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Daily Alta California, Volume 1, Number 206, 25 August 1850 — Huulln Cvi rcapuiiilcncc. CoNCKPCION, MIUUTH OF TIIR GILA, July li IrTni. [ARTICLE]

Southern Correspondence.

CONCEPCION, MOUTH OF THE GILA, }
July 19, 1850. }

Thinking it probable you might *gusta*, as the Mexicans say, a correspondent from this out-of-the-way section, I sit down under a rock on the banks of the Colorado, in a temperature of 108 degrees above zero in the shade, to give you the news from this quarter. You, at the north, have all heard, doubtless, of the murder of Glantin and his party at this point, by the Indians. He had accumulated, it was said, some \$100,000 in a few months, by ferrying over the Mexicans. The potency of this idea was sufficient to set all southern California on the *qui vive*. A company was soon formed, of which your correspondent had the misfortune to be one, to come out here and trade with the Indians, and at the same time establish a ferry. In this way we expected, of course, to get back the \$100,000 that the Indians had got from Glantin, and get at least \$100,000 more by ferrying over the returning Mexicans in the fall, and the coming Americans this summer. But the best of calculations are too often liable to interruptions. We have now been on the river a full month. We find the Indians very wary, and by no means disposed to part with their \$100,000 so easy as we anticipated. The fact is, they have not got a tenth portion of the money that has been reported. Next it would appear there are to be no Americans passing here this season. It is now at least two months later than they began to arrive last season from different points in Texas and from New Mexico, and just about the time that the first company got here from Fort Smith, in Arkansas. Up to this date there has arrived here just one solitary American immigrant, and he came via Durango, and reached here with some Mexicans. Then, too, the whole river is likely to be occupied with trading posts and ferry companies. But we have had, as competitors, three Yankees from Los Angeles, who came out with two wagon loads of goods. They sold about \$500 worth in the first two days, since which, no Indian has made his appearance at their tent. I should have remarked, previously, that we sold out nearly all our goods the first week we were on the river, but at prices scarcely remunerative. The Indians will not give extravagant rates for goods, or even a fair remunerative price. They have been in the habit of buying things so cheap from needy immigrants who were glad to sell their surplus supplies at any price rather than pack them across the desert, that the Indians are not now disposed

to give for an article even what it costs to get it here.

But to return. About a week after the arrival of our Yankee friends, there came out another company, which, it appeared, had been made up at San Francisco, and had come down to San Diego by sea. They numbered sixteen men. They have taken possession of a post about a mile below us, where they have fortified themselves and are now engaged in building boats. These gentlemen brought intelligence that there was still another company on its way here from San Francisco, and got up there under the auspices of your world-renowned sheriff Col. Jack Hays, coming with a large stock of goods. If this should be true, give my regards to the Colonel and tell him I wish him well out of it. There may possibly be some money made here this fall by ferrying, but if any one brings to this river a large stock of goods, the only question for him to consider after he gets here with them, will be how he is easiest to get back with them. The Indians were at first rather friendly. They said, however, very frankly, that if we or any one else chose to come out here and trade, they had no objections, but that no American should establish a ferry here. They say the right of the river belongs to them and they mean to maintain it. For the last week or more they have been very distant, and seldom one approaches the camp. One of the chiefs told the American who arrived here the other day, that we had come out to establish a ferry and take the business away from them; but, added he, "they may make boats but they never shall use them: we killed the other company that was here, and we will kill these." They may attempt it, but I doubt their success. We have a strong stockade fort in a defensible position, and have a small piece of cannon and an abundance of small arms to defend it. If Mr. Indian will walk up in the face of such a fire as we can give him, he possesses more determined courage than I think he does, that is all.

We hear that Major Fitzgerald, at San Diego, is about despatching to this quarter a company of troops, and that it is determined to establish a permanent fortification at the mouth of the Gila. This may be so, but I have heard the story so long that I begin to doubt it. But whether the troops come or not, there is no doubt that, for the coming fall, there will be adequate protection for all immigrants, should any be disposed to come this way, which seems to be quite doubtful, judging from present appearances.

The Colorado is falling rapidly. It has receded at least two feet within the last week. Our copper colored neighbors are taking advantage of the drying up of the water in the sloughs to plant therein corn, beans, pumpkins, melons, &c.

Yours,

T. F..