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[ARTICLE]

### LETTER FROM FORT MILLER.

#### The Country—Indian Farming—Success of the Reservation Policy—Mining, etc.

FORT MILLER, Oct. 27, 1853.

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After a journey of four days from Stockton, I arrived at this post, and will give you the result of my observations on the road.

The country from Stockton to this place, (excepting on the banks of the rivers) at this season of the year, is nothing but an arid plain, presenting a most desolate and dreary appearance; but the great numbers of arroyos intersecting it, which, during the winter and spring, are running streams, explain to the traveller how it is possible for such barren-looking soil to produce the large amounts of grain which he sees at every rancho.

In the river bottoms there are some magnificent farms, the soil of which is not excelled in any part of the State. As a proof of this, I may mention that I saw at Mr. Dickinson's Ferry, on the Tuolumne, a pumpkin weighing 154 pounds, and on the vine from which it was plucked was raised 1000 pounds of the same vegetable.

My route took me through the Indian Farm on the San Joaquin river, where the Indians have been carrying out the plan of Superintendent Beale with the most entire success. They have eight hundred acres ditched in, and five or six hundred under cultivation. The work has been done in a manner which would reflect credit on an American farmer, and proves conclusively the feasibility of the scheme.

The Indians are perfectly happy, and disposed to do everything the Superintendent desires. They express themselves entirely satisfied with all that has been done for them; and as no promises have been made them which have not been fulfilled, they are beginning to have confidence in the good faith of the Government towards them.

The rumors of an outbreak on the Fresno, raised through the fears or malice of some of the white population, were entirely unfounded. Lieut. Wright, who commanded the expedition sent to quell the disturbance, tells me that the head chiefs were so desirous to show their good feeling and friendliness, that they offered to go to any place he would designate, and remain until the arrival of Lieut. Beale.

The officers of this post are engaged in turning the stream of the San Joaquin. Their work has been conducted on the most scientific principles, and with great energy. They have every reason to be confident of suc-

energy. They have every reason to be confident of success, as there has been as high as \$200 per bucket taken out, and in no case less than five or ten cents. Half a mile above, one man and two Indians took out \$1200 last week.

Mining on this river is in its infancy. Rich diggings are being daily discovered, and the population is rapidly increasing. The citizens are much in want of a post-office, and one would suppose that there was quite a sufficient number to warrant the establishment of one by the Postmaster of San Francisco.

I leave to-day for the head of Tulare Valley, from which place you may expect to hear from me. Yours truly,  
MESSENGER.

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.—Monday being the last day for the payment of State and County taxes in Sacramento, previous to the addition of five per cent., about \$14,000 was paid in.

THE CORNELIA.—This fine steamer has taken the place of the *American Eagle* on the Stockton route, and now runs regularly from Central Wharf every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

WE are requested to state that the sailing of steamer *Thos. Hunt*, for Crescent City and Trinidad, is postponed until Thursday morning, at 10 o'clock, precisely.

COMMODORE VANDERBILT AND THE POPE.—Commodore Vanderbilt, by a somewhat singular coincidence, arrived in his yacht, the *North Star*, at Civita Vecchia, just as the discovery of a supposed Mazzini conspiracy had thrown the Papal government into a state of terror. The police of Civita Vecchia, staggered by the imposing size of the steamer and the number of persons on board, immediately concluded that it was an American sympathizing expedition, and refused the Commodore permission to land. After two or three days useless negotiation the *North Star* proceeded to Naples, where—at least so the newspapers say—she was also an object of suspicion, and had eventually to seek refuge at Malta. On the 23d ult., the yacht arrived at the Bosphorus.