LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

THE GOLD REGION.

Correspondence of the North American.

MONTEREY, ALTA CALIFORNIA,
August 22, 1848.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Your full important discoveries are made every day in this gold region. Instead of being confined to one stream, as was at first supposed, it has already been found on the banks of five, and in many dry ravines, where the water flows only during the rainy season. These streams take their rise in the chain of mountains which runs North and South through California, and are tributaries of the Sacramento. The discoveries extend already Two hundred miles North and South, and some seventy Eastand West. The strong probability is, that the entire chain—at least five hundred miles of it—is richly impregnated with gold. The ore has been found in the deepest valleys and on the highest hills—at the bottom of impassable streams and on mountain cliffs, where only the eagle has been accustomed to pay his visits. It is inexhaustible. As an evidence of this one fact will be sufficient. Seven men, with their Indians, working on Feather river, took from a space not exceeding two hundred yards by seventy, two hundred and seventy-five pounds of gold.

It is doubtful if any estimate with much precision what the gold hunters average per day per man. But I can state this fact—I have seen a great many of them, and met with one whose daily average was as low as twenty dollars; and some, it is well known, have averaged, for a week or month, over a hundred dollars a day, and this without employing any Indians or engaging in any traffic. When a man finds he is gathering only his eighteen or twenty dollars a day, he changes his locality and looks up a richer spot. From all the facts I can gather on the subject, I must believe that the white men now at work in the mines average each about forty dollars a day.

A man who has done considerable tasks work for me, went to the mines engaged in drawing sand for others from a dry spot in the stream, where the gold had been washed out; he received sixteen dollars a load, quit it, and went to working on his own hook, and more than doubled his earnings. I know a little boy, who is twelve years of age, who has been at the mines, and he has two months, and has made about his twenty dollars a day during that time, with no other machinery than a little wooden bowl. I know a woman who took her tea-tray, went to the mines, squatted down on one of the streams, and in a day's working got her two hundred dollars of gold. She said she should have working for her husband, and so much of her time in thinking of her children.

The gold digger generally work in small companies of six or eight. They have a tent, provisions, cattle and mules. Each takes his turn in cooking and keeping camp. Four or five are engaged in getting out gold, and one or two in what they call prospecting—that is hunting for some richer vein or deposit. They are a class of men full of excitement and fun. They undergo great fatigue and make sport of their hardships. They move on at the lovely about the acquisition of gold, which makes a burlesque of the anxious faces which you sometimes see in the cities. You would little think from the careless gaiety of their demeanor that they were getting out of the hard yellow metal which shakes the commercial world. They lose their earnings at the gaming table with as little concern as they pick up the metal with a new one to take its place. There is more where that came from, is their expression, and the next day they prove it true. The whole economy of society is changed. The dielber, hand-hopper, and bullocker are the most independent men in community,—each has his bag of gold and can fill it ten times as fast as his wants can empty it.

It is impossible to procure labor at any price. The offer of ten dollars a day would not drain any one from the mines. The consequence is, our fields are without farmers, our shops without mechanics, our forts without soldiers, our ships without sailors. The pay of a soldier, exclusive of the provisions and clothing, is about eight dollars a month. One of them got a furlough for twenty days from Col. Mason, went to the mines, made a trip down and was many in returning, leaving night for work there, and brought back with him eight ounces of gold, which is about what he would make in eight years soldiering it. Is it to be wondered at that they desert, I should if I were a soldier, by the time this letter reaches you, fifty soldiers at all our military posts in California. They all in the mines, and I see no way with one whose daily average was as low as twenty dollars; and some, it is well known, have averaged, for a week or month, over a hundred dollars a day, and this without employing any Indians or engaging in any traffic. When a man finds he is gathering only his eighteen or twenty dollars a day, he changes his locality and looks up a richer spot. From all the facts I can gather on the subject, I must believe that the white men now at work in the mines average each about forty dollars a day.

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The latter pieces are merely extracts from Col. Mason's report to the Adjutant General at the seat of Government, and are given in all our principal cities.

