



powered by



A Freely Accessible Repository  
of Digitized California  
Newspapers from 1846 to the  
Present

Sacramento Transcript, Volume 1, Number 106, 3 September 1850 — INDIAN TROUBLE. [ARTICLE]

## INDIAN TROUBLE.

We learn from Col. Johnson, the Indian Agent, that during his excursion on the Upper Sacramento, he heard that seven persons on the Lawson route had encamped on the waters of Pitts river. They had crossed the mountains, almost exhausted for want of food, and had thrown away all their arms, in order to travel with more facility. After being encamped a short time on the banks of the river, several Indians made their appearance, and motioned them to go away. They did not go, however. In the course of half an hour, a large body of Indians came upon them, killed one man in camp, and took the other six prisoners, stripped them, and forced them into the river. At first, they supposed the Indians only wanted to see their skill in swimming; but as soon as they entered the water, the Indians fired on them, killing five out of the six. The other was wounded and sank, as the Indians supposed, dead. But he fortunately swam under some drift wood, where he got his head out of water, and remained there until the next day, when another train of emigrants came along and relieved him. The party assaulted by the Indians were from Knox or Wayne county, Ohio, and their names—Daniel B. Washburn, Henry R. Coffman, Edward Mefford, William McCurdy, Levi Barrel, George Starks, and one whose name is forgotten by

starks, and one whose name is forgotten by our informant.—[Journal of Commerce.

Westfield, Mass., June 29th, 1850.

Editor of Pacific News:

Some months since, I read an article from your paper relative to the gold-bearing quartz of California, and in the absence of all reliable and minute information, addressed myself directly to Mr. Wright for specimens, and have the promise, but have not received them; and an opportunity offering directly to send you, I will venture to suggest to every gold miner, meeting with this quartz, who can amalgamate and secure the minute and fine gold by quicksilver, to try and ascertain if the quartz cannot be converted into fine sand by the simple process of heating it, by any means, red hot, and then at once plunging it into water, and thus disintegrating it completely and cheaply, without the expense of stamping, crushing, and grinding by heavy, costly, and unattainable machinery.

\* All the varieties of quartz in the talcose and mica slate of New England can be heated, quenched and crumbled to sand, more or less fine, and that of California I think is not an exception, from a single small specimen which I have seen, but could not have to test. You can at once see and appreciate the immediate and immense advantage of this certain method of securing gold from veins or seams, over the less certain process of "panning" the gravel sile and clay.

I recently noticed from your paper an account of the gold and another associated mineral from Trinity river, supposed to be Platinum. Since the official report of Col.

Mason, this valuable metal has not been mentioned, and I sincerely hope your conjectures may prove correct, and that platinum and its usually associated minerals and compounds, osmium, iridium, rhodium, and palladium may be found "in situ."

Platinum, and all its native compound, will not marry with or amalgamate with mercury, and its granules and bits (Pejutos) have sufficient specific gravity, if shaken with quicksilver, to settle through and subside at the bottom of a bottle, and may thus be separated from any iron which will float. Platinum in the same manner will subside in an amalgam of gold and mercury, if the amalgam is sufficiently soft, or mixed with an excess of quicksilver, until its specific gravity is made sufficiently low.

Oil will make fuel, and Yankees can distill a river of water; so the gold will be forthcoming, in spite of wood or waier.

Respectfully yours,  
**HOMER HOLLAND, M.D.**

Mr. Editor: Is it not morally wrong for a divine to marry a little girl of less than fourteen years of age?  
**PANTALETTS.**

If she has not left off her pantaletts—yes. If she is about leaving them off—doubtful. If she has left them off three months—no. It is becoming the fashion now-a-days for a wee thing to jump out of her pantaletts into a husband's arms.

**A HINT TO NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS.**  
 —Goethe had one day been speaking with his usual generosity of poems by an amateur

... the general... of poems by an amateur author, but added, "The only thing to be objected to this, as well as to most of the works of our young ladies and gentlemen, might possibly be that, like trees too full of sap, which throw out a number of parasitical shoots, they have an excess of thoughts and emotions which they are unable to command; so that they can rarely keep within due bounds, or know how to stop in the right place. \* \* \* \* \* One must be a veteran in the business, he added, laughing, to understand the art of crossing out. In that respect, Schiller was eminently great. On one occasion, while he was engaged with the *Musen Almanach*, I have known him cut down a pompous poem from two-and-twenty strophes to seven; and, in fact, the composition lost nothing by this terrible operation—on the contrary, these seven strophes still preserved all the good and effectual ideas that the two-and-twenty had at first contained.

**THE MEN FOR THE TIMES.**—We like an active man, who has the impulse of the age—of the steam engine in him. A lazy, plodding, snail-paced chap might have got on in the world fifty years ago, but he won't do these times. We live in an age of quick ideas; men think quick—speak quick—eat, sleep, marry, and die quick—and slow coaches ain't tolerated. "Go ahead, if you burst your boiler," is the motto of the age; and he succeeds in every line of business, who has most of the snapping turtle in him; "be up and dressed" always—not gaping and rubbing your eyes, as if you were half asleep, but wide awake for whatever may turn up and you may be called

may turn up, and you may be somebody before you die. Think, plan, reflect as much as you please, before you act ; but think quickly and closely, and when you have fixed your eyes upon an object, spring to the mark at once.

**AN EDITOR'S LIFE.**—The North British Review, for May, speaking of the press and of journalists, gives the following graphic and truthful paragraph :

“The man who once becomes a journalist, must almost bid farewell to mental rest or mental leisure. If he fulfils his duties truthfully, his attention must be ever awake to what is passing in the world, and his whole mind must be devoted to the instant examination, and discussion, and record, of current events. He has no days to spend on catalogues, or in dreamy, discursive researches in public libraries. He has no months to devote to the exhaustion of any one theme. What he has to deal with must be taken up at a moment's notice, be examined, tested, and dismissed at once ; and thus his mind is ever kept occupied with the mental necessity of the world's passing hour.”

**THE GALPHIN INVESTIGATION.**—The N. Y. Tribune, in an article on the Galphin fraud, says :

“It can hardly be denied that the affair has received a perfectly thorough and unusually fair-spirited and impartial investigation, and we do not think the country will be disposed to deny

the country will be disposed to deny the justice of the conclusion arrived at. And there is no doubt that, whatever be the legal effect of this conclusion, the people at large should require the repayment of this money. Perhaps in the atmosphere of Washington, it may seem rather a verdant, or rather an obsolete idea that any body who had fed fat on the Treasury should be expected to disgorge the luscious plunder, but it is nevertheless one that every honest conscience must entertain, and every sentiment of private honor enforce. All the parties who have shared in this spoil are not known to the public, but at least one is conspicuous, and will be universally looked to. Indeed, it is hardly possible to doubt, under the circumstances, he will see the propriety of a prompt and complete restitution of the whole interest and take measures accordingly."

**TEMPERANCE ADDRESS BY GENERAL HOUSTON.**—Gen. Houston, U. S. Senator from Texas, addressed "Marion" Temperance Society of Baltimore, on the occasion of the National Anniversary.

The New York Tribune says that the report of the investigating committee will show that Mr. Paine's invention is "all gas."