

# Daily Alta California, Volume 6, Number 194, 7 August 1855 — LETTER FROM SAN DIEGO [ARTICLE]

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## LETTER FROM SAN DIEGO.

### Military Affairs—Indians Flogged to Death —Local News Politics—Pacific Railroad.

SAN DIEGO, August 2, 1855.

The Pacific Mail steamship *Republic*, F. R. Baby, commander, arrived here this morning with the mail at 6 o'clock, in about 60 hours from San Francisco. The *Republic* is now placed permanently on the line, and will run every ten days from San Francisco to San Diego and back, touching at the intermediate ports. She is a splendid seaboat, has a beautiful and spacious cabin, and large state rooms; and as regards her eating and sleeping arrangements, there is nothing more to be desired. The passengers who came down in her are loud in their praises of every officer on board, from the captain to the cabin boy for the attention and courtesy shown to them during the trip.

She brought down a company of the 3rd Regiment of U. S. Artillery, under the command of Major Reynolds and Lieutenant Harding. This detachment, consisting of forty-two men, has been sent to reinforce the troops now at Fort Yuma. There are already at that post about sixty men under the command of Col. Martin Burke and Lieut. Du Barry. Col. Burke left this place about two weeks since, to take command of that post, relieving Major George H. Thomas, who has been recently appointed a Major in one of the new regiments of cavalry authorized by the last Congress. Major Thomas is in town and is to leave this day on the *Republic*, for San Francisco, *en route* for the east. In connection with military affairs, the following paragraph from the *San Diego Herald* of last Saturday, may be subjoined:

We learn from the mail rider, that a couple of deserters having escaped from the post at Fort Yuma, a short time since, they were pursued by a Sergeant Knowles and two men, half way across the Desert. One of the detail having become nearly exhausted, returned to the post. The other two men overtook the deserters and a conflict is supposed to have ensued as one of the pursuing party was found dead by the roadside, and the sergeant's mule and equipments had also been found near by, and a Mexican had reported having seen its rider lying dead some distance from the road, having been shot by one of the deserters with whom he had long had a feud, and that the pursued party had started towards Los Angeles.

It is reported from other sources that the bodies of both the pursuers and the pursued had been found lying on the Desert, having all perished in the conflict or from exhaustion afterwards, which we do not

believe, as the mail rider would probably have become informed of the circumstance.

There is a rumor current here relative to the flogging to death of two Indians lately, by Capt. Cave J. Coutts, of San Luis Rey, which, if true, equals in barbarity anything ever read of the atrocities of the South Sea Island savages. It is said that this gentle man lost several head of cattle some time ago, and being informed, or suspecting, that two Indians were the offenders, he ordered them to be tied and flogged in order to extort a confession. This punishment was so severely and inhumanly inflicted that the victims are said to have repeatedly fainted, and brought to consciousness again by means of cold water administered by the bystanders. The savage torture was renewed until the wretched beings were left in the agonies of death, and upon their removal, or shortly after, they both died of the injuries received. No examination or investigation has yet been made into the matter. Why does not the District Attorney do his duty? Why do not the Grand Jury investigate the subject? Is it because the victims are poor Indians that Capt. C. J. Coutts' farm yard is to be turned into a shambles? Is it because C. J. Coutts is a man of position in the county that his Indian butchery is to be allowed to pass unnoticed? Surely the citizens of San Diego will not permit their fair fame to be tarnished by these imputations? These things are not whispered. They are spoken of publicly in the bar-room and on the streets, and yet Capt. Coutts is challenged by no man! Let an indictment be preferred against him, if he be guilty. If he be innocent, let him have an opportunity of proving his innocence and branding his calumniators.

The Democratic County Convention is to be held on the 4th inst. It is to consist of fourteen delegates—five from San Diego, which polls about one hundred and eighty votes; three from San Luis Rey, which polls about sixty; three from San Ysabel, or Agua Caliente, which polls sixty; and three from Temecula and Colorado, which together poll about sixty votes. The candidates for office are as numerous as the locusts of Egypt. There are no less than six aspirants for the office of Sheriff, and nearly as many for County Treasurer.

J. J. Warner, of Agua Caliente, again offers him-

J. J. Warner, of Agua Caliente, again offers himself as a candidate for Senator for the district consisting of the three counties of San Diego, San Bernardino and Los Angeles. As there are already two or three candidates for the same office from Los Angeles, and probably one from San Bernardino, it is not easy to say who will be successful. The Mormons, in all probability, will decide the matter. Present indications, however, point out Mr. Granger, of Los Angeles, as the successor of Dr. McFarland. Benito Wilson, of Los Angeles, would poll a good vote, but he is suspected of Know Nothingism, which is political death to any man in this part of the State.

There are five prominent candidates to represent

the county in the next Legislature—Col. Kendrick (a member of the Legislature in 1851), Capt. Coutts,