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## Los Angeles Star, Number 13, 6 August 1853 — Public Defence—The Los Angeles Rangers. [ARTICLE]

### Public Defence--the Los Angeles Rangers.

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The people of this county have long felt the necessity of having among them an efficient military force, which could be brought out promptly, in aid of the laws and for the protection of life and property. We are not only exposed to regular predatory visits from Indians from the neighboring mountains, who come here to feed on cattle and carry off horses, and who have never yet been even once chastized, and, consequently, are every day getting bolder in their forays amongst the ranchos; but, recently, we have seen an organized band of robbers, well mounted, and well armed, traversing the country unmolested, sometimes making no concealment of their movements, supplying themselves with the best horses with impunity, until it is universally admitted that the roads are unsafe to travel, and a sense of utter insecurity prevails in house and field.— We need not recapitulate the numerous robberies—to say nothing of two fearful murders almost in the streets of Los Angeles—which have taken place within the last two months. The people here are differently situated from the people in the upper counties. It is very difficult for us to concentrate, in due time, a sufficient number of men suitably armed and mounted, to pursue offenders successfully. The well disposed citizens, also, have peculiar obstacles to contend with here, in any effort of the kind, such as, we believe, exist in no other part of the United States: we speak of the habitual concealment of offenders, and the repugnance to give information to the authorities, of which a large class of our population is justly accused.

A remedy for this state of things will, we conceive, be found mainly in the organization of the "Los Angeles Rangers." This corps consists of one hundred members, but only twenty five form the active force, their horses to be furnished gratuitously by the rancheros, as a loan to the company; forage for, and the herding of, the horses, together with equipment (arms excepted) to be paid for by the county and private subscription. The horses, etc., will be kept in this city, ready at a moment's warning. No property of the company above spoken of, can be used for private purposes; and that part of it paid for by the county is to be returned, in case the company should be hereafter disbanded. The members furnish their own arms, until they shall be furnished by the state. The Board of Supervisors have agreed to appropriate \$1000 to this purpose, in the confidence that the urgent necessity of the

the confidence that the urgent necessity of the case will cause the next Legislature to reimburse the county Treasury in that amount.— The whole expense of this organization and equipment of the first twelve men, (including hire of a corral, wages of a man to take care of the horses, and their forage for one year,) will be a trifle, compared with the results to be expected. A portion of the amount is to be raised by private subscription. The saddles, etc., are now being made, and will be ready, with every thing else, in a few days. We have the list of members as follows: Elias Brevoort, W. T. B. Sanford, John G. Phillips, Wm. Little, J. B. Winston, Thomas Rand, Gabriel Allen, Green Marshall, G. W. Hart, E. A. Morehouse, Wm W. Perkins, O. Morgan, A. W. Hope, John F. Jones, G. L. MacManus, J. Q. A. Stanley, W. C. Gitman, Ely Smith, H. Beil, H. I. Allison, E. C. Hale, Edward Hunter, T. S. Hereford, W. O. Ardinger, Pat Halpin.

At a meeting held 1st August, the following officers were elected: A. W. Hope, Captain; E. Brevoort, 1st. Lieut; John G. Phillips, 2d do.; W. T. B. Sanford, 3d do; David W. Alexander, Treasurer and Clerk.

**JOAQUIN CAPTURED!** The Alta of the 30th July publishes a dispatch received from Mariposa county, giving an account of the death of the robber Joaquin. We sincerely hope the report may prove true, and that the country is at length rid of the bloody villain. Here is the dispatch:

"It has just been reported here that the company of Rangers commanded by Capt. Harry Love, met with the notorious murderer and robber Joaquin, and six of his equally infamous band, at Panoche Pass and after a desperate running fight, Joaquin and one of his gang were killed and two taken prisoners; three managed to make their escape, but one of their horses were killed and several captured. Capt Love is now on his way down with his prisoners and the head of Joaquin preserved in spirits."

We also learn from the same source that the rangers were commanded by Capt. Burns, Capt. Love being absent, and that the other one killed was known as "three fingered Jack." Reports are in town confirmatory of the above statements.

**NEW FLOUR.** Flour from new wheat raised in the Monte is in our market.

The price of flour in the upper markets, we notice is enhanced, with variations according to quality, and is now selling at \$14 to \$22 per 200 lbs. The Transcript says the rise began to be perceptible about the time of the Whig Convention—and particularly after the nomination of Mr. Waldo.

**Lieut. Smith** was thrown from his horse on Wednesday evening, as he was leaving the city for Jurupa, and very seriously injured, but we are happy to learn that he is recovering from his misfortune.

