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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 7, Number 1012, 21 June 1854 — Nobles' Pass. [ARTICLE]

### Nobles' Pass.

As clear and intelligent an account of this pass as we recollect of reading, is copied by the *Marysville Herald* from the *Shasta Courier* of June 19th, 1852. The description of the *Courier* we now add:—

On Thursday morning last, after an absence of near six weeks, the party that accompanied Mr Nobles across the mountains, returned to our town. It will be remembered that Mr. Nobles, in consideration of the sum of \$2,000, promised to show a route for a wagon road which would be superior in every respect to the routes previously travelled. The members of the party all concur in stating that Mr. Nobles has fulfilled his promises to the letter, and in some respects even more than fulfilled them.

We cannot give as full a report of the movements of the prospecting party as we could desire, not having sufficient room.

The distance from this place to the point where the road intersects the Humboldt River is thought to be not more than 300 miles. It can be easily accomplished in eight days with a pack train. So far as could be determined in the absence of proper instruments for taking latitude and longitude, the route does not vary ten miles from a direct line.

On no part of the whole road are the hills difficult of ascent, travelling in either direction. The road leading from this place into the Sacramento Valley, over which the Concord coaches pass daily, is said to be more rugged than any section of the proposed road.

In traveling east from this place, after the Sacramento Valley is left, the ascent is gradual and easy all the way to the summit of the mountains, a distance of about nine miles. After

one day's travel from the summit down the eastern slope, which is said to be a gradual and easy descent, the plain of the Great Salt Lake Basin is reached, at a place called Honey Lake Valley. From this place to the Humboldt river, 80 miles above its sink, the distance is about one hundred and sixty miles. This section of the route is almost a perfect level, and is across that strip of country on the east of the mountains, known as the Desert. The passage of this Desert by immigrants, with animals worn down by months of travel, has caused their chief sufferings and loss. By the proposed road, it is said that this great obstacle in the path of immigrants will be almost entirely obviated. The greatest distance, anywhere between Humboldt River and Honey Lake Valley, where it would be necessary to travel without water, is not more than twenty-five miles. At all the watering places on this section of the road, grass is found, and at some places it is very abundant, and of excellent quality.

Honey Lake Valley is several miles in extent, and is watered by three creeks and innumerable springs. It is now covered with a luxuriant growth of grass. Its lands are all exceedingly rich, and are well situated for cultivation. Several members of the company took up claims at this place, and intend returning within a few days for the purpose of improving them. This Valley will serve as an excellent place for the wearied immigrant to stop with his stock, and recover his strength, after his long and tedious travel from the Missouri river. The grazing is sufficient for many thousands of stock for the whole year.

In the passage over the mountains, no place was found destitute, either in water or grass.

No stream was found on the whole road that could not be easily forded.

In many places on the route, indications of the existence of gold were discovered; the party, however, were not prepared with the necessary implements, and had not time, and are consequently unable to make any definite report as to the mineral resources of the country over which they passed. It is confidently anticipated, however, that rich deposits of gold will be discovered on the route.

The party remained on the Humboldt river

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The party remained on the Humboldt river eight days. While resting at that place, a party of twenty-two men passed, on their way to St. Louis, from Yreka. With these men Mr. Nobles left his party, and started for his home in Minnesota."

THE WEBSTER AND WARD MURDER CASES.

The Boston correspondent of the San Francisco *Chronicle* in commenting upon the analogy drawn by the Boston papers between the murder committed by Dr. Webster and that perpetrated by Ward, presents the following striking contrast between the two:

The Ward case continues to be the theme of comment over the country, and Mr. Matthew Ward is likely to realize one-half the position of Ishmael, for every man's hand is against him. He is not even allowed to land from a steamboat at places not hitherto supposed to be very fastidious in the choice of their visitors — Our Boston papers, and particularly those of a religious character, manifest a sort of horrible complacency in comparing the escape of Ward with the hanging of Webster. They chuckle over the thought that the gallows is higher, and that ropes are stronger, in Massachusetts than in Kentucky, though the latter does grow her own hemp, and we have to import the article. To my mind, there seems to be no comparison in the two cases; they afford material only for points of contrast. Mr. Ward was a rich man; Dr. Webster was poor as poverty itself, his very crime growing out of the efforts he was making to live genteelly on an income of nothing, or next to it. Mr. Ward killed a poor man; Dr. Webster killed a man who was not only very rich, but who held a very high social position here. Mr. Ward sought his victim, going deliberately to his place, after having, with equal deliberation, armed himself with murderous weapons; the interview of Dr. Webster with his victim was at the former's place, and in consequence of his request, and the quarrel and death that happened were as unexpected by the killer as the killed, it never having been proved that there was the slightest malice in the affair. To talk, therefore, of the execution of Webster having established the point that a rich man cannot escape the extreme consequences of

man cannot escape the extreme consequences of high crime in Massachusetts, is simply nonsense. It will be quite time enough for us to arrogate a moral supremacy over Kentucky, when we shall really have hanged a man of Ward's moral consequence for having killed a poor man; and I trust that it may be a very long day indeed before such supremacy shall be established by facts. I know of no place where a rich man would be more likely to escape the proper consequences of high crime than Boston. He would not only have the best of counsel, which would be his right, but he would have quite as many "extras" as fell to the lot of Mr. Ward. In the White case, at Salem, a quarter of a century since, the plainest principles of law were set aside, and the practice of ages disregarded, in order that men might be hanged who had been concerned in the murder of a rich citizen, but who could not have been reached had a due regard been paid to the settled practices of the law, which, though they may not always lead to the punishment of the guilty, are among the best safeguards of the innocent. This happened because the relatives of the murdered man were able to fee a great lawyer, whose reputation enabled him to carry points with judge and jury which no lesser man could have ventured to introduce and to press. Perhaps no more than strict justice was done, but that justice which comes from a subversion of well-founded rules, is injustice in itself, and can breed nothing but great evils. Massachusetts is an excellent community, but she is not, as yet, quite perfect—not absolutely so, though marching in the way of perfection.

