



powered by



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

Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 10, 11 January 1852 — SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 11 I,filer of .»«■ Jeaqnin Ortega. [ARTICLE]

**SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 11.**

**Letter of Don Jose Joaquin Ortega.**

The intelligence received from time to time from the seat of the Indian war in the Southern part of the State, has contained sundry mysterious givings out, to the effect that the Indian rebellion was instigated and urged on by native Californians, who were anxious to rid their country of the American inhabitants. This charge had been repeated so often, and no contradiction having been attempted, that the people of this section of the State, to a great extent, regarded the various statements as truth. It was not remarkable, then, that the news published in the San Diego Herald, and received here by the Northerner, should have been generally copied, as the implication of several persons by name was but the proper sequel to the numerous assertions to the same effect, which had been steadily persisted in for a month before. That news, it will be recollected, contained a statement of Antonio Garra, the chief of the insurgent Indians, declaring that Senor Estudillo and Don Jose Joaquin Ortega, two of the oldest and most respectable citizens of San Diego, were both guilty of conspiring with him in the atrocities he committed and meditated.

These disclosures were published at once by the press of this city, without comment, and they may possibly have gone to confirm the truth of the former grave charges. But it appears by later intelligence per Sea Bird, that this confession of Garra is not to be relied upon, and that he has labored, through the influence of unworthy motives, to blast the reputation

of these two worthy and esteemed citizens of that portion of the State. Various letters received by us go to confirm this view of the matter, some of which we have already published. With one of the gentlemen named above, Don Joaquin Ortega, we have the pleasure of a slight personal acquaintance, and we are gratified that we are enabled to lay before our readers directly from his own hand, the following satisfactory and conclusive exculpation from the malignant and scandalous charges which have been uttered :

SAN DIEGO, 30th Dec., 1851.

SIR:—With your permission, I beg to avail myself of the columns of your widely circulated paper, to correct by a few brief facts, an impression which has gone abroad of my collusion with Antonio Garra in the late insurrection among the Indians of Agua Caliente, he being the head and front of such outbreak as it appears, and having in his confession as prisoner brought forth an imputation upon my fidelity and character, which calls upon me for a refutation. Were it not that my name has been published to the world in this transaction, I should not think it of sufficient importance to make a defence in public—but I rely upon my fidelity to the flag under which I live, a clear conscience, and upon the opinion of those natives of this soil, who have known me well for years, and a host of Americans in this part of this country, who can testify to my uniform good conduct, friendship and hospitality. Upon these few simple, and true assertions, I refute with indignation, every and each implication of Antonio Garra, and with the relation of one or two matters which passed under my own observation, leave an intelligent public, capable I believe of discriminating between the character of a white man and an Indian, to draw just conclusions.

On the 11th of October, the Indians arrived at my rancho of Santa Maria, and sent for me to say that they wished to celebrate the feast day of their favorite bird the Javilau. I told them that I had no objection to their feast, and they commenced dancing about four o'clock in the afternoon. They applied to me for something to eat, and having nothing else to offer them, I sent for four calves, which were tied near my house, made them this present, and told them to make themselves contented, and not to quarrel and fight. The day following, I told them that they must finish the feast that night, as the next day I was going to Santa Barbara, with seven others from San Diego, where we were going to have a convention; that others from Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo and Monterey, would also be there; and that our object was to petition the Government for a division of territory, that we, who were living here in the southern country, unable, without sacrifice, to pay our taxes, might get relief: and

without sacrifice, to pay our taxes, might get relief; and that they must remain peaceable and quiet, and get into no difficulties which might affect the Government in an unfriendly manner towards them.

With this I left. The tribe who had the feast were 'Dieguirios,' and have ever remained conformable to the instructions which I gave them.

Antonio Garra was not at the feast, nor were any of the Agua Caliente Indians.

One word more, and I am done. My reasons for cautioning the Indians to be quiet and behave themselves properly, was because I knew that they felt aggrieved at the levy upon them for taxes, as being something they could not comprehend, and consequently disliked.

If you will do me the favor, Sir, to publish this letter in your valuable paper, it will afford me much pleasure to reciprocate in any way, should you at any time visit this part of the country.

I have the honor to be Sir, your most ob't serv't,

JOSE JOAQN. ORTEGA.

To Hon. E. GILBERT, Ed. Alta California.

**SPEED OF THE GOLDEN GATE.**—As this splendid ship has already earned a very distinguished reputation for speed, an account of her performances from this port and back, will no doubt be read with interest. The minutes are exact, having been furnished through the politeness of Mr. R. B. Macy, her Purser.

The Golden Gate, belonging to the Pacific Mail Company, left San Francisco on the 5th of December at 10 o'clock A. M., and has made the voyage in thirty-five days and fifteen hours to and from Panama, during which time she remained at the latter port nine days and eighteen hours; at Acapulco one day and sixteen hours; at San Diego three hours; and at Monterey two hours, making the running time twenty-four days. In this twenty-four days she has run 6,800 miles, averaging  $283\frac{1}{2}$  miles per day, or about 115.6 miles per hour. With the exception of 48 hours she had to contend against strong head winds. Her passage to Panama was performed in twelve days and one hour running time, and her passengers, treasure and mails were at Chagres and embarked on board the Cherokee within fifteen days from San Francisco. Should the same despatch be accomplished on the Atlantic side they would reach New York in less than twenty-four days from port to port.

in less than twenty-four days from port to port.  
 Her passengers and mails by this trip left New York on the 11th of December, and have thus been a little more than twenty-nine days coming through — This trip from Panama to San Francisco has been performed in 11 days and 23 hours running time—the quickest ever made. When the mails can be sent through without the almost necessary detentions at Havana and on the Isthmus, we shall be able to make the trip in such vessels as the Golden Gate, in less than twenty-two days. The mails cause invariably a delay of from four to six days, which evil, when remedied, will give universal satisfaction, and place us nearer our Atlantic friends.

**IMPORTANT FROM CHILE.**—No mail from Chile has been received at the Post Office. The New Grenada left Valparaiso on the 25th without the mail, but was overtaken by the new steamer Santiago which left Valparaiso the 2nd Dec. By her a letter has been received by a gentleman in this city, containing intelligence of the defeat of the government forces under Gen. Bulnes at Talca, by the troops under Cruz. This has aggravated the state of affairs, both parties being now about equally balanced. Cruz has engaged the Arancano Indians on his side. The worst of the matter is that the scene of action is the centre of the wheat growing country. In the north, the government have not yet succeeded in reducing Serena.

**SECRETARY OF STATE.**—Gov. Bigler has appointed the old incumbent, W. Van Voorhies, to the chair of Secretary of State, and the choice has been confirmed, as will be seen by reference to our Legislative reports. It is extremely doubtful whether this appointment will please even the party friends of the administration.

**FROM NEW ZEALAND.**—We have received the New Zealander, from Auckland, to Oct. 8th, but the intelligence contained is on'y of local interest.