**FROM CATALINA.** We learn that the goat business, at Catalina, is nearly at an end, and that the total number of goats disembarked at San Pedro will not exceed six thousand. This number includes all the goats on the island worth taking off. The gentlemen engaged in the business purchased, last spring, twenty thousand head, and it was believed that when this large number were removed there would still be many thousands left. The company

will abandon the Island next week.

The steamer Goliah arrived on Wednesday and sailed yesterday for San Francisco.— She took a large number of passengers from this city, among them Mr. Lobb, an eminent botanist, who since March has been exploring our hills and plains. He has collected about eight hundred specimens of shrubs and flowering plants, some of them of rare beauty, and as yet unknown in any other locality. Mr L. has been four years in Oregon and California, and he pronounces this region the most attractive, both in variety and beauty, to any other portion of the country.

CATCH HIM, IF YOU CAN! An affidavit was made before the District Judge on Thursday last, charging Henry Malcolm, with the robbery of the store of Childs & Hicks, and warrants issued to various counties for his arrest. It will be recollected that \$7854 were stolen on this occasion, and the firm offered a reward of \$1000 for the recovery of the money, or \$2000 for the money and robber.

MURDER IN SANTA BARBARA. A gentleman from Santa Barbara informs us that on Sunday night last, a man, named Simmons, was found dead with his throat cut, at the door of a fandango room. It is supposed the murder was committed by an Indian, who is under arrest.

NOT IN THE BARGAIN. Townsend's stage from San Pedro was upset on Wednesday, in ascending the crooked hill at Diego Sepulveda's.— It was a pleasant recollection to the passengers that no one was injured. The coach was slightly damaged.

CARRERA. A race has been made up to be run near this city, on the 27th instant, between the horse John Smith, Hardy & Moore owners, and Charles Warden's horse, Ito. Distance eight hundred yards. Stakes, \$2,000 a side. John Smith to carry 140 pounds, and give Ito fifty feet in the race.

Our kind friend Dr A. W. Hope, of the Drug Store, will please accept our thanks for that delicious peach he presented us with on yesterday evening. It was the first we have seen this season.

The Grand Jury closed their session yesterday. Twelve indictments were found for crime of various degrees.

SQUATTERISM IN SAN FRANCISCO. The Herald gives the following amusing picture of the doings of this class in that city:

"They have seized upon and fenced in the lot appropriated by the Odd Fellows as a burial ground for the interment of the remains of their departed brothers. They have also taken forcible possession of the property reserved by the authorities for the uses of the Common Schools. And they have had the audacity to squat upon the valuable property of Judge Alexander Wells. The Judge proceeded in company with several friends to the spot, and after considerable difficulty, succeeded in clearing them off and regaining possession of his property. But his back was no sooner turned than they reappeared and went quietly on with their 'improvements.' The commu-

on with these improvements. The community will sustain Judge Wells in any reasonable means he may employ to maintain his just rights. Nor are the Odd Fellows, the School children and Judge the only sufferers in this crusade against property. The outlaws have actually squatted on the lots of the Peter Smith claimants. But the unkindest cut of all is yet to be told. Having seized upon everything they could lay their hands on, and finding it insufficient to satisfy them all, they have turned upon each other, and are actually, in some instances, squatting upon squatters. It only remains for them now to seize upon the Hospital and Orphan Asylums. By that time the sleepy citizens may have awakened to a sense of their danger."

The Recorder's court before whom several of these interlopers have been arraigned, has dealt very summarily, giving them the extremest justice which the law allows.

**IMPORTANT DECISIONS.** We find in the San Francisco Herald two important decisions of Courts which ought to read by every man in the State. The first is a decision rendered by Mr Felch of the Land Commission, upon a motion of a third party, claiming under the late Pre-emption acts, for leave to intervene adversely to a claim under a Mexican grant.

The Commissioners disclaim any jurisdiction of such questions, and express the opinion that the acts in question give no right to settlers which will enable them to defeat claims under Mexican grants while such grants are under going examination before the proper tribunal with a view to perfect the title.

The U. S. District Court lays down a rule:

That whenever a suit at law has been bro't to try the title to land, a Court of Equity, such as the U. S. District Court, will restrain the commission of waste by the party in possession, until the trial and determination of the right, where irreparable mischief might be effected before relief could be had at law or under other special circumstances. Under the term waste, here, must be included the cutting and taking away of timber and crops—the ditching of fields and the like. The effect of this decision, as far as the jurisdiction of this Court extends, will be to furnish some little security to the owners of property against the incursions of those who may happen to take a fancy to it.