

San Joaquin Republican, Volume 4, Number 161, 12 July 1854 —
letter From Copt. Conner—Later from the ' Indian RcecrnUon.
[ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

**Letter From Capt. Conner—Later from the
Indian Reservation.**

**TELON MILITARY RESERVE.
Tulare County, July 1, 1854.**

DEAR SIR: Captain Howard and myself arrived here on the 20th June. Our march from the Merced to this place was rather slow, in consequence of being encumbered by a party of would-be miners, of Stockton, on their way to the new El Dorado on Kern river.

We met several parties returning from the new diggings, and the universal answer to our several questions was, "Oh, there is gold on Kern river, but not enough to pay me." I afterwards ascertained, on arriving at the river, that but a few of these persons done anything; being mostly men of the stamp that will not work under any circumstances. Many of them never stuck a pick in the ground, not even dismounting from their half-starved, raw-boned old horses.

However, the reports as first circulated were highly colored. There are about twenty-five men working on the river at present, who intend to continue working two and three cent dirt until the river falls, when they expect to find richer deposits. Three cents to the pan is the most that has been found as yet, and there is only one party working dirt that rich—the others only two cent dirt. The river is very high, and they expect to do better when the water subsides sufficiently to enable them to reach the bed rock. I think, however, that they will be disappointed in the water falling low enough for their purposes, as Kern river is known to remain high longer than any tributary of the San Joaquin. Its south fork,

which heads in Walker's Pass, is fed by almost perpetual snows, and its north fork, which has its head among the highest peaks of the Sierra Nevada, is a roaring torrent the greater part of the year. So, to take all things into consideration, those persons who expect to find a fortune in a day, or dirt richer than three cents to the pan, had better stay at home.

Matters go on handsomely at the Indian Reservation. The harvest is all gathered, and the threshing machine is doing its work of separation. It is indeed a most lovely and interesting sight to observe parties of Indians in their various occupations, working with the utmost cheerfulness and alacrity; some driving four and six mule teams, some feeding the threshing machine, and others attending the large crops of corn, potatoes and water-melons. The wheat crop is the best I have ever seen this year. A small portion of the yield has produced as much as *seventy bushels to the acre*, and the whole crop will average thirty-five bushels to the acre. The barley crop, being sown late, is rather light, especially that part of it sown latest. The value of the present crop, according to Los Angeles prices, is estimated at from \$300,000 to \$400,000; it is certainly an enormous crop, considering the lateness of the season at which operations were commenced.

* * The Indians are arriving daily in small parties, and are immediately reported to Mr. Bishop, the worthy superintendent of the farm, who is not long in finding them employment. A more happy set of beings it has never been my lot to see; and although each tribe speak a different dialect, such a thing as a fight or a quarrel has never happened among them.

Captain Howard and myself intend starting, as soon as our horses are sufficiently rested, on a short tour of exploration to Owens Lake and the desert beyond the Sierra Nevada, and return through Walker's Pass. You may expect us in Stockton about the 1st of August.

Very respectfully, Yours, &c.,

P. E. CONNOR.

To JAS. M. SCOFIELD, Esq., Stockton:

MISS LAURA KEENE.—The Union Theatre, San Francisco, under the management of Miss Laura Keene, is now the most attractive place of amusement in California. This theatre, although small, is remarkably well arranged, and has been filled every evening since its opening, and on some occasions has been crowded to excess. Miss Keene has spared neither pains nor expense in her new undertaking. She possesses the best stock company that has ever been collected together in San Francisco, many of whom are old favorites with the theatre-going community. Among them are Mr. Phelps (one of the best comedians in the State), Messrs. Hann, Spear, Coad, Wilder and Wheatleigh, and Mrs. Claghley, Mrs. Hunt, Miss Josephine, and last, though not least, Miss Caroline Chapman, who is a universal favorite, and the best versatile actress on the California stage. The pieces that have been brought out at the Union, since its opening, are mostly new, and have been put upon the stage in a manner which shows Miss Keene to be an excellent manageress, as well as an actress of extraordinary merit.

Miss Keene has rapidly grown into favor, of late, in San Francisco. Her personations are of the highest rank in her profession, and in her line (comedy) she has not an equal on our boards. We bespeak for her, as she richly deserves, the most brilliant success in her new enterprise.

FROM CALAVERAS—A DUEL.—A friendly duel took place on Monday afternoon, at Mokelumne Hill, between Mr. Laforge, County Clerk of Calaveras, and a Mr. Dudley. They chose the unique manner of squirting water at each other, to cool their wounded honor. One supplied himself with the hose of the