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Daily Alta California, Volume 4, Number 88, 30 March 1853 — SACRAMENTO NEWS. [ARTICLE]

## SACRAMENTO NEWS.

### Sacramento Correspondence.

*Another Flood—Rise of the Tehama and Sacramento—  
Sacramento City again in danger—The roads—Sus-  
pension of Business—Statement of the Purser of the  
Sierra Nevada.*

SACRAMENTO, March 29, 1853.

The rain, noticed in my last, has continued uninter-  
rupted in its fall and severity, accompanied with a warm  
southeast wind, and has produced the results usually ex-  
pected, called the "spring freshet." The *Daniel Moore*  
left Tehama yesterday forenoon, when the Upper Sacra-  
mento was rapidly rising, and at that time was six feet  
below the natural bank of the place. They came down  
ahead of the rise that was expected to flood Tehama.  
The Feather and Yuba were swollen to a great degree  
when yesterday's boat left Marysville, and another inun-  
dation was expected at that place. The water in the  
American river, near Patterson's Nine Mile House, rose  
twelve feet last night, and is now at the point attained  
at the former rise. At a ferry landing near Stewart's  
the water rose so rapidly as to pour over the cut that  
had been made in the levee for ferry accommodation,  
which was speedily and securely repaired.

The breaches repaired by the council since the last  
flood, through which came the water that inundated us  
last spring, are solid pieces of workmanship and will  
stand proof against all attacks. The wisdom and sa-  
gacity of these much abused public officers, in incurring  
the heavy expense of these repairs, is thus made mani-  
fest. The water in Sutter's Lake is in front of the  
houses as before, and lacks five feet of reaching the top  
of the levee. In the Sacramento fronting the city, the  
water rose twenty five inches from Monday at 8 A. M.  
to 4 P. M., and from 4 P. M. Monday to 1 P. M. to-day,  
seven feet one inch, making a rise of nine feet two inches.  
It is on an average eight inches below the natural bank.

It is on an average eight inches below the natural bank, and not rising to any extent since morning. The sloughs and low land at Washington, opposite, are full and covered with water, through and over which it is inundating the entire back country. The rise last night is greater than that at any previous occasion, in the same space of time. The stages that left on the usual routes this morning, have all returned, unable to pass the sloughs.—Communication to the mines is entirely suspended, and it is a matter of rejoicing that a larger quantity of goods is now distributed throughout the diggings than has been at any time for months past.

The suspension of trade, and consequent scarcity of money, must affect the merchants of your place, as well as of this, most seriously, and the duration will probably be until about the sailing of the steamer of the 15th prox.

Regarding the safety of our own city, it is subject of prophecy, whether we suffer by another flood or no; the levees wanted strength, not having stood the practical tests heretofore. My own impression is that we are in no danger, and I trust the future will confirm it. Practical men who have been over the work since the repairs, say there is nothing to be apprehended from it by breaks.

The Cosumnes, I learn from a gentleman just in, is swollen to a height beyond any previous flood, and will destroy many valuable agricultural improvements. Such will be the case above us, should it rain twenty-four hours longer.

The streets, though very moist, are still solid and passable, no miring, or holes yet made.

The statement of the Purser of the *Sierra Nevada*, is looked upon here in its proper light—as a fabrication—intended to build up their line at the expense of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. He presumed too much on the credulity of Californians, (probably through ignorance) and must feel hurt to know that it has no credit whatever attached to it in this section of country. Every person in this city has placed it in its proper light and bestowed most merited censure upon his course of conduct.

By letter from Diamond Springs this forenoon, I learn the Bradley & Berdea Canal Company have repaired entire the breach made in their Reservoir which is sufficient to supply all their customers. No clue could be discovered to the proprietors of this daring outrage.

P. S. 1½ P. M.—You will undoubtedly get news or rumors “just as the boat leaves,” that a crevasse has occurred which will not be entitled to credence, as any such will arise from the rumor set afloat by the cut in the Levee for a Ferry Landing.

There is no authentic intelligence either from Marysville, farther than that before written. The whole police force are on duty to-day, at various points of the Levee, and a patrol of citizens will guard it to-night from the efforts of any malicious persons. JOB.

The Union sends us a slip with the following painful

intelligence.

### More Indian Murders.

DEATH OF LIVER PRISON. INTERESTING FROM THE

**DEATH OF LIEUT. RUSSELL.—INTERESTING FROM THE MOUNTAINS.**—The dispatch is from the *Shasta Courier*, dated March 26th, and says:

It is with feelings of intense sorrow that I announce the horrible death of Edw. Russell, First Lieutenant of the 4th Infantry. He was murdered yesterday, on the head waters of Thom's Creek, by a band of Indians belonging to a tribe inhabiting that portion of the coast range forming the western boundary of Colusa county.

You will doubtless have learned by this morning's *Courier* that Lieut. Russell was ordered to that portion of Colusa county by Col. Wright a few days since, in consequence of the numerous depredations committed by the Indians of that section upon the Colusa ranch-men. It was in the performance of this service that Lieut. R. lost his life.