The New York Herald gives the following interesting statement as to the quality of the gold, the fever on the subject prevailing in that city, and the prospects of the Pacific Mail Line of Steamships.

A very intelligent officer of the Navy, who has been recently over the entire gold region of California, by the purpose of examining the matter thoroughly, stated to-day that by the month of March we shall be receiving from California the value of a million per month in gold. This officer himself has a considerable quantity of the gold, which has reached New Orleans and other large ensuing he knows to be on the way. The Mazatlan correspondent of Messrs. Fessenden & Co., writing, that "$100,000 worth of gold has been received there, which has been assayed and proved to be 23, to 23½ carats fine. This is as near as may be pure gold, too pure for coining or mechanical purposes. This acts as a check on the doubting spirits in the fairness of the metal.

Under the circumstances, the establishment of the Pacific mail line of steamships, in connection with the line hence to Chagres, is a most fortunate happening, as it gives a regular and rapid communication with the States, by which gold can be sent home in thirty days, and merchandise received in return. But for this connection the communication with the States would only have taken place by the Indians, uncertain and unsafe routes of Cape Horn or the Plains to St. Louis. The gold will now come across the Isthmus of Panama, and by steam thence to New York.

The rush of gold hunters to the mines is very large. The John Bianchi, which sailed to-day for Chagres, was crowded with passengers, displacing freight to make room for them. The Falcon, which sailed a few days ago, took a large number, and one of the Liverpool packet owners has it in contemplation to put a packet ship in between New York and Chagres. The California steamer, which leaves the Pacific side of the Isthmus on the 5th of January for San Francisco, will probably have her full complement of passengers. The owners only calculated on twenty in making the estimate for the line. Altogether this is the great excitement of the day.

The Mexicans in California have laid claim to a large portion of the gold territory, and demand thirty per cent. of the gross product. Of course, we give no attention, and incorporated with our metallic currency only by a smint. Therefore send us a mint, and the sooner the better.—Take one of yourself, that is nearly idle, and a good assayer, and an honest treasurer, and send them to Chagres, over the Isthmus to Panama, and then to Monterey, and we will coin gold enough for you to pay the Mexican war.

The news of Peace produced but very little sensation here, men were too much occupied with the gold mines to trouble themselves much about the affairs of Mexico. The Californians grumbled a little at being sold by their own friends, and then strung guitars and were as gay as ever. Give a Californian his guitar and his cigarito, and he wants give himself much concern about territorial lines. Our squadron is still at Mazatlan; but some of our ships are expected soon to sail, if they are ordered to the Pacific, to be obliged to leave at once, or lose their men. Two vessels, it is reported, left the bay from the Sandwich Island with passengers for the gold mines. Admiral Moreno—an American, and once the head of the Chilian Navy—died here a few days since. It is now more than three years since I received orders to the Congress—I go to return home by the first ship that leaves for America.

W. C.

PER CALIFORNIA.—The N. Y. Commercial has a list of about twenty vessels which have sailed for California, and many others are advertised in all our principal cities.

The New York Herald gives the following interesting statement as to the quality of the gold, the fever on the subject prevailing in that city, and the prospects of the Pacific Mail Line of Steamships.

Mr. Polk glorifies much over the brilliancy of the achievements of our army in the Mexican War, and the enhancement of our national reputation in the eyes of the world—but very carefully concerns the fact that all these achievements were accomplished under the auspices of those master-spirits, Scott and Taylor, who, without our armies to victory under the most adverse circumstances, and despite the most miserable, contemptible blundering of Mr. Polk and his Administration. Nothing is said of the admission of Santa Anna to Mexico—nothing in regard to the false representations made to the Mexican authorities in which you constantly dogged, in the hope of driving them from their commands—nor of the attempt to supersede both by placing over them a civilian, whose only claim to consideration for the post was to be found in devoted partisan services—nothing of the twenty thousand lives sacrificed to the ambition of the war—nothing of the national debt incurred in its waging—nothing of all the misery, and wretchedness, and crime spread broad-cast over the Union as the necessary and natural result of War. Overlooking all these, and derided by the brilliancy of the fame which the world assigns to successful military achievements, and by the glitter of the gold mines of California, Mr. Polk, investing himself with borrowed plumage, strutts abroad in jackdaw pride, calling on you to come across the Mississippi, Scott and Taylor, the real heroes of the war, are not even named.

