmen—Don Juan Bandini, City Assessor—Don Jose Ant. Estadillo, City Treasurer.

Coal of a fine quality has been found at the mouth of the Solidad, and a party of men are now at work with every expectation of a big fortune.

The California came in yesterday evening, but did not remain *ten minutes* in the harbor, greatly disappointing Maj. Fitzgerald, Judge Sutherland, Mr. Chas. R. Johnson and several others who were going north on matters of importance. The agent for this steamer should give Capt. Budd orders exactly as to the time of detaining his steamer at the touching points between Panama and

SAN FRANCISCO.

The Chesapeake is about leaving, and I, as no one from town got to see the California, send my unfinished scrawl by her, trusting that she may reach your city before Christmas. Yours,  
P. CULIAR LEE.

SAN DIEGO CORRESPONDENCE.—In another column will be found a letter containing much information relative to the affairs at San Diego and the region of the Colorado. It will be seen that a garrison is to be established near the junction of the Gila and Colorado by order of Brig. General Riley. We were convinced that an officer who has always performed his duty would quickly act upon the information received, and promptly take all means in his power to guard against the outrages of the savages and protect the immigrants. Our correspondent places rather a different coloring upon the Gladden, or Glanton murder, and as we know too well that in their intercourse with the savages the whites are not over scrupulous and nice, we are disposed to believe his views correct. Still the innocent must be protected from the indiscriminate spirit of revenge in which the untutored children of the woods are wont to indulge.—Our correspondent is a gentleman long known to us, who has resided in San Diego for a length of time, and we place the utmost confidence in any information which he furnishes our readers.

FIRE RIOTS.—We have that confidence in the law and order loving character of our city as to believe it will never be the theatre of such scenes and occurrences as have attended the existence of fire departments in some of the cities in the States. We cut the following from a letter from Philadelphia in the New York Tribune :

The members of the Lafayette Hose Co. were attacked at their house, Fourth above Brown, last night by the Fairmount Engine Company, who went armed with muskets for the purpose. The Lafayettes received them and drove them off, their members being stationed in the cupola and other parts of the building, after wounding the Fairmounters severely.

The Niagara Hose carriage was broken by a gang of rowdies in Moyamensing last night.

In the Court of Quarter Sessions, Nicholas Carson, for setting fire to the Weccacoe Engine House, was sentenced by Judge King to four years at hard labor in the Eastern Penitentiary. In addition to the term of imprisonment, the Judge said that he would be