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Daily Alta California, Volume 5, Number 189, 10 July 1854 — LETTER FROM TEJON PASS. [ARTICLE]

### LETTER FROM TEJON PASS.

The following interesting letter from Tejon Pass, we find in the San Joaquin *Republican*.

TEJON PASS, June 24, 1854.

TEJON PASS, June 24, 1854.  
*Dear Sir:*—Yesterday we arrived here and found all in good health. Lieut. Beale has moved into his new house, and Mrs. Beale appears pleased with her change of location. Last night the Indians had a grand dance in front of Lieut. B.'s house. Among the spectators present were Col. Mansfield and Lieut. Moore, with an escort of ten dragoons. To-day they start up the country.

The crops here look fine. The Indians have just got through harvesting. Mr. Bishop gave Col. Mansfield a bunch of wheat, the growth of their fields, which excelled anything I ever saw in my life, some of the heads measuring five and six inches in length, and the grains exceedingly large and well filled. Corn is excellent and is now ready for the table; pumpkins plentiful.

I prospected on Tule river recently but did not discover anything worth mentioning, except beautiful valleys, good land and a fine grazing country. With regard to reported gold discoveries on Kern river, I think them false to a certain degree. There is gold there and dirt that will pay two cents to the pan, but that will not pay to work it. All the gold that is found appears to be taken out of the sand or decomposed granite. In washing a pan of this sand or granite, there is not sufficient dirt to muddy the water used in washing. I think the prospect is far better on Tule river than on Kern.

I met Mr. Alex. Goody yesterday, on his way to Tulare Lake to bring a tribe of Indians in; he had with him a number of Indian boys who were acting in the capacity of teamsters. He told me that he and a party had prospected Kern river when very low, and that it would not pay. Yesterday I also met with Judge Stellou and Rubidoer, just returned from a prospecting tour on Kern river. They report that it is a complete humbug. Mr. R. is an old mountaineer, and he states that there is more gold to be found on the Mohave than on Tule river. It seems to me that the Kern river excitement was gotten up for the benefit of a few (ferry owners). We met Mr. Worthing's Chinamen returning to the San Joaquin. We left Dr. Keath on the Tule river with a party of Jews; they intend to prospect well before they leave.

A gentleman just in from the Colorado, states that the gold discoveries in that country only exist in the imagination. He also states that Capt. Smith is near Los Angeles, on his way up, with some of his men, and a number had left him to go to Sonora, Mexico.

Yours, W. J. HOWARD.

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**MARINE LOCOMOTIVE.**—Several American papers have lately contained articles in regard to the invention of a Marine Locomotive. The *Civilisation* of Paris contains an article on the same invention, claiming it as of French origin and giving the details of its construction. The *Civilisation* says:

"In the present system of navigation an immense amount of water must be moved and disturbed by a small vessel, and a great deal of power is lost. The labor of engineers and inventors has been heretofore to perfect the old system of boats by improving their models and increasing their power of propulsion. But here is a man who begins by doubting all that has heretofore been considered as decided. He asks whether ships might not move otherwise than in the water, and he answers by offering a vehicle mounted on great cylinders rolling on the surface of the water. He compares our present vessels to large sleds, and his own to the improvement made in land carriage when an unknown genius invented wheels. The author of this new system of novel architecture is Mr. Planaverque, a mathematician of great distinction and Professor of Mathematics in the Lyceum of Cahors."

His "Hydro-locomotive" may be compared to an immense coach on way-side wheels, and these wheels are made with a fluted surface so that the wheel does not rest entirely on the water but on air which is caught in the fluted compartments. The greater the speed the less it sinks in the water, and the inventor thinks that 40 miles an hour may be attained without any difficulty. The locomotive will be peculiarly fitted for river navigation. After this invention shall have been proved to be practicable and valuable, people will believe in it, probably not before.

**A NEW USE FOR DOGS.**—A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* suggests the use of the skins of dogs slaughtered by the dog catchers, in the manufacture of riding and driving gloves for ladies and gentlemen. Gloves made from this material are said to be superior to any other for this purpose, and that there is not a dog whose skin is not worth more than the cost of catching, killing and preserving.

The fashionable world was startled out of its propriety some time since, by the publication of a letter written by a genius who had strayed away into some part of South America, where he had been engaged for several months in shooting monkeys, the skins of which he sold to be shipped to France, and there manufactured into the best quality of kid gloves. It appears from the above, that dogs are probably about to enter into competition with monkeys, in furnishing a covering for the taper fingers of "ladies fair."