Having satisfied himself with "vain beauty" over the glories of the late war, and then very coolly proposing to blast the free territory acquired by it, 1500 miles long by 400 wide, by surrendering it to the accursed institution of Domestic Slavery—the President proceeds to lend and defend the workings of the Sub-treasury and the Tariff of '46, by a series of arguments, the sophistry of which is so glaring that the dullest reader cannot fail to discover it. Next follows a lengthy diatribe against what Mr. Polk is pleased to call the "American Party," very angrily defined to be a conspiracy against the Constitution, the Union, the National Bank, the Protective Policy, appropriations for Internal Improvements, a Distribution of the Proceeds of the Public Lands, and opposition to the Veto Power—all of which, the President says, originated with a very unworthy class of statesmen, who had made up their minds that the interests and welfare of society were the perfection of excellence, and whose morality was the introduction of the privileged classes of Europe into our own country, by building up of a aristocracy—and the breaking down of the masses! Quite complimentary, to be sure, to Mr. Webster and his friends, who signed the first bank bills, to Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Monroe, and Mr. Adams, and Mr. Jackson, and the long line of distinguished men, who originated and authorized the Internal Improvements System. But Col. Polk lives in a very great age, and is of course a very great man—fully authorized to sit in judgment on the wisdom and patriotism of all the distinguished statesmen who have preceded him.—It is true that the President seems to think that the measures adopted by him are the opinions of Geo. Washington, or that the people would rather have got into the habit of deferring somewhat to the opinions of that great man—and he accordingly puts a very learned argument to prove that Washington's having signed the first Bank Bill does not amount to much after all. And then he goes on to show that he, Mr. Polk, Geo. Washington, it seems, did not sign the bill without a great deal of deliberating, and only after consulting Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and other great lights of that age. He even requested written opinions from these statesmen, and then, after availing himself of the best counsel that the Republic could furnish, and revolving the matter in his own mind for some nine or ten days, signed the Bill. Therefore, writes Mr. Polk, Thomas Jefferson, Washington, Madison, Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson, all of which were recognized as articles known to have been in Poter's house, previous to the murder, and since missing.

The facts, although amounting to nothing more than circumstantial evidence, were deemed sufficiently strong to authorize the commitment of the prisoner, to answer the charge of murder, which was accordingly given into the custody of the Sheriff, to await proper legal process from Adams county.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRISONER.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Smith, the individual alluded to above, was brought to Gettysburg, under charge of Mr. John Horner, accompanied by Mr. James O'Daniel and Wm. B. Wilson, Esqs. Yesterday morning, he was taken before Esquire Danner, and, after a hearing, committed to the Jail of Franklin county, to answer the charge of murder, as presumed, at the Court of Adams, it does not answer the description of the person who made his appearance in Gettysburg on the Friday after the murder, and, which, it was stated, was at first directed. The pains of his right hand are severe, and presents the appearance of having been recently blistered by fire.

There are of course quite a number of stories and rumors about in the community in regard to the alleged guilt of the prisoner, but as he is now in the hands of the law to await a fair and impartial trial, we deem it improper to refer to them—Although the facts already developed bear strongly against him, it is due to him to say that he persevertingly protests his entire innocence of the charge laid against him, and professes to be able to produce such evidence of his whereabouts at the time of the murder, as to render it impossible that he should have had any agency in it. That he may do so, and clearly establish his innocence of the terrible crime, is the hope of all.

