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INTERESTING LETTER FROM UMPQUA.

**Crescent City—The Mountain Trails—The Northern
 Diggings—The Indians.**
 DEER CREEK, UMPQUA VALLEY, }
 Aug. 26, 1854 }

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Upon the steamer *Peytona* I took passage for Crescent City, on Saturday, Aug. 5th, leaving all that is joyous in the modern Gotham of the Pacific, and after spending two days upon the briny deep, hove in sight of the Crescent, which has quite the appearance of a business town. Heavy swells from the north and north-west retarded very much the speed of the steamer, though she wafted her course onward with steady motion and in seeming safety. The captain and subordinate officers of the steamer were quite attentive and courteous to passengers, which made the time pass off quite agreeably. Most of the way we were in sight of the coast, and the presentation of lateral objects to a passer-by predisposes the mind to associations anything but fascinating.

In Crescent City there are fifteen or twenty stores, but three or four do most of the business. From three to five houses of public entertainment and comfort, rather of an ordinary class, and a few other places of public resort, there were incident to the catalogue of California. From this town I was informed that there were nearly three thousand mules employed in packing into various parts of the Southern mines of Oregon and the Northern mines of California. Packing from this place to Jacksonville is worth from six to seven cents per pound, and to Yreka ten cents. The trail is quite good most of the way, though there are several mountains, upon the sides of which it might be greatly improved. Hardscrabble mountain is among the worst: thousands of feet you may look down into a dark abyss below the trail. Smith river winds along at its base and passes off northwesterly to the ocean. This is about fifteen miles from the city. By turning the course of this river, some sixty or seventy miners seemed to be doing tolerably well in its bed. A gentleman at the foot of the mountain informed me that a company of four near his house had each taken out nearly thirty dollars per day for some time, and on the 10th of August showed me a specimen of the gold. It was of a coarse character, with occasional lumps of five and ten dollars. I do not state this for the purpose of drawing miners there, for only a short space of time is the river susceptible of being worked.

With a very few exceptions, houses of public entertainment between Crescent City and Sailing Diggings, (a distance of fifty miles,) are doggeries in the extreme. It would be well for travellers to make inquiries of some respectable packer with regard to the fit houses of entertainment before he leaves the town, and adapt his stoppings accordingly.

About the 1st of this month it was rather the prevalent opinion in Crescent City that there would soon be difficulty with the Rogue River Indians. On the 9th of Aug. I left, and arrived near Jacksonville on the 14th. With reference to the cause of the disturbance, I made immediate inquiries of some of the most respectable gentlemen of the Valley, such as Dr. Ambrose and Judge McFatten. I conversed with these two gentlemen concerning the Indians, and they concurred in stating, as they were most credibly informed, that the difficulty arose from the most wanton and abandoned cruelties of two lawless white men. The first act was committed by a gambler; it seems that several Indians had been employed on Rogue River to move a family lower down the river in their boat; the husband, at the time the scene happened, was forty or fifty yards from the boat, and his wife was near; a stranger appeared upon the bank and conversed with her and the Indians as they were carrying the baggage to the boat; he turned shortly and went a little distance, hiding himself from Indian observation, and as the premeditated victim had passed in the path by him, unseen he came forth, and like a dastard, shot the poor Indian mortally in the back, and ran away, leaving the helpless woman and her little ones at the instant mercy of savage ferocity. The other act was committed, according to report, by Williams or Bob. Williams, in consequence of an Indian being determined to protect his wife, and not yield her to the reckless and wanton debauchery of a fiend clad in a white man's skin; that Indian was shot for that mere determination. What white man would bear all this and

think himself a man! And lo! the poor Indian—ravish from his breast his dearest tie, then kill him and cast him to the dogs! I am informed that the difference with reference to the first act has been settled by paying the Indians two hundred dollars, all they demanded; and that now the other is under adjustment by the Indian Agent, who is an active and efficient gentleman in the discharge of the functions of his office. Much do the citizens of Rogue River Valley owe to such an agent, where peace and plenty abound, instead of the horrors of a devastating Indian war.

In passing over the coast range of mountains, thirty or forty miles in distance, I saw much to attract the attention of the naturalist in the unique formation of the country. The belt of redwood, eight miles in width, beginning four or five miles from the coast, stretching their branching tops to high heaven, and the sandstones, seen upon the highest range, measuring from one to twenty cubic feet, with many layers of flint stone intervening, and the most of them appearing burnt, as if having been ejected from some active volcano.

I am sojourning a few days with a friend by the name of Mr. Perry, in the society of whose family I spend my time quite agreeably. It is my purpose to take items in this, Rogue river, Shasta, and Scott's vallies, and anything, occurrences, etc., which I may think of interest to your columns.