It appears, according to present information, that Lieut. Rus-

sell had met and captured some eight or ten Indians on his way to a rancharia in the mountains, whom he at once disarmed, placing their bows and arrows in the hands of his interpreter, an Indian boy. He then continued his course in the direction of the ranche. In a short time he, together with his guide, interpreter, and the prisoners, being some distance in advance of his men, got still farther separated from them in consequence of each party taking a different direction around a hill. It was while going around this hill that the Indians, snatching their arms from the boy, fell upon Lieut. R. At the time of the attack the guide, an old mountain man, was about one hundred yards behind the party, but before he could reach the ground the Indians had unhorsed the unfortunate Russell, and beaten his brains out with clubs. Lieut. R. shot one of the Indians dead, and wounded a second, and the guide killed some two or three more. The remainder made their escape. Lieut. R. had seven arrows shot into his body. The corpse was taken to Fort Reading for interment.

The *Courier* of Saturday contains the following ac-

count of a terrible fight with the Pitt River Indians:

Mr. John Neilon arrived in this place on Wednesday, bring-

ing information of a very severe fight between a number of packers and the Pitt River Indians on Sugar Loaf Mountain.

He arrived at the Sugar Loaf Mountain, on his return trip from Yreka, Tuesday, in company with a party of ten men and forty mules, where he met Mr. Bruner with a party of about twenty men, engaged in a severe conflict with the Indians. He represents the mountain literally alive with these red devils, who had selected a position where they had every advantage over the whites, the only indications of their presence being a continual flight of arrows, accompanied by the most terrific yells. Mr. N. and his party—their mules unpacked—fought their way through at once, leaving Bruner and his men to make good their way over the mountain. When Mr. N. reached the Back Bone, he heard firing in the direction of the Sugar Loaf, and supposed that Bruner's party was still engaged with the Indians.

The Indians had fire arms, but did no execution with them,

not charging their guns with a sufficient quantity of powder. How many of Bruner's party were killed is not known here at this time, no parties having arrived over that trail since the fight.

Mr. Durand, with a pack train, was met by Mr. N. about ten miles beyond the scene of conflict. He had two of his mules shot the same day, although he succeeded in saving their cargoes.

Sugar Loaf Mountain is about twenty-five miles to the north



Sugar Loaf Mountain is about twenty-five miles to the north of this place, immediately on the Sacramento trail leading from Shasta to Yreka.

A meeting was to have been held on the evening of the 26th, to form a company to hunt the Pitt River Indians from the Sacramento trail.

A party of coast range Indians was attacked by two white men for stealing cattle belonging to Mr. Middleton. A desperate fight ensued—the two white men putting the entire band to flight, after killing eight of their number.

On Tuesday the 22d an Indian was captured and shot through the head for stealing. Another was hung at Reading's ranch for the same crime.

Joaquin and a portion of his band are believed by the *Courier* to be lurking about somewhere in the northern region. On this subject it says—

Mr. Lusk of Rhodes & Lusk's and Mr. Tracy of Adams & Co's Express, say that six Mexicans, carrying each twenty-four

shots, passed through Colusa a few days since on their way up the Sacramento Valley. The same party, a few days after, were observed by Mr. Morse, of Baxter & Co's line of stages, on the road a short distance below this place. Just before leaving Colusa, one of the party, with a scar upon his cheek, and in other respects answering to the description of Joaquin, remarked to some persons present that they might not know him then, but that they would hear from him in a short time.

The *Courier* gives the following mining intelligence—

**BIG LUMP**—A short time since Mr. Kelly took out of his claim at Lower Springs, a lump of gold weighing twenty six ounces, less two bits. The claim of Mr. K., we believe, lies immediately across the old stage road.

**ANOTHER**—Hiram Boice, one day last week, found a lump weighing 10½ ounces, in his claim in Mad Ox Canon.

**STILL ANOTHER**—Mr Gilmore exhibited to us a handsome specimen, worth \$152, which he dug up the past week in his claim in Jackson Flat.

**AND YET ANOTHER**—Foley & Hughes last week took a lump worth upwards of \$50 out of their claim on the bank of Clear Creek, opposite Morrowville, (French Gulch.) The day following, the claim yielded the two upwards of \$100.

The *Courier* says that the command under Lieuts. Bates and Ranford, recently sent over the Sacramento trail to Yreka, at last accounts was stopping about twenty-five miles this side of Shasta Valley, and about fifty miles beyond the Sugar Loaf Mountain, the scene of the late Indian fight.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 26, 1853.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In reply to the note from your Marine Reporter, relative to the treatment he experienced on board of the British ship *Rodsley* last evening, we beg leave to state that Captain Shiell denies the charge of uncourteous conduct towards Mr. Martin.

And as Captain Shiell received positive orders from the charterers of his ship in China to deliver no letters or pa-

*pers of any description to any other parties than their  
agents in this city, it is evident that he could not comply  
with the request of Mr. Martin without assuming a very  
serious responsibility.*

We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,  
BOLTON, BARRON & Co.