

*The American Fork — Cosumney River — "Montezuma"  
Emigration — &c: &c:*

FORT SACRAMENTO, Oct. 9th, 1847.

MR. EDITOR: I have just returned from the head waters of the American Fork and Cosumney rivers, the first a tributary of the Sacramento, the other of the San Joaquin. And as in my last letter I promised to give you some statistics of this valley, I will commence with this trip, and when at leisure will continue it. Some few days since, business called me to that part of the country; I found about twenty industrious men at work, hewing and sawing timber, for building purposes and ferry boats. One party was engaged in erecting a saw mill on the American fork, for Capt. Sutter; others getting out timber for two ferry boats and wind mill, for Montezuma; another party, a boat for the New Helvetia ferry, and a fourth, making shingles, from the best cedar the globe produces.

The American Fork affords more water power than the Genesee river, at Rochester New York. Three mills are now being built on it, viz., a large flouring mill with four pair of four foot stones, by our enterprising citizen, Capt. John A. Sutter, it is to be completed by the 25th of December next. A saw mill for the same gentleman to be in operation about the first of December. The third, a flouring mill with two pair of stones for your worthy citizen E. Grimes Esq. — the race for Capt. Sutter's flouring mill, will be three and a half miles in length; and will be of immense value in watering a large tract of fine farming land. The flouring mills are but 3 miles from this fort, and steam boats and launches can take the flour at the doors of the mills. The saw mill is thirty miles from the fort, near the head of the California Mountains. The road to this mill is an excellent one, superior to the streets in your city; in the time of high water the lumber can be rafted out to the Sacramento river.

The Cosumney river affords many fine mill sites. A flouring mill has been erected on this stream, and will be in operation in a day or two. This mill is but twenty miles from the fort, with an excellent road to the embarcadara of New Helvetia. You will notice your city will soon be supplied with flour and lumber from this place. In the immediate vicinity of all these mill sites, the soil is superior for farming purposes. At the base, and on the side of the mountain, are beautiful valleys, with springs of pure mountain water gushing from the rocks in every direction. Within a few years, this land will be settled by our industrious farmers from the Eastern States, and millions of Saxony sheep raised in these fine valleys, and numerous woolen factories and carding mills will be in operation on these noble streams.

The timber here, is superior to any I ever saw—cedar, fir, spruce, several kinds of pine, &c. The sugar pine, is far better than the white pine in the United States. Plank can be obtained from all this timber from eighty to one hundred feet in length, free from knots. Trees of any length can be obtained for masts and spars of ships, and rafted down to Montezuma, (situated at the

head of the Suisun Bay, immediately at the point where the great Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers disembogue, fifty miles from San Francisco,) at which place ships of any size can go to be repaired. At this point, I think, our steam boats and schooners will be built. Timber, sufficient to build the navies of the world, can be had from these mountains, and can be rafted down the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, with ease and safety. These rivers are free from snags, and but one half mile wide. The live oak, can be procured here in any quantity, which I think will answer an excellent purpose for timbers and knees of vessels.

The men engaged in getting out the timber for the Montezuma mill and boats, informed me that they should next week raft them down the Sacramento river to that place. This will be the first, of thousands of rafts, that must follow in a few years to supply the great demand for masts and spars for the shipping of the Pacific, and lumber for steamers, schooners, and houses for the numerous towns that must spring up on our coast. The pine, fir, spruce, &c. on these mountains is inexhaustible; and there are other tributaries of both the Sacramento and San Joaquin (two of which I have visited) on which the timber is equally as good as on the above described stream, and far better for rafting. The red-wood, is also very abundant, but I think it will not be used when the sugar and yellow pine can be obtained at the same price. The fuel for the steamers that are to navigate our bays and rivers will be floated out of these streams into the Sacramento and San Joaquin, and it can be afforded at a less price than wood is now sold on the lower Mississippi. For instance, on the Juba river, it will require but twenty-five miles rafting to reach the navigable waters of the Feather River, it can then be taken in large flats, or rafts, to any part of the Sacramento river. This wood is a very superior quality of pitch pine, the best in the world for generating steam. Before the steamers of New York commenced using the Anthracite coal, their wood was brought from James river, Virginia, by sea, in schooners, which of course made it much more expensive than it will be here. I was told by a gentleman, a few days since, who has lived on the Juba river a number of years, that the Indians were industrious, and used the axe and cross-cut saw very well, and that their labor can be procured, payable in clothing, on very reasonable terms.

In my next, I will endeavor to give you some account of the iron ore, the immense quantity of pure red ochre, and the white clay (which is superior to the Spanish white) near the Cosumney river.

Some sixty wagons have arrived from the U. States. A company of eighteen wagons, with Mr. Wiggins as pilot, left the trail on Mary's river, on the new Oregon road, and will enter the valley near the source of the Sacramento. This will be the last company, and will make this year's emigration about seventy-eight wagons. The emigrants inform me, that from eight hundred to one thousand wagons have gone to Oregon this year.

Yours, SACRAMENTO.

EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH OF MR. GILES, OF MARYLAND.—

*In the House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1847—On the WILMOT proviso.*

Now, sir, it is something granted in all this discussion, that we are to acquire territory from Mexico. Of that I think there can be no doubt. We are to acquire, and we must acquire territory from Mexico. Mexico owes our citizens a large amount of money; acknowledged by treaty, settled by commissioners. She must be made to pay it, either in money, or in territory, before our country can agree upon an honorable peace. She must be made to pay the expense of this war, brought upon us by her invasion of one of the sovereign States of this Union, and her shedding of American blood upon American soil. How is she to do this? Has she any money in her treasury? Why, sir, what is her present debt? Her foreign debt was about sixty millions of dollars; her domestic debt about forty millions; her whole debt, then, before she commenced this controversy with the United States of the north, was one hundred millions of dollars. Her treasury is exhausted; her government is bankrupt; her army unpaid, and unfed; and, upon the last breeze from the south, there comes to us the rumor that her Congress, in desperation, have issued a decree against the property of the church. Now, sir, it were vain to look for indemnity for our citizens from such a government without she pay us in territory.

I take it, then, for granted, Mr. Chairman, in addressing myself to this question, that we shall gain territory, and must gain territory, before we shut the gates of the temple of Janus.

There is another reason why we must gain it, Mr. Chairman. Our emigrants, in passing along across the broad prairies of the west, have already turned their footsteps southward to California; and I tell you from the day the Anglo-Saxon planted his step upon the "sea girt isle," down to the present time, his motto has ever been that which was so gloriously borne on the banner of the immortal Hampden.

*"Vestigia nulla retrorsum."*

Our emigrants are going there; they are carrying with them the civilization of the north; they are carrying with them their love for the institutions of these States; and

I tell you, sir, if we do not gain this territory, Mexico can never resume her iron sway over it. It must either be with us, adding to the strength, and the wealth, and the commerce of this great confederacy, or it will be an independent republic. We must have it. Every consideration of national policy calls upon us to secure it. We must march right on from ocean to ocean. We must fulfil what the American poet has said of us, from one end of this confederacy to the other—

“The broad Pacific chafes our strand ;  
We hear the wild Atlantic roar.”

We must march from Texas straight to the Pacific ocean, and be bounded only by its roaring wave. We must admit no other government to any partition of this great territory. It is the destiny of the white race ; it is the destiny of the Anglo-Saxon race ; and if they fail to perform it, they will not come up to that high position which Providence, in his mighty government has assigned them.