P S.—It has rained all day and saturated the ground sufficiently at present for all purposes whatsoever. It presents the appearance of having extended its beneficial effect far south of this.

CINCINNATUS.

VISIT TO THE LOS ANGELES SALT WORKS—Complying to a very polite invitation from Messrs. Bell & Co to visit their Salt Lake and Works, situated about twelve miles from the city of Los Angeles, I started in company with a friend from the city, about 10 A.M., and after a very pleasant buggy ride over a good wagon road, in about one hour's time, we arrived upon the ground. We were at once struck with astonishment to see the many improvements already made upon the place by this enterprising company; and were very agreeably received, and accompanied by two of the proprietors, Messrs. Bell and Clark, we proceeded to examine the premises. I should judge that the lake covered an area of about sixty acres, and averages from three to five feet deep. It is situated about six hundred yards from the ocean, which at this point makes into the land and makes a safe and beautiful bay. Vessels may anchor with safety within a very short distance of the Salt Works. By tasting the water in the lake, a person is at once convinced that it has no subterraneous communication with the ocean, as has been supposed by some. The extreme saltiness of the water is beyond description; and the most singular fact of all is, that by digging from six to eight feet you can procure beautiful fresh water within ten feet of the side of the lake. The company now have in operation ten very large kettles, and are engaged bailing out salt day and night. With the facilities they already have, they can take out 8000 pounds of as fine, beautiful, and white salt as was ever manufactured. The operation bids fair to remunerate each of the company with fortune.—*Southern Cal.*

PIONEER ARTESIAN WELL COMPANY—We understand this Company has fully organized under the general law of corporations of this State.

The capital stock of the Company is \$2,500, in shares of \$100 each, with power to increase the amount of stock if necessary. The Trustees of the Company are Isaac Hartman, James R. Burton and Wm. B. Osburn. It is the intention of the Company to commence operations forthwith, at the foot of the bluffs immediately in the rear of Fort street. From what we know of the men engaged the enterprise, we are well assured that the work will be prosecuted until the company procure water, notwithstanding they may be compelled to expend the whole amount of their capital stock, and more in addition thereto. The Company cannot fail having the sympathy and good wishes of every one interested in the prosperity and improvement of the City.—*Ib.*

FROM THE UPPER SAN JOAQUIN AND KERN RIVER—We gather the following information from several persons who arrived in Stockton on Saturday, from Fort Miller, and that region of country.

The San Joaquin river is unusually low, and the miners generally are doing well. There are some who are making good wages, while there are many others who are barely making their expenses.

There are about two hundred Americans, or whites, on this stream, and near four hundred Chinamen, and more arriving every day, which makes lively times for the traders.

There has been several robberies committed on the river lately, and suspicion rests upon a party of Mexicans who have recently arrived there from the lower country. The store of Mr. J. B. Campbell was entered and robbed of some eight hundred dollars in money, and shortly afterwards the store of Messrs. De Bloise & Chisholm, was also entered. But the thieves did not succeed in obtaining more than a few dollars in loose change.—*Stockton Argus*.

CITY RECORDER'S REPORT.—Below we give the Report of the City Recorder for the two months ending August 6th and September 6th, 1854. The whole amount of money received has been 6223 56. Assault and battery, 44; breach of the peace, 126; petit larceny, 44; grand larceny, 16; assault with an attempt to commit bodily harm, 3; assault with intent to commit murder, 5; libel, 1; vagrancy, 3; exposing person, 3; burglary, 5; malicious mischief, 8; swindling, 3; rape 1; forgery, 1; fighting, 4; falsely acting as an officer, 1; convicted, 237; acquitted, 100; dismissed, 32; bound over, 11; paid and discharged, 175; committed, 57; whipped, 5; violating city ordinances, 113.—*Sac. State Journal*.

SHOOTING AFFRAY. — FATAL RESULT. — *Diamond Springs, Sept. 10.*—An affray took place to-night in our town between a Mr. Miller and Madison, which resulted in the latter being mortally wounded—weapons, pistols. The ball entered his right shoulder, and passed into his lungs. Cause of the difficulty, slander. Madison is held in custody by Constable Robinson.—*Tel. to the Union*.

ATLANTIC NEWS.—The steamer *Cortes* from San Juan, may be expected to day with dates from New York to August 19th.

SYNAGOGUE OF THE CONGREGATION EMANUEL.—The ceremony of consecrating the new Synagogue Emanuel, situated on Broadway, between Powell and Mason streets, will take place to-morrow afternoon, at 3½ o'clock.