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Daily Alta California, Volume 4, Number 305, 23 November 1853 — LETTER FROM LOS ANGELES. [ARTICLE]

LETTER FROM LOS ANGELES.

Extension of Adams' Express—Trade—Fruit—Flouring Mill—Cultivation of Grain—Discovery of Gold—Lieut. Beale—Indians.

LOS ANGELES, NOV. 11, 1853.

This will be taken to you by Adams & Co.'s Express, and you can perform good service to the public by informing them that the people inhabiting this beautiful land, where—

—“Undying sunbeams throw, Their clearest radiance and their warmest glow.”

are henceforth to enjoy, with the rest of the world, the benefits of the Express. Thanks to Adams & Co., and their agents here, Wheeler, Johnson & Co., there will be no more complaints of mail irregularities, for with such certain means of communication, it can matter but little whether our affectionate Uncle Sam considers us in his mail arrangements or not.

Some slight idea of the growing importance of Los Angeles is found in the circumstance, that the steamer *Southerner* on her last trip, brought down two hundred tons of merchandise for the merchants of this place, and in return she will take to your city upwards of one hundred tons of grapes: and every sailing vessel and steamer that leaves San Francisco “bound down the coast” has fully two-thirds of her cargo destined for this city.

Among the improvements which are going on, is an enterprise undertaken by Messrs. Francis Mellus and Jonathan R. Scott, the building of a large flouring mill near this city, and in anticipation of its early completion, some of our farmers are preparing to cultivate wheat upon a stupendous scale. The building will be of brick, two stories high, and will contain the most improved apparatus for the making of superfine flour. Almost everybody possessing the means, is talking of building as soon as the materials can be obtained, and it is very probable that several large brick buildings will be put up next year. Los Angeles must become a place of large importance, for she possesses all the elements which make cities great.

The discovery of a gold placer near this city, has proved a topic of discussion during the last few days, and whether it will turn out like other reported dis-

and whether it will turn out like other reported discoveries is problematical. It is certain that some specimens have been obtained within fifteen miles of Los Angeles; and it is equally certain that gold has been frequently discovered in the mountains which separate this valley from the Tulare. The old placer, near the mission of San Fernando, was worked profitable many years anterior to American rule; and it may be that the newly-found diggings are rich in the precious mineral. A considerable party of Sonorenses are engaged in prospecting and working the "new diggings," and should I hear more concerning this discovery of gold I will give you the items.

Lieut. Beale and his party are at the Tejon, locating the Indians upon the government reservation. He is expected to arrive here next week, when he and Mr. Wilson, the Indian Agent, will proceed to the Southern frontier, to look after the Indians in that neighborhood. It is certainly a great undertaking, that of civilizing twenty thousand savages, and few there are of the inhabitants of California who have given to it the attention it deserves. The Indians are to be placed upon the reservations, and will not be allowed to leave under any pretence whatever. Implements of agriculture will be furnished them, and after the first year they will be required to maintain themselves. There will be hospitals, school houses, blacksmith shops, &c., and proper superintendents at each reservation; also, a military corps, as well to keep the Indians from deserting, as to protect them from white interlopers. No ardent spirits will be allowed upon the reservations, and the experiment of giving to these "lords of the forest" the blessings of civilization will be carried out on a larger scale than has ever hitherto been attempted in the United States. God prosper it.

We had a fall of rain on Sunday, Nov. 6th, the first of the season, but since then the sky has been cloudless. And now, adieu.

J. A. L.