

powered by



A Freely Accessible
Repository of Digitized
California Newspapers from
1846 to the Present

Daily Alta California, Volume 5, Number 118, 29 April 1854 — LETTER FROM YREKA. [ARTICLE]

LETTER FROM YREKA.

We have been favored by Messrs. Leland & McCombe, of the Crescent City Express, with the following letter from a gentleman at Yreka to his brother in Crescent City:—

YREKA, April 12th, 1854.

YREKA, April 12th, 1854.

The Indians are all quiet again, and, I think, will remain so if reckless white men will let them alone. I, in company with two white men and three Indians, went out to the cave where the fighting has been, and was greeted with a very friendly reception by "Bill" and his warriors. We stopped a short distance below the cave, and sent one of our Indians (they had not seen us) to announce our approach. In a short time there were considerable in sight from various points. But "Bill," with five of his warriors, armed each with a U. S. rifle and bow and quiver full of arrows, approached us in single file (we were sitting down, six in number, including Indians), "Bill" in front, until within twenty yards of us, when "Bill" stepped upon a high rock and surveyed us with a searching look, when our interpreter rose and announced us to "Bill."

We exchanged the "Klabyem," the "howdy do," and all were again seated, and silence reigned for several minutes. The Indians on both sides looking profoundly solemn, and loading their pipes with tobacco with measured dignity, and all the time I noticed "Bill" and his party had their arms at a convenient distance to use; our party ditto. "Bill," I supposed, had learned from the Indian we had sent to him our number, and how we were armed; and, besides coming with the same number of men and rifles, brought the bows and arrows to offset our revolvers. After some minutes of very dignified and deliberate smoking, "Jack," a chief of our party, opened in one of the most solemn and eloquent invocations to the Great Spirit of Maki. (I don't know whether Maki is a god, or the departed spirit of some great man or chief, who had lived among them.) After calling up, or upon, Maki to witness his sincerity, "Jack" vowed to "Bill" and his men that we had not come there to harm them. "Bill" then invoked, in an equally solemn manner, some other god, or great spirit to witness his sincerity, and gave us a similar assurance. After this there was not so much close watching of arms, but the Indians on both sides seemed to have perfect confidence in the good faith of the other party. We then had a long and very interesting interview with them, but I have not time to describe it. They gave me a guarantee that they would not interrupt white men or their property, and are, I am satisfied, sincere in their desire for peace.

The trains are beginning to leave the Shasta route and

The trains are beginning to leave the Shasta route and start for Crescent City. When I say to you that nearly every large train which brings merchandise to Yreka will be on the route between this and Crescent City, I speak what I know, having learned the fact from the owners of the trains. I see one train, about 40 mules, leaving town for Crescent City now. And several others will soon follow. Doc. Horsley will turn to Crescent City as soon as he can get in some goods he has at Red Bluffs. Dejarlais & Brothers, (a very large train) merchants, who are selling more goods than any one in Yreka, are winding up their affairs on the Red Bluff route and will take to the Crescent City.

Now, if the Crescent City merchants don't have full stocks, several of these Yreka merchants will lay over with their trains at Crescent City until one of the firm can go down to San Francisco on steamer and ship up their freight. Those who were down last fall tell the other merchants here that full stocks were not to be had at Crescent City. You will see them all in Crescent City in six or eight weeks from this date—*mark that.*

Your brother,

A M. R.