



FROM AN ORIGINAL PORTRAIT.

S. W. Kearny

THE WESTERN MAILS

The following is an historical chronology of THE LETTER shown on the opposite page. It is tied in with the "conquest" or takeover of California by the Americans and the subsequent arrest of Fremont by General Kearny. THE LETTER is dated at "Pueblo de los Angeles, May 20, 1847."

1847

- March 5 Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson arrives at San Francisco with part of the 7th Regiment of New York Volunteers.
- March 19 & 25 The balance of the 7th N.Y.V. arrives making a total of 10 companies. Shortly after arrival Stevenson is ordered to report to Kearny at Monterey with 4 companies of the 7th. After arrival in Monterey the 7th is ordered to go to the Pueblo de los Angeles on hearing a report that General Anastasio Bustamante, with a force of Mexicans, is approaching the the Pueblo. The 7th sails to San Pedro and then marches 28 miles inland to the Pueblo but the Mexicans fail to show up.
- May 14 Kearny leaves Los Angeles for Monterey via ship after having come down from Monterey about May 2.
- May 27 Kearny arrives at Monterey and orders Fremont to go back to the states with him. This following a controversy as to who was in charge in California. Fremont thought that he was the Military Governor but events proved out that Kearny was the ranking military officer and the Governor in charge of California.
- May 20 Henry Toye's letter (THE LETTER) leaves Los Angeles by military express for Monterey. In THE LETTER Toye states that "I have just five minutes to finish the letter." The express was run in 4 to 6 days time.
- May 31 Kearny leaves Monterey for Sutters Fort where Fremont and his party join Kearny's party. Kearny also carried THE LETTER with him.
- July 24 Kearny's party and Fremont's cross the great South Pass.
- August 3 They reach Fort Laramie.
- August 22 Kearny arrives at Fort Leavenworth with the entire party after a journey of 2,152 miles in 83 days. On this same day of arrival he places Fremont under arrest and orders him to report in person to the Adjutant General of the Army in Washington.
- August 23 Kearny leaves Fort Leavenworth on the steamboat AMELIA along with THE LETTER.
- August 25 Kearny arrives at Saint Louis on the evening of the 25th.
- August 26 THE LETTER is placed in the Post Office, probably by the purser of the boat where is it postmarked ST. LOUIS/AUG 26/MO. and STEAM 10 all in red.
- August 29 Kearney leaves for Washington.

There are three other letters known to have been carried on this expedition, one of them being in this exhibit. In an article in STAMPS Magazine, Nov. 20, 1937, one of these covers is reported to have been postmarked on August 28th. However in close examination with the covers known it should be August 26th as all four covers were placed in the Saint Louis post office on the same day — August 26th.

The writer of THE LETTER, Henry Toye, was a member of the 7th New York Volunteers. He reports the momentous events taking place in California before the Gold Rush.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Pueblo de los Angeles
Upper California

May 20th 1847.

My dear Sister

I received your letter a few days ago which you sent out by the Western the ship about came in but I have not seen him yet, as we have been sailing and marching from place to place but I suppose we shall meet shortly at least I hope so for I am very anxious to see him you cannot imagine how glad I was to hear he had come out. There is but one thing in the world worries me now and that is about you I want to be sure you are well and happy if it could only ascertain you were safe and had your protection I should be as happy as could be expected away from all friends and relatives. The next letter I get from you must say you are either going or gone to England for I think I shall be there before long. I have not given you a description of anything yet, although I have had a letter written for you ever since I have been in California but have had no time being at Monterey and now riding another. Well to begin with a little rough weather the was and your Birthday Christmas night, it was for city to have lamps, this was



STEAM IO

Miss D. B. Foye

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Mrs. Foye

from Atlantic Steamship Co.

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THE WESTERN MAILS

OVERLAND VIA KEARNY EXPEDITION 1847

