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Daily Alta California, Volume 5, Number 194, 15 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.

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. Worldling'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.