In the meantime, it is the duty of every good citizen to leave the matter in the hands of the officers of the law, by whom justice will undoubtedly be administered, and to refrain from all unguarded expressions of opinion which may have a tendency to prejudice the public mind against the prisoner, or in any way interfere with a fair and impartial trial.

THE STAR & BANNER.

GETTYSBURG.

Friday Evening, December 15 1848.

CITY AGENCIES.—T. B. PARKER, Corner of Chestnut & Third streets, and W. GRAY, Exq. Post Office building N. E. Corner of Dock streets, *Philadelphia*; and WM. THOMPSON, Exq. South-west Corner of Baltimore & South sts. *Baltimore*—are our authorized Agents for receiving Advertisements and Subscriptions for "The Star and Banner," and collecting and receipting for the same.

The Message.

The conclusion of Mr. Polk's long winded message will be found in to-day's paper. The major part of it was furnished last week, and has no doubt ere this been perused by those who intend to get themselves to the annoyance of wading through the President's apology, mis-statements, and special pleadings. And by the time that the reader has got through with the portion given to-day, we presume that there will be but few who will not be ready to conclude with us that the document, taking it all in all, is wholly unworthy a President of the U. States. Betting the few paragraphs devoted to the ordinary business operations of the government, the Message is nothing more or less than an elaborate special pleading, composed of all of the ordinary argumentation which characterizes the mass of Locofoco stump speeches during a political campaign—and, much more adapted to the atmosphere of the stump, than the dignity of the Presidential office. We have neither time nor inclination at present to expose the fallacy and disingenuousness of the message; nor do we think it necessary. These are so palpable that they cannot fail to attract the attention of the intelligent reader.

Mr. Polk glorifies much over the brilliancy of the achievements of our army in the Mexican War, and the enhancement of our national reputation in the eyes of the world—but very carefully concerns the fact that all these achievements were accomplished under the auspices of those master-spirits, Scott and Taylor, who led our armies to victory under the most adverse circumstances, and despite the most miserable, contemptible blundering of Mr. Polk and his Administration. Nothing is said of the admission of Santa Anna to Mexico—nothing in regard to the false representations made to the Mexican authorities in which you constantly dogged, in the hope of driving them from their commands—nor of the attempt to supersede both by placing over them a civilian, whose only claim to consideration for the post was to be found in devoted partisan services—nothing of the twenty thousand lives sacrificed to the ambition of the war—nothing of the national debt incurred in its waging—nothing of all the misery, and wretchedness, and crime spread broad-cast over the Union as the necessary and natural result of War. Overlooking all these, and derided by the brilliancy of the fame which the world assigns to successful military achievements, and by the glitter of the gold mines of California, Mr. Polk, investing himself with borrowed plumage, struts abroad in jackdaw pride, calling on you to come across the Mississippi, Scott and Taylor, the real heroes of the war, are not even named.

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The California Gold.

In another column we give an interesting letter from California, which we have kindness, in relation to the Gold Mines which have been attracting so much attention. The writer is the Rev. Walter Colyer, chaplain of Monterey, whose statements can be relied upon. A number of specimens of the gold have already reached this country. Some 20,000 worth of it has been deposited in the U. S. Mint at Philadelphia to be assayed. The specimens furnished prove to be remarkably pure—so pure, it is said, as to be coined into money without being given to the Mint. The intelligence from California has produced a marked sensation throughout the country, especially in the cities, whence numbers have already gone to the Golden Land, some Eldorado, with large numbers preparing to follow.

Small Pox.

This loathsome disease seems to be prevailing in most of the large towns around us. We observe announcements of deaths from it in Carlisle, York, Chambersburg, and Harrisburg. In Carlisle, the town authorities appointed two physicians charged with the duty of seeing that all the inhabitants of the place were vaccinated. We would be well enough for those in this neighborhood who have not been vaccinated to attend to the matter at once. It will do no harm to be on the safe side.

The Cholera in N. York.

