

Derivation of Our County Name.

We publish with much pleasure the following well written letter of Captain Sutter. As the name of our County, is, however, known as "Yuba," it would scarcely be worth the trouble to have it altered, as it would have to be accomplished by legislative action.

HOCK FARM, August 30, 1850.

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed published in your paper, some time since, an extract from the report of my old and much esteemed friend, Gen. Vallejo, "on the derivation and definition of the names of the several counties of the State." So far as my knowledge extends, I think the Gen. has given the derivation and definition of the names of the counties very accurately, and he has certainly shown himself to possess a fund of information in relation to the early history of the country of which few can boast. But historians, like other persons, are apt to draw too much upon the imagination when writing or speaking of subjects somewhat obscure; such, perhaps, was the case with the Gen. when giving the derivation of the name of your county. At all events, he is mistaken.

The exploring expedition to which Geo. Vallejo refers, came no farther up the valley than the mouth of Feather River, and neither saw nor gave name to the river now properly called Yuba. the name of your county is derived as follows: In the year 1840, I started with a party, on an exploring expedition, up the valley. Little was then known of this country above the mouth of Feather River. I found along the valley, many Indian tribes. I was particular to enquire of each tribe the name by which they were known, and many other important matters, which I carefully noted down in a book kept for the purpose, together with the situation of the rancherias of each. The tribe I found at, and which still remains at the old rancheria at Yuba City, informed me that the name of their tribe was Yuba, (pronounced Yuboo.) As this tribe lived opposite the mouth of the river the

from which your county takes its name, I gave that river the name of Yubu, which it has ever since borne. Hence, you discover that the river does not derive its name from the Spanish name of the "vines which shroud its banks," nor is the name of that river, Yuba, or Uba, as my friend Vallejo supposes, but Yubu which cannot be derived from "Uvas."

Yours truly,

J. A. SUTTER.

A WASP.—Some days ago a large Wasp commenced building in the box, in one of our cases. We have attentively watched his labours, at times, and have been much amused and instructed by the buzzing industriant. He has now completed a most unique and beautiful *adobe* structure, with a wing extending down into **ff**. Let no rude hand assail it!

At some future day, we may devote a chapter to Wasp-ology.

HEAD OF NAVIGATION.—Upon the River boats discontinuing their trips to this place, Col Grant published a flaming advertisement, in reference to Nicolaus, headed "Head of Navigation! Depot for all the Northern Mines!" and at considerable length, blew a tremendous blast for the town, upon the strength of its being the *terminus* of the Steamer Dana from Sacramento City.

That was mighty fine while it lasted. But a week ago, the Dana stopped coming as far as Nicolaus, and now stops at Vernon. The Vernonites now claim their town to be the head of Navigation. But Col. Grant won't take down his sign! All right, gentlemen. Only make the people believe you, and you are safe in asserting anything.

Meanwhile, the owner and Captain of the little Steamer Yuba say Marysville is the head of Navigation; and as evidence of that fact, the Steamer plies here regularly.

Now who is right? Or, are all three