

Our Sonora Correspondence.

ALTAR, STATE OF SONORA,

Mexico, Sept. 24th, 1853.

DEAR AMES.—Before leaving fort Yuma I had written several communications to send you in relation to the Indian difficulties, but did not forward them. Your paper containing my letter from Vallecita has been received. You added a paragraph which injured the feelings of Col. H. I hope you will apologize to him, and drink Capt. A.'s toast,—'here's to reformation.'

I spent the night after I left camp with the Yumas and their allies, and listened to a seven hours speech from their celebrated chief, which I took down ~~in short-hand~~ for General Forbes to translate. This chief, Cabelleo Palo is the controlling spirit among these Indians and will yet cause us much trouble. They cannot muster over 250 warriors. There will probably be more trouble here as soon as their crops are off. Our party crossed the river on the 16th, and commenced our march towards this region. After traveling twenty-two leagues, we came to a very curious watering place called Tenaja Alta, consisting of four natural cisterns formed in the solid rock. The highest is some hundred feet above the base of the hill. The lowest is at the base, and is about fifty feet in diameter and four feet deep, forming the finest sort of a bathing place, and affording excellent facilities for watering animals. There is a most singular plain near here, where you may travel for miles over gravel, without meeting with a spear of grass or other sign of vegetation. The only living things in this desert place are rattlesnakes, lizzards and tarantulas. My

haste to get this ready to send by a "sheep party" expected here to-day, *en route* for California.

Ever and Truly,

FOREIGNER.

the snakes, lizzards and tarantulas. My traveling companion, who resides in this inhospitable country, tells me that there is a tribe of indians on the edge of this desert, who subsist on lizzards and roots, — the roots are of such strength as to entirely destroy their teeth. After traveling about 150 miles farther on, we came to a most singular grove of what the Spaniards call *saguaro*. I had never heard of it before either in books or from travelers. One of our party, a native of Guaymas, and a graduate of Edinburgh College, told me that he had never seen any mention of it in his botanical studies, but is of opinion that it belongs to the cactus family. This plant grows to the height of sixty feet, and from one to four feet in diameter in the middle, and tapering at the base and top. I have procured some of the seeds for your friends Judges Robinson and Hayes. I believe they obtain their subsistence from the atmosphere, as I am sure that "Commissary Beans" could not be raised on the soil in which they grew, with two showers of water and one of guano per diem.

Two hundred miles further on we arrived at *Sonora*, once a mining place of importance, but since the discovery of gold in California, it has been entirely abandoned. Ten miles from this place is probably the richest copper mine in the world. I saw three cargoes of the ore at *Sonora*, every pound of which yielded one dollar in gold, and from 80 to 90 per cent. of pure copper. The people here dare not go out to work the mines, as the Apaches murder them and steal their stock. They killed six out of seven who went out for ore last spring. We found a poor white family living on the banks of a beautiful little stream at this place. They supported themselves entirely by

water and one of guano, per diem.

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I cannot give you a description of this place at this time, as I write in great

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