Cases of cholera continue to occur in N. York quarantine, though the reports of the health officers show a decided diminution. On Tuesday last there were three deaths at the quarantine. A death, however, from the Cholera was reported in the City, on Tuesday, at a house in Greenwich street. Upon an examination of the premises by an authorized officer, it was found in a very filthy condition. Orders were given for their immediate cleansing.

Cure for the Cholera.

Dr. Thomas Miller, president of the Washington board of health, has furnished, from a Constantinople journal, for the National Intelligencer, the following recipe, which has been used in England, in Egypt, claims as an infallible remedy for the cholera. It is as follows:

"As much as the vomiting and diarrhea commence, place the sick in a bath, gradually up the knee, in water not too hot to the feeling; throw in six or seven handfuls of coarse salt; cause the sick to be rubbed violently by two persons, with both hands, from the feet upward, to the feet and allow the blood to flow in warm water for 15 or 20 minutes, according to the age or sex of the patient, or age of the disease.

"During this time keep the water of the same temperature that it was when the patient was first inserted, by adding more warm water. The natural animal heat of the body will be immediately restored and the patient will commence at once perspiring, and asking for nourishment.—He will be perfectly prepared to resume his duties in a day or so.

"Of sixty laborers attacked with cholera, whom I have attended, several had been suddenly seized while at work in the field, others, after having retired in perfect health, about day-break have been aroused from sound sleep with the usual symptoms at the greatest height. Aid could rarely be obtained under half an hour, or an hour and a half, (sometimes six or seven hours, as in one instance ten hours had elapsed;) but after giving this remedy a fair trial, we have no perfect, that they were enabled to return to their labor in five or six days after the attack, in some cases the very next day, or the day after, and have continued to do so.

"It has occurred in some rare cases, that the blood not flowing sufficiently at the time, the patient was bled a second time. In such cases, the second bleeding did take place in the arm, and not in the feet, in no case has this treatment failed.

"The quantity of salt, is a very material ingredient, and perfect re-establishment of the health of the patient, who, in the first stage, is as weak, and in the same state of the blood, as a person who has been bleeding to death."

The Murder—Arrest of the supposed murderer.

We have already given the particulars of the murder of Jacob Peter, of Franklin, in this county, on the night of the 3d ult. A number of circumstances directing suspicion against an individual named Friedrich Smith, a German wanderer, who some four years ago resided at Abbottstown, and had been employed in the family of John Foster, Mr. John Hoover, of Arendtsown, with commendable energy and perseverance, undertook to discover his whereabouts. Having found an individual answering to Smith's appearance in York, and linger to Reading, Mr. H. proceeded to the latter place, where he arrived on Tuesday the 5th inst, and learned that Smith, who had been living at Reading, having been recently married, was confined in prison, charged with robbing the boot of the Lancaster stage of a trunk containing clothing. The Reading papers, (from which we gather the annexed facts in relation to his arrest) informs us that the robbery was committed by Smith while on his way to this county. The trunk was found on Sunday the 28th ult, in a wood near the place where the robbery had been committed. Next day (Monday) Smith came after it, claiming it as his own, and attempted to carry it off by force. But the man who found it had heard of the robbery, and would not give him up; he arrested Smith and took him before a Justice of the Peace in the township, who after an examination committed him to the county prison to await a trial. He was lodged in the prison on Tuesday evening, and there recognized Smith, as the person who formerly lived with Mr. Foster, in Abbottstown, and who left Abbottstown, Betz, and having made the required oath, obtained a search warrant, with which he proceeded early on Wednesday morning, to the house of the prisoner, in Penn street, accompanied by John L. Morris, High Constable of Reading. There they found the trunk and pantaloons, said to belong to Smith, with the marks of blood upon them, as mentioned above; and also the *skinning deed of the murdered man's property*, with *several spots of blood upon it*, in a brown paper, also mentioned in the above. The change of murder was at once brought against the prisoner, and on Wednesday at 2 o'clock, P. M. he was taken before Esquire Danner, for a hearing. The examination was conducted entirely in German, as Smith does not understand a word of English. He expressed some surprise upon hearing that he was charged with robbery in addition to the other crime for which he was in custody, and denied all knowledge or participation in the affair. He said he was at Reading when it was at first directed. The pains of his right hand were severe, and presents the appearance of having been recently blistered by fire.

