

San Joaquin Republican, Volume 4, Number 155, 4 July 1854 — The Tejan Iir»erv»tton—Whet an EiiUgbt* cued Philanthropy Can Po. [ARTICLE]

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The Tejon Reservation — What an Enlight- ened Philanthropy Can Do.

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The peculiar adaptation of the Tejon to its present uses cannot but be acknowledged by every one who will visit it. It lies in a corner of the world, far away from civilization and defying the approach of settlements on any side. It is off from the line of travel, and the only resources of its people are in the soil and wild game. South and East it is bounded by almost impassable mountains; on the North is a strip of arid desert, extending to the Tules; on its extreme West passes the wagon trail from the Canada de las Uvas. The Tejon Pass, which is in the extreme East corner, is only a single trail, through a narrow defile, broken by precipitous and difficult hills. It is so cut off from the world, that travelers must go out of their way to approach it. It is so far from markets, and so difficult of access, that it could be of little value for any other purpose, except it be as a grazing rancho. It is about twenty miles across the head of the valley, and the Reservation embraces 50,000 acres. The soil is rich, and abundantly supplied with water and timber. Indeed, one can have little idea of its capacities without close examination. We rode a distance of probably twenty-five miles around its borders. Little green valleys extend into the Sierras, supplied with clear spring water, and belts of oak timber. In these valleys are located the rancherias, out of sight to the general observer, where the Indians cultivate their acres, and take as much pride in keeping them clean and free from weeds as any other class of farmers. All classes work, from the oldest to the youngest. Juan Viejo claimed exemption on account of being Chief, but when told that it was necessary for the old men to set the example of industry to the young, he replied "It is good," and went cheerfully to the field.

The winter of 1852-'3 was very severe. The Indians were nearly starved to death. The hills and plains are covered over with lit-

the ditches to lead the water into all the squirrel holes, and when the squirrel was forced out of his hole, he was killed and eaten. They were obliged to pursue this course of precarious living for a long time. The ditches themselves attest that the labor they performed must have been incessant, and for so small a compensation. It barely kept the breath in their starved bodies. The labor upon some of these ditches to catch a few poor squirrels, would have been sufficient to have watered a vineyard. In speaking of those days, they referred to them as days when they knew not in the morning where they would obtain meat for the day. But they are happy now, and are all emulous of each other. The different rancherias strive to excel in the quantity and neatness of their individual crops.

All hands are now engaged in harvesting. As soon as this is completed, the whole disposable force will be put to the erection of such houses as are required for stores, granaries, workshops, warehouses and dwellings for the general work. Each rancheria will be permitted to build their own houses in their own way; but so great is the emulation among the Indians, that the first who builds will be excelled by all the rest.

A vineyard is already planted. There are also many varieties of fruit trees growing.

Schools will be established as soon as the labors of the season are secured, and when the plan is fully developed, it will be found that the Reservation contains within itself such elements of strength as to be self-sustaining; and instead of being a charge upon the Government, it will eventually pay all, and more than has been expended in its organization.

Thus this first experiment of Mr. Beale, if he is permitted to foster and carry out his plans, will become a Mission without the defects of the old system—an agricultural and intellectual mission, where the miserable natives, whose existence has depended upon stealing—upon roots, worms and vermin—will be taught the advantages of productive labor, and instructed in the arts of civilization to the extent of their capacities. Unlike the old mission system, which dazzled the savages with the symbols of religion, and taught them that submission to the padres was obedience to God, they will here be taught that honest industry is better than stealing, and that it is better to cultivate the earth than to be idle and

trust to Providence for food and clothing.

About twenty miles west from the Tejon, at the old mission ground of San Emilio, another Reservation of twenty-five thousand acres is to be located. Both these Reservations once appertained to the padres; that of the Tejon to San Fernando, and San Emilio to Santa Barbara. Some thirty years ago, the padres laid the corner stone of their church and prepared adobes, intending to establish themselves at San Emilio; but an insurrection among the Indians delayed the work, and ere they were again ready to work, the decree of secularization put a stop to all their labors. About the same time, the padres of San Fernando also selected a site for a church at the Tejon. Under more liberal auspices, the attempt to gather the Indians is now to be renewed. Both these Reservations will be under the immediate supervision of Mr. Beale, who will live upon the spot and personally watch over all their affairs, until the experiment (which any one who goes there can see is sure to succeed) is completed. He will then establish two other Reservations, as provided for by law.—*Los Angeles Star*.

THE following is the section referred to in another column of our paper this morning :

" SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted, * ** That the Constitution, and all laws of the United States, which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the same force and effect within the said Territory of Nebraska as elsewhere in the United States, except the eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved March 6, 1820, which, being inconsistent with the principle of non-intervention by Congress with slavery in the States and Territories, as recognised by the legislation of 1850, commonly called the Compromise measures, is hereby declared inoperative and void, it being the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to revive or put in force any law or regulation which may have existed prior to the act of 6th of March, 1820, either protecting, establishing, prohibiting, or abolishing slavery."

DROWNED ON THE SAN JUAN RIVER.—Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Messenger informs the San Francisco *Herald* that while lying to, twelve miles below Castillo rapids, they saw the body of a man floating down the river. A boat was got ready immediately, and went in pursuit, but was too late, as the body was picked up by some natives. From the transit ticket found on his person, his name was made out to be J. W. Mann. He had some \$750 in dust in a belt around him, which the natives refused to give up on demand. At Castillo, two of the steerage passengers on the down steamer, got to "sky-larking," and one of them fell overboard, two miles above the rapids, and was drowned. The body was interred on the left bank of the San Juan river, 12 miles below Castillo rapids.

Mrs. Lawless, a lady from Boston, with two children—boy 14 years old, and daughter in her 9th year—had got all safely on board the Sierra Nevada, on the afternoon of 19th June:—she took her children upon the after deck and left them while she went below; during the absence of the mother, the children fell asleep on the benches. When the mother came back, the boy was there asleep, but the girl was gone! Diligent search was made throughout the ship, from sundown until mid-

night, but no child could be found. Arrangements were made to examine the beach next morning, and if the child should be found, to have it buried, and notice thereof sent to its mother by the next steamer to San Francisco, care C. K. Garrison, as it was evident from the position the child occupied, that it must have fallen overboard. It was a sad sight indeed, to see the mother in such agony of grief. As the ship weighed anchor, and was about to leave the port on the shores of which, at that very moment, perhaps, the body of her beloved daughter was being torn by the surf. The weather was fine on the river and we missed all the showers. The river is in good boating stage. All on board healthy and no sickness on the route.—*Herald*.

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