

# Letter from "Pasqual."

The following interesting letter from an esteemed correspondent in the mountains, has, by some negligence on the part of some up-country Postmaster, been detained over a month beyond its proper time. A portion of it, therefore, will be "old news," but we give it entire. The hit at the "new uniform" is decidedly good.

RETREAT OBSERVATORY, CAL.,

January 20th, 1852.

EDITOR SAN DIEGO HERALD: I should have written you before, as I promised when I saw you in San Francisco, but that you are all so pre-occupied and absorbed in your martial characters and military operations, that any intelligence from this part of the world must be stale and uninteresting, compared to the glorious pomp of war, and the heroic and patriotic demonstrations of your people against the Indians of that portion of the country. I happened to be in San Francisco when the alarming letter of Col. Haraszthy reached the Governor, and frantic was the joy and excitement at the prospect of rushing to "glory" (not the "grave") upon the Indian hordes that infest the sierras near San Diego. In vain did Gen. Hitchcock send down sufficient assistance—in vain did he protest to the Governor that his volunteers were not wanted—in vain did repeated intelligence reach us, that all alarm was over—in vain did the Governor unmarshall and disband his hosts—the military ardor was up, and could not be controlled but by venting it upon the unconscious originators of it; and accordingly, a band of heroes started off on their own hook, and I trust a due appreciation of this self-sacrificing spirit will call forth many expressions of gratitude from the San Diego people, and be the theme of your lucubrations for a long time to come. The result of all this stir has not reached us, for having retired to a lodge in a "vast wilderness," a "boundless contiguity" of land (we don't boast much of "shade,") the "rumors of oppression and deceit, of unsuccessful or successful war, will never reach me more;" unless the rains hold up and let the roads get better, so we can travel upon them.

Our last intelligence left you with two or three prisoners (among whom was Bill Marshall) undergoing trial before your martial tri-

shown himself ready to trample upon and violate that trust when committed to the hands of others. In fact, my dear sir, while the overbearing insolence and unwarranted presumption of the strong and hardy has, on the one hand, been sufficiently injurious and disgusting, never was the arrogance of wealth, on the other, carried to so alarming and dangerous an extent.

I went down to the Pacific, on her arrival, and was glad to learn the short time in which the last trip over the Nicaragua route had been made, being somewhere about six days less than the time required by way of the Isthmus. I also noticed with pleasure the arrival of many excellent families. This has been the case for a considerable time past. Our respectable and prosperous business men are becoming convinced that this country possesses resources for substantial prosperity, and are rapidly preparing to make it their permanent homes. This desirable class is everywhere (even in the mines) rapidly supplanting that of adventurers, who first rushed to the country on the breaking out of the gold mania. While on board one of the steamers just arriving from Panama, I observed a well dressed, gentlemanly looking man, with a hat (or cap, perhaps it should be called) rounded over the top somewhat like the Aquadors in Mexico, with a similar visor, large and sticking straight out, or perhaps a little inclined up from the head, to protect the face when inclined forwards, but differing slightly from the Aquador's cap, in having a peak or angular form in front, like the German footmen and porters, and such persons as you see about large cities, who wish to indicate by their dress, their occupation to be that of any menial service that may be required of them. This indication of a servile character, coupled with his more respectable appearance in other respects, attracted my attention, while his active and observing manner awakened apprehensions of annoying applications for some occupation, perhaps that of clerk, scrivener, or other genteel service, for which his appearance indicated him fitted. Avoiding any importunities from him, I had the curiosity to make some inquiries of a friend on the steamer, concerning this individual; and was told that he was an Army Officer, or some one connected with the United States service, and who had been

shall I undergo trial before your martial tribunals, and were expected to be sentenced to death; and that some developments, by these prisoners and others, implicated some of the respectable portion of our Spanish population, among whom were Senors Jose Antonio Esquilillo and Joaquin Ortega. I can hardly believe the imputation cast upon these men, nor would I entertain it, but that it is possible they are illustrations of the refined and subtil treachery that has so long characterized the race from which they are descended. I hope soon to be enlightened upon all these things through the columns of your journal.