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Attempt to commit Suicide.

This morning, upon opening the cell in which Stiffs, the prisoner charged with the murder of Frederick Fisher, is confined, he was found half the high attempted to compass suicide during the night, by making incisions in both wrists and ankles. A large quantity of blood had passed from wounds—sufficient to cause the prisoner to faint. Dr. Horner was immediately called in, who examined and dressed the wounds. The prisoner came back to consciousness, and stated that he had in the twilight a few days previous to his death. The Courier says he was one of the most extensively known Horse-Thieves, useful and generally beloved ministers of the Presbyterian Church, having labored in protracted meetings and family in all the States and Territories of the Union. He was for a number of years pastor of a flourishing church in Washington city.

ARKANSAS SENATOR.—A telegraphic despatch received in this city on Saturday, says the Union, states that the Hon. Sec. Sam Borland has been elected by the Legislature of Arkansas a senator of the U. States for six years, commencing on the 4th of March next. The Senators from this State, after the 4th of March next, will be Wm. R. Sebastian and Solon Borland.

RIGHT.—The editor of the Steuben (O.) Courier publishes marriage notices under the head of "Connubial Benedictions." He has decidedly a legislative turn, and we should not be surprised to hear of his being elected to the Presidency.

LABOR FORCE.—A correspondent of the Cecil Whig states that Job Eldridge, of Rising Sun, in that county, led this season and sent to the Baltimore market, a pig nineteen months old, which weighed 500 pounds.

CHOLERA.—The British Royal College of Physicians have issued a cholera circular, in which they distinctly say that they have no confidence in any remedy, and prescribe any particular treatment. Want of nourishment, want of fuel and want of clothing are considered the greatest causes of cholera.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, notwithstanding its enormous prolixity, was telegraphed to the Western cities, and in from in twenty-four hours—drop copies being left at all the intermediate cities.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED.—A Locofoco majority of the Massachusetts Legislature did not attend the late extra session, and the session ended by a "lame duck" in the shape of a Locofoco Speaker.

Rev. Henry Slicer was, on Monday, re-elected Chaplain to the U. S. Senate—receiving 28 votes, Rev. T. Smith 9; Rev. Mr. Henshaw, 5; Rev. Mr. Dewey 4.

The Tariff of '42.

In the House, on Monday, Mr. Eckert, of the State of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill to repeal the duties imposed by the act of 1842. Upon the final passage of this resolution, the yeas and nays were ordered, and it passed in the affirmative—yeas 96, nays 82—Dr. Nes, of course, voting in the affirmative.

☞ The Standing Committees in both Houses of Congress are as nearly as possible the same as at the last session.

Slavery in the Territories.

The following resolution, introduced into the Territories, is already before Congress. We do not think, however, that any thing definite will be accomplished at this session. The Senate is predominately in favor of the Wilmot Proviso, and will not pass any bill which does not contain it. The House is equally decided in favor of the Southern doctrine, and will not pass any bill which does contain it. The Senate is predominately in favor of the Wilmot Proviso, and will not pass any bill which does not contain it. The House is equally decided in favor of the Southern doctrine, and will not pass any bill which does contain it.

Gen. Cass and Mr. Clay.

"Independent," the Washington Correspondent of the North American, gives to the public the annexed copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Clay in 1825 by Gen. Cass, the late Locofoco candidate for President, expressing the writer's convictions of the entire falsity of the "bargain and sale" charge so bitterly and vindictively urged upon the distinguished Kentucky Statesman by his political opponents. Mr. Clay, from motives of the purest patriotism, supported Mr. Adams in the hot-house, and has now yielded up his life in the most cheerful manner, and has now yielded up his life in the most cheerful manner, and has now yielded up his life in the most cheerful manner