**DECLIVITY OF RIVERS.**—A very slight declivity suffices to give the running motion to water. Three inches per mile, in a smooth, straight channel, gives a velocity of about three miles an hour. The Ganges, which gathers the waters of the Himalaya Mountains, the loftiest in the world, is, at 1,800 miles from its mouth, only about 800 feet above the level of the sea—about twice the height of St. Paul's, in London, or the height of Arthur's Seat, in Edinburgh—and to fall these 800 feet in its long course, the water requires more than a month. The great river Magdalena, in South

America, running for 1,000 miles between two ridges of the Andes, falls only 500 feet in that distance; above the commencement of the 1,000 miles it is seen descending in rapids and cataracts from the mountains. The gigantic Rio de la Plata has so gentle a descent to the ocean, that in Paraguay, 1,500 miles from its mouth, large ships are seen which have sailed against the current all the way by the force of the wind alone—that is to say, which, on the beautifully inclined plane of the stream, have been gradually lifted by the soft wind, and even against the current, to an elevation greater than that of our loftiest spires.

**CROPS IN THE EASTERN STATES.**—The Boston correspondent of the *Times and Transcript* under date of May 19<sup>th</sup> says:

“ We have had delightful weather for a week or two. It has been just warm enough to give a rapid start to vegetation. The season is, however, backward several weeks compared with last year, and the farmers of course are not satisfied. But whoever saw a New England farmer satisfied in May, June, or July? The season is always too backward or too forward, the weather always too wet or too dry. If you tell them the grass crop looks splendidly, they shake their heads and have many doubts in regard to the crop of potatoes and corn, and if potatoes and corn are doing well and look promising, it will only help to make good the losses sustained by the failure of the crop of early vegetables. Notwithstanding these little anxieties on the part of the farmers, there is every promise of an abundant crop of fruit, grain and vegetables.

The advices from the principal wheat growing States of the west, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, represent the crop as unusually promising. The farmers, the coming year, it is evident, will reap an abundant harvest. The war in Europe is likely to be a long and protracted one, notwithstanding the brilliant victories of the Turks that are received by every steamer. It is somewhat strange that the Turks after every victory retreat and fall back, and the Russians after every defeat advance, and parties on this side will have to learn the reverse of these movements, before they will feel convinced that the combined forces of England, France and Turkey are likely to bring the matter to a speedy termination. Every bushel of wheat we can raise will be wanted, and is bound to bring a good price throughout the year. It is cheering, under these circumstances, to learn that our crops look so pro-

circumstances, to learn that our crops look so promising.

**MINING IN SIERRA COUNTY —SLATE CREEK HOUSE** —We learn these new diggings are paying good wages, almost without exception. It is scarcely a month since the first claims were here taken up, and from present appearances they are likely soon to be regarded as among the most productive in the country.

**HOPKINSVILLE** —We learn that the miners along Hopkins Creek are now at work to some purpose, and generally doing remarkably well. Several companies are making from one to two ounces per day to the hand.

Messrs. E. A. Haydon & Co., in the Morris claims, took out 18 ounces yesterday, with five hands. These claims have been paying heavily for several weeks.

Messrs. Low & Co. have been taking out one ounce to the hand for some time.

Messrs. Simpson & Co. have struck fine diggings within a few days, and are now taking out gold rapidly.

A most splendid specimen was yesterday taken out of the claims of Messrs. Carteret, Perkins, Hoisington & Co., weighing nearly 12 ounces. It was entirely free from quartz, and a beauty.—*Mountain Messenger of 17th inst.*

**DIFFICULTY NEAR FORT MILLER** —We learn from a gentleman, who arrived in this city yesterday afternoon from Millerton, on the San Joaquin, near Fort Miller, on Sunday night, 11th inst., two drunken Indians went into the Chinese camp, about five miles below Fort Miller, and got into a row with the Chinamen, and, as is supposed, were both killed, as the firing of pistols was heard by an American encamped close by. The Indians at the rancheria near the Fort, upon hearing of the difficulty, immediately armed themselves and proceeded in a body to the Chinese camp, and after making diligent search for their two missing comrades, by diving in the river and otherwise without finding them, concluded that the Chinamen had made way with them, and were preparing to take vengeance upon the Chinese, when a detachment of soldiers from Fort Miller, arrived

achment of soldiers from Fort Miller, arrived just in time to prevent the commencement of hostilities. Several Chinamen were arrested by the officer in command of the detachment and taken to the Fort. At the time our informant left, nothing definite had been elicited from the prisoners in regard to what had become of the two missing Indians.—*Stockton Argus.*

TOO LATE FOR THE GOBLET.—Why is the human heart like a crowded bench of darkeys? Because it's *desertfull.*

THE pimples on a toper's face are the spiritual manifestations of the table.

RASPBERRIES have made their appearance in the San Francisco market.