When last in San Francisco, I noticed no other changes than naturally incident to the circumstances of that rapidly prospering city—the steam Paddy working miracles in digging down the hills to fill in upon the water. In the middle of one of the sand-hills was found a large stone mortar, such as are now used by the Indians in pounding up acorns, &c.

I stopped at the Oriental—thought it rather going down, though no doubt the best hotel in the city. Never was there a better opening for a first-rate hotel than is now offered in San Francisco. Law and order seemed to have away and rule in the city, securing to property protection, and to individuals their rights, and nothing was heard of the hideous hydra that so recently infested the place, and which not long since reared its detested head in your quiet city.

The people of Stockton, however, have proved the Hercules to cut off its head, and apply the withering torch that shall rid that prosperous city, for a long time, of its insidious and disastrous growth, by re-electing to the office of Sheriff, a man, in some respects unpopular and whose politics were on the wrong side for success, but who, in a riotous attempt on the part of the people of Stockton to seize and hang a couple of men accused of stealing, resisted firmly and successfully this high-handed illegality, and through his resolute conduct, the accused were brought before the proper tribunals, tried, condemned and executed, agreeably to the dictates of civilization, Christianity and the laws of the land. This act has been duly appreciated by the people of Stockton, in again intrusting the execution of their laws, against all opposition, to the hands of the same man, who

new cap, lately prescribed as a new uniform to be worn by the whole army. Feeling a little incredulity about this statement, I made further inquiries, and ascertained that a new uniform for the army had been recommended by a body of officers, whose aristocratic tendencies (inspired to some extent by traveling in Europe) would, through a morbid desire to imitate European customs, convert an American soldier and citizen into the serf of his European prototype, who is still kept in the condition of feudal servitude, from which their military systems are drawn. This recommendation meeting a hearty concurrence from the present army chief, whose predilections on this head are well known, the President in directing the adoption of this dress for our army, confirms, I fear, the accusation made against him and his party, of a tendency to aristocracy, which, under the check of a Democratic Congress, can be indulged in no other way than in applying his prerogatives to the Army and Navy, at the expense of good taste and utility. The beautiful *cha-peau*—which might be converted into a comfortable hat for a hot march—and graceful plume, are to be supplanted by this insignia of a serf. I understand this imitation of the European standard, with similar disgusting features, is continued through the whole of the present army dress.

I have recently been through some of the mining districts, and though confirmed in my former incredulity about the large amounts realized by miners, I have been somewhat happily disappointed, in satisfying myself that the gold of this country is distributed widely, with great uniformity, and of sufficient richness to reward most bounteously, the hand of labor perseveringly and industriously applied. I am daily in the habit of observing from three to five and six dollars a day realized by miners working their own rockers, though I conceive the former amount to be rather above an average return for the labor expended in digging. The introduction of large machinery, fluming operations, &c., which will require considerable capital, would in many cases prove an excellent investment. Agricultural products having found so good a market, persons are giving more attention to this department of industry; and the recent heavy rains indicate a favorable result. The Indians of this section of country, treated with last summer by the Commissioners, are very docile and peaceable, and will not give trouble unless provoked to it by gross outrages upon them. Many conditions of their treaties and promises, on the part of the Commissioners, have not been fulfilled—some because they were impracticable, and others from gross neglect of the agents of the General Government.

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PASQUAL

SAN DIEGO HERALD

Vol. 1.      SAN DIEGO, CAL., SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1852

THE SAN DIEGO HERALD, J. JUDSON AMES, Editor and Publisher. <small>Herald Buildings, cor. California &amp; Fourth sts.</small>	SAN FRANCISCO ADVS. Commission Merchants. W. M. H. JONES & CO., Auction and Commission	SAN FRANCISCO ADVS. Hats, Caps and Clothing. EVERETT'S HAT EMPORIUM.
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