**SURPASSING ELOQUENCE.**—The following passage from the speech of the Rev. Mr. Chapin, at the Crystal Palace opening is sublimely eloquent.

opening, is sublimely eloquent. Another person enumerating the great eras of the world's history might have added this great Orator to the constellation, for his intellectual gifts surpass those of other mere men:

"That was a great era when truth found in the printing press the gift of tongue, and aroused the stagnant souls of men with volleys of thought. That was a great era when Columbus unveiled to the Old World a virgin bride—the mother of a splendid and incalculable destiny. That was a great epoch when Bacon shattered Aristotle's Web and Agrippa's Mirror, and taught men to explore nature with the lamp of experiment and the talisman of fact. That was a great era, inaugurated by the Declaration of Independence, when in the cradle of battle and the baptism of blood, a nation was born in a day. [Loud and enthusiastic cheers.] Eras! Why every man and every woman (without hinting at any of them as having reached an incalculable and mysterious age)—every child has passed through them. You have seen our New York growing from a provincial town to a vast metropolis, heaving in its heart with the pulsation of the world, and wearing this Crystal Palace like a diadem; you have seen space canceled by steam, and time beaten by lightning, and tissues of identities and networks of sympathies stretched and woven round the globe—you know it is characteristic of our epoch. I say it has great and sudden changes. Therefore, evidently, it is but a transition epoch, leading to a third, and which we can hardly yet conceive; which I may not linger to describe, but which we may believe will be an epoch of comparative quiet—not stagnant quiet, but serene, full, deep life—a sunset epoch; and it may be of an unimaginable splendor, when the ripe world shall be plucked for ulterior purposes by the hand of God. [Cheers.]

**A NEW INSTRUMENT OF WARFARE.**—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Express* under date of May 8th, says:—

"Several army officers were this morning engaged at the arsenal in testing the qualities of a newly invented rifle, or more properly speaking, a rifle-cannon, submitted to Government for examination and approval.

The instrument in question is very similar to the common rifle, having the same sights, the telescope and grooved barrel, the only difference that we could discover being that one is destitute of a stock, is upon wheels, and so arranged that by means of machinery it can be elevated, depressed or rotated at pleasure, while the motions of the other are regulated by hand.

The barrel is about three feet in length, weighs eighty pounds and carries one inch ball, weighing five ounces, and also an explosive ball, which discharges its contents the instant it strikes any object. The rifle was tried at a target, eight hundred and eighty yards distant, about half a mile, and with accuracy, nearly every shot taking effect. So far, we learn, it has given general satisfaction, though the report to the Ordnance Department in regard to it has not been made known.

**REVOLUTIONARY TROPHIES.**—The standards taken at the surrender of Yorktown were presented by the Congress of the Revolution to Gen. Washington, and the venerable Mr. Custis, the sole surviving Executor of Washington.



Mr. Custis, the sole surviving Executor of Washington, and the last surviving member of his domestic family, has recently presented these Trophies to the President, and through him to the Government and People of the United States. It is suggested that a portion of the Eastern wing of the Patent Office should be set apart as a Hall of Triumph to contain all the trophies of the wars of the United States. The *Intelligencer*, in noticing the Yorktown standards, says :—

"Among these old standards are a British and Hessian one. The British is the regimental colors of the 7th regiment of the line. In the centre of the famed red cross banner, is the Order of the Garter, surmounted by a crown, with the motto, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*" The Hessian standard is elaborately worked. In the centre is an eagle soaring aloft, in one talon a truncheon of command, in the other an olive branch. Motto, "*Pro Principe et Patria, 1775.*"

"Both flags are of silk, and nearly eighty years old, dilapidated by time, the British flag having suffered somewhat from relic seekers, who have appropriated to themselves scraps of the renowned banner that once floated in terror over a continent, with a view to revival in modern times of the ever glorious memories of the Surrender of Cornwallis."

**IMMENSE EMIGRATION FROM EUROPE.**—The foreign papers received from Europe, informs us that as many as twenty-two emigrant vessels took their departure, during the month of April, from Liverpool, bound for the various ports of the United States. These twenty-two vessels carried away fifteen thousand three hundred and forty-one persons. Of these, ten thousand eight hundred and twenty-five were Irish, two thousand four hundred and eighteen were English, two hundred and fifty-five were Scotch, and eighteen hundred and forty-three were natives of other European countries; but the last number was made up almost entirely of Germans. During three days, counting from Thursday last, there arrived at New York from different European ports, twenty thousand seven hundred and sixteen emigrants.—*Balt. American.*

**SOAP FOR ENGRAVING**—An artist of Sheffield, England, has discovered that soap is an excellent substitute for engraving. A drawing may be executed with a hard point on a smooth piece of soap, almost as readily, as freely, and in as short a time, as an ordinary drawing with a lead pencil. Every touch thus produced is clear, sharp and well defined. When the drawing is finished, a cast may be taken from the surface in plaster; or, better still, by pressing the soap firmly into heated gutta-percha. In gutta-percha several impressions may be taken without injuring the soap, so as to admit of "proofs" being taken, and corrections made—a very valuable and practical quality in soap.—*Home Journal.*

**CUTTING NAILS.**—There has recently been invented and put into practical operation in Troy, a new machine for making cut nails, the great peculiarity of which is that it is self-feeding, and will manufacture in a given time, nearly if not quite as many again nails as any other known process; and that one man (as it is claimed,) with the assistance of a boy, will operate ten machines. There is also a great saving in iron, there being a waste of only

also a great saving in iron, there being a waste of only about a quarter of an inch in ten feet, which is the length of the pieces of iron placed in the machine at the time. It has been shown that one machine will manufacture from 300 to 350 nails per minute, all of which are perfect in form and finish.