

# San Joaquin Republican, Volume 5, Number 31, 7 February 1855 — Letter from the Tcjon and K\* fn River. [ARTICLE]

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## Letter from the Tcjon and K\* fn River.

We are indebted to Jas. M. Scofield, Esq., for the following interesting letter, from Kern river and the Tulare country :

TEJON PASS, Jan. 26, 1855.

\* \* \* \* \* The Four Creeks country is certainly the best and largest body of land suited to agricultural purposes that I have seen in the State. Well timbered, well watered, having a productive soil and excellent pasturage, it presents the best opening for men of small means, who desire a home to be found anywhere in this quarter of the globe. Nearly all the settlers in this county have their families with them, and appear happy and contented; feeling settled for life, they are gathering around them the comforts and luxuries of home; while the advanced state of society and genuine hospitality make it a desirable place of residence. The principal objection to Tulare county is the distance from a market, in which to dispose of their produce. I learn, however, that a project is at present on foot to connect the Tulare lake with the San Joaquin river by means of a canal. The lake is thought to be navigable; and should they succeed in the undertaking, those who have secured good locations will soon find themselves in easy circumstances.

The people up this way are in the spirits on account of the recent gold discoveries on Kern and White rivers, and should the mines prove as rich and extensive as present appearances indicate, it will lend an increased activity to every branch of business in this portion of the

every branch of business in this portion of the country. The reports concerning these mines have caused considerable excitement, and numbers are flocking in every day; it is said that over two hundred persons are already on Kern river alone. I have conversed with a number of gentlemen who are at work on this stream, and they appear confident that the palmy days of '49 have returned.

Affairs on the Reservation are in a much more flourishing condition than I had been led to anticipate from newspaper publications I have seen. There are at present about 1,000 Indians under this control, who seem perfectly satisfied, and perform quite cheerfully the various kinds of employment to which they are appointed. This is certainly a wise and charitable regulation on the part of the General Government, and far excels any style of "Indian Affairs" which has heretofore come under my observation. I regretted to notice that one important point has been neglected—there is no school, nor any kind of religious instruction yet adopted among them. No appropriations have been made for this purpose, I am told, and consequently, as to the most important feature of civilization the Indians are in a deplorable state of ignorance. Here is as fine a field for missionary labors as can be found among the Fejees themselves, and, I should judge, an equally unprofitable one.

There was something of an Indian difficulty on Tule river a short time since. A Mr. Packwood having had some cattle stolen by Indians, demanded the depredators for punishment. The chief of the tribe paid him a visit at the head of some twenty warriors, and offered to pay for the cattle, but firmly refused to allow any of his men to be punished, at the same time defying the whites and showing evident symptoms of hostility. Mr. Packwood immediately des-

patched a messenger to Visalia, who assembled about forty of the settlers and repaired to the scene of action. The Indians now finding the whites so formidable, delivered over the culprits, who were severely flogged, and it is hoped the difficulty is ended.

As this is not the season for immigration, there have been comparatively few cattle driven through the pass during the past month. There was one pretty large band of about 1500 passed about the 8th. Their owner, Don (something unspellable) a native Californian, stated that he had been compelled to leave his rancho in San Bernardino county, in consequence of the encroachments of the Mormons. These people, I believe, have entire control of that county, and seem disposed to exercise their authority as they attempted to do in Illinois and Missouri some years ago. It will probably end in the same way.

Yours,

G. W. K.

MAN SHOT.—On Sunday afternoon a sad affair occurred at Suisun Valley, about eighteen miles from Benicia, in which two well known citizens were involved, resulting in the serious, and probable fatal injury to one of the parties. The cause of this unfortunate occurrence, as far as known, is as follows: A gentleman by the name of Cooper had his house robbed of \$1000 in coin. He suspected a neighbor by the name of Mann, and mentioned his suspicions in the neighborhood. Mr. Mann, hearing the charge, went before a Justice of the Peace and elicited an investigation. The examination took place, and Mr. Mann was honorably discharged. The parties met at the time above stated, when an altercation occurring, Mann shot Cooper, inflicting, as it is supposed, a mortal injury.