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Sacramento Transcript, Volume 1, Number 113, 11 September 1850 — Letter from Trinity Diggings.  
[ARTICLE]

**Letter from Trinity Diggings.**

Messrs. Editors—Having just returned from an expedition up the Klamath river and its tributaries, I give you a brief statement of the diggings in that remote region, as far as I was able to learn by my own exertions. After several unsuccessful attempts to cross the mountains from Trinity river to the Klamath in a direct northerly course, we were compelled to follow the Trinity down to its junction with the Klamath. At the mouth of Trinity, we found three large Indian villages, with houses built of planks split out of red wood, and covered with red wood boards, in a manner which indicated that those Indians possessed more intelligence and culture than any other tribe we had yet met with in California. The Indians themselves were of a more warlike disposition, and possessed the faculties of the most expert thieves of any large city. While we were unpacking our mules, they stole, notwithstanding our closest attention, our axe, crow-bar, blankets, the knives out of our very belts; they seemed to have a wonderful desire for iron. We being only 14 in number, open revenge or hostility would have proved fatal, as we were completely surrounded by several hundred Indians, who had their bows and sharp-pointed arrows ready. However, we got off safely.

ready. However, we got off safely, and found our way up the Klamath over a rugged and rocky trail, where the best of mules lost their foot-hold sometimes, and rolled down the precipices. After four days' very fatiguing journey, we arrived at the mouth of Salmon river, where we intended to stop and prospect, and, if favorable, go to work. The result of our prospects were not so flattering as we anticipated—the gold being deposited in small quantities from two to three cents the pan. Sometimes a crevice in a rock would yield \$50 to a day's labor; but this good luck was seldom met with. Some of the bars paid as high as an ounce per day to the man, but then the gold was in the topsoil, and therefore soon worked out. As near as I could find out, this seems to be the case with most all the rivers on the Coast Range mountains; few bars would pay; the gold being chiefly found in the topsoil, and rich crevices scarce. From this very reason you can account for so many disappointments met on Trinity. A few individuals have done well in a canon, in a crevice, or in some bar that had not previously been worked out. The gold being all in the topsoil, men would work out their claim in a short time, and then be obliged to seek other places. Moving about will not do in any mines, and especially in such as Trinity and Klamath, where the worst of mountain trails makes the moving very tedious, difficult, and expensive. It is no small matter to take your bundle on your back, and carry your provisions over mountains which require hours to ascend, and hours to go down again. As for dry diggings, we have not been able to discover any, nor have we been able to

find any flats, or even gently descending ravines, where the gold is most apt to lay. Mountain joins mountain, and the gulches are very rocky and steep; that is, as far as we were able to ascend the river. There may be a better-looking gold region at the head of Klamath and Shasta river, which empties into the Klamath, above Salmon river; but our provisions giving out, we were obliged to return. Since our return, parties have started up to Shasta river, and no doubt the public will be informed, ere long, how that remote region will reward the enterprise of the prospecting miner.

On our return from the Klamath, at its junction with the Trinity, we found the Indians very hostile; and not feeling very good-humored after having lost so many useful articles, we determined this time to give them their just due. After having appointed an old mountaineer for our captain, we attacked their village and succeeded in routing the Indians. Most of them took to their canoes, which they manage with great dexterity, and effected their escape; some, however, we were able to take prisoners, so as to recover our stolen mining utensils and clothing; and some had to pay with their life for exasperating the whites by their depredations. We had ample opportunity to witness their great skill in shooting arrows, which frequently fell among us from a distance of 250 yards. The deadly fire of our rifles kept them in awe, and since this little affray, we have heard from parties, which ascended the river afterwards, that the lesson we taught them stopped their marauding, and the Indians now behave more peaceably and are more friendly to the whites. Still I

would recommend to persons who start for that region to be well armed, and not trust these Indians, nor allow them to come into camp, for they are treacherous and warlike, and would not hesitate to kill a small party. Salmon fish abound in the river, and for a few strings of beads, we secured many an excellent meal of the most delicious salmon in the world. W. H. BEURMANN.

We learn from a gentleman who has just arrived in the city from the Mercede, where he was engaged in mining, that the dams will not turn out as well as was expected in the early part of the summer. Claims are bought and sold for two and three hundred dollars, and never bring over five hundred.—[Journal.

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE.—The council have made an appropriation of two thousand dollars for the enclosing and cleaning up of the Plaza, we are in hopes that it may be put in some sort of shape to be looked upon as an ornament to the city.—[Journ.