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Daily Alta California, Volume 4, Number 262, 1 October 1853 — LETTER FROM FORT JONES [ARTICLE]

LETTER FROM FORT JONES.

"FORT JONES, Cal., Sept. 19th, 1853.

of the express passing this morning.

"I avail myself of the express passing this morning, to write you a few lines. We left Benicia on the 29th ult., with so little notice that I had no time to write you, and of course have heard nothing from you, but have on your account looked occasionally at the prices current for the price of Flour, and in finding the price coming down, have wondered whether you had got rid of your stock at the high rates or were still holding on for higher rates. The amount of wheat raised in California this year no doubt sensibly diminishes the demand for importations. Even up here on the Oregon line, I find some dependence placed upon home productions, and another year's growth will nearly furnish this country, without depending upon San Francisco. At present, however, this region and nearly all remote points, are as yet poorly supplied, and as purchases must soon be made, I would not be surprised to see the article of flour take another rise, though this must no doubt depend upon the supply. You have no doubt heard more or less of the Indian troubles, on account of which we came here. There have been several fights, in only one of which were any government troops, and that was the one in which Capt. Alden received his wound. It seems he had joined and taken command of about 200 volunteers, to make war upon the Indians upon Rogue River and the Chief Sam, who held himself in readiness for a fight, and in attacking him, he was so situated that it was desirable to make a charge upon his party and dislodge them before being able to fight them upon fair terms. The charge was ordered, and Alden and Gen Lane headed it, and were followed by only six men, all of whom (with one exception, I believe,) were U. S. soldiers of Alden's company; eight of whom he had taken with him from this post, being all that were then well enough to go. These eight who made the charge were soon overpowered and driven back, Alden receiving a severe wound. He is getting well, and we have just learned is on his way to this post on a litter. A treaty has been made with Sam, and we are here waiting further intelligence upon the necessity of going on to Rogue River. Several other little fights have taken place between the Indians and volunteers, in which the Indians came off best, and some movements of this sort are still going on at a number of points above

of this sort are still going on at a number of points above here, and have grown out of some thefts committed, or alleged to have been committed by the Indians. Whether we are to inquire into these matters and attempt to punish guilty Indians, or tribes not actually hostile, depends upon the high functionaries who are supposed to possess a wisdom corresponding to their position and responsibilities, but a display of which I fear we are to look for in vain. Col. Wright, of the 4th Infantry, is our immediate commander, and will direct our movements. We reached here day before yesterday. If we do not go on further, it is probable we shall return before long and again take station at Benicia.

Yours truly,

N. LYON.