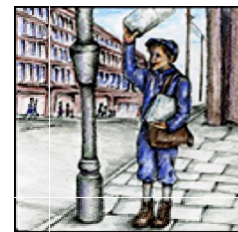


powered by



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

Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 15, 16 January 1852 — Oar I>ea Angeles Con raptddrarr,
[ARTICLE]

Our Los Angeles Correspondence.

Departure of the Los Angeles Volunteers for Aguas Calientes—Arrival of Gen. Bean and Major Norton at Chino—Difficulty of procuring horses—Antonio Garra captured—Night march by Gen. Bean's command—Antonio Garra delivered to Gen. Bean and taken to Chino—Generous treatment of Gen. Bean and officers by the Mormons—Stockade at San Bernardino—Scene of Irving's defeat—Juan Antonio stabbed by Antonio Garra—Treaty made with Juan Antonio—Hines, the murderer, captured—Court Martial at Chino for trial of Indian prisoners—Money and munitions of war wanted, not men.

RANCHO DEL CHINO, Dec. 24, 1851.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Thinking yourselves and your readers might desire to hear something of the “doings” in this part of the country, since the excitement occasioned by the Indian difficulties, I will give you a few items which may help to fill up a small space in your valuable sheet.

The Los Angeles Volunteers, numbering about 30 men, under the command of Capt. G. B. Fitzgerald, left Los Angeles on the 4th inst. for the Aguas Calientes, where the Indians were reported to have assembled in great force. Maj. Gen. Bean, accompanied by Major Myron Norton, left the next day to join the command at Rancho del Chino. After remaining at Chino two or three days, where they were detained by reason of the difficulty in procuring horses, news was received about 12 o'clock at night that the chief, Antonio Garra, had been taken prisoner by Juan Antonio, chief of the Cahuillas, and was then at San Gorgonio, the rancheria of Juan Antonio, about 75 miles from Chino. Gen. Bean immediately ordered his command to prepare for the march, and in less than an hour we were on the road in a bright moonlight night for San Gorgonio. Most of the horses

moonlight night for San Gorgonio. Most of the horses in the command having given out, before we had proceeded more than half the distance, Gen. Bean, accompanied only by Lieut. Caleb Smith, U.S.A., (who had generously volunteered to accompany the expedition) proceeded to the camp of Juan Antonio. Upon their arrival they found the chief with 250 of his warriors, and Antonio Garra a close prisoner. After remaining there three days, they induced Juan Antonio to deliver up to them the chief Antonio Garra, upon promising to send him certain presents for his warriors. Before leaving San Gorgonio, Gen. Bean induced Antonio Garra to write to his son to bring into that place his family, and the chiefs of his tribe, and deliver themselves up to Juan Antonio as prisoners. As soon as fresh horses could be procured after our return to Chino, Capt. Fitzgerald was dispatched with his company to Agua Caliente.

On the 18th inst., Gen. Bean again started for San Gorgonio, accompanied by Major Norton, and Lieut. Smith, with 5 or 6 men; we stopped the first night at the Mormon Camp, in the valley of San Bernardino, where we were treated with particular kindness by every one. Gen. Rich and Capt. Hunt, at whose houses we were entertained, generously tendered to us every courtesy and comfort we could have desired. The Mormons in the valley of San Bernardino, numbering about 500, since the difficulties with the Indians, have been obliged to pull down their houses, just erected, which were in a scattered situation, and rebuild within a stockade which they have erected, enclosing about ten acres. A regular guard is kept up every night, and fortified as they are, they can defend themselves against all the Indians that can be brought against them.

Bidding adieu to our Mormon friends the next morning, we proceeded on our way and arrived at Juan Antonio's camp at about 4 P. M., that day. On our way from the Mormon Camp to Gorgonio we had to pass through a cañada, a distance of about 10 miles, a wild and gloomy looking country: in this place a short distance from the road, we passed the spot where Irving and his party were killed by Juan Antonio and his men, last year.

Our arrival at Juan Antonio's camp, at the precise moment we did, was particularly fortunate; the young chief Antoninio Gara, the son of Antonio Garra, had arrived the day before, with ten others of his tribe, in obedience to his father's letter, and delivered themselves as prisoners to Juan Antonio. Just previous to our arrival Juan Antonio had gone in among the prisoners, and in conversation with the prisoner Antonio he made him some insulting

prisoner Antonio, he made him some insulting remark, whereupon Antonio replied "I am your prisoner, but I will not permit you to insult me," and instantly struck Juan Antonio with his knife; the blade passed through his left side and into his arm, not inflicting however, a severe wound; upon this the Cahuillas rushed for their arms and would have killed every prisoner had they not perceived Gen. Bean and his party galloping towards them. They immediately hid away their arms, and when we got in among them everything was comparatively quiet. The next day Gen. Bean made a treaty with Juan Antonio, and after distributing among them our presents, (with which they seemed highly pleased) they gave a grand dance in the evening, at which we were invited and went, of course.

We left the next morning, taking with us all the prisoners, and also a man by the name of Hines, who murdered a Californian, a short time since in Los Angeles. He is a desperate character, and required all the vigilance of Lieut. Smith. (under whose immediate charge he was placed) to prevent his escape. We arrived at this place yesterday evening with all of our prisoners. The man Hines will be sent to Los Angeles for trial by the civil authorities.

Gen. Bean has ordered a Court-martial to be commenced to-morrow, for the trial of five of the Indians, who, by their own confessions, are guilty of the massacre at Warner's Rancho. The probability is, they will be hung. The old chief, Antonio Garra, will be taken to San Diego for trial. As soon as the prisoners we have are disposed of, in some manner, we shall move on to Agua Caliente, to join the troops already there.

Gen Bean has been much embarrassed in his movements, through the difficulty of procuring horses, &c. But he is determined to push on and accomplish the objects for which he has taken the field.

The alacrity with which the citizens of San Francisco offered their services to come to our assistance, is deserving of much credit. But it is not men we want—we only need proper arms and means of transportation.

Yours truly,
GORDITO.

The Court Martial.—Three Indians found guilty.—Antonino Garra, son of Antonio Garra, and another Indian, shot.—One Indian whipped.—Antonio Garra to be taken to San Diego.—Confession of guilt by the Prisoners.

RANCHO DEL CHINO, Dec. 28, 1851.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have only time to inform

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have only time to inform you of the disposition made of the Indians we had in our custody, as I informed you in my last. A Court Martial was convened, consisting of eight members. We found three of the men guilty, sentenced two of them to be shot, and the other, in consequence of his youth, was let off with 50 lashes. One of the men, Antonino Garra, son of Antonio Garra, was shot yesterday morning at daylight, and the other, Jose Lewis, this morning at the same time. Antonio Garra we shall take to San Diego as soon as the road becomes passable. It has rained here steadily for the last week, and the whole valley is flooded.

Yours in haste,

GORDITO.

P. S.—Each of the prisoners confessed their guilt before their punishment.

G.

DEATHS.—We regret to learn that there was much sickness from fever on board the Northerner on her upward trip this time, as well as to announce that three deaths have occurred on board since her arrival in our harbor. One of the passengers is insane now, and confined. He was wandering when he went on board, but grew worse on the passage up, until he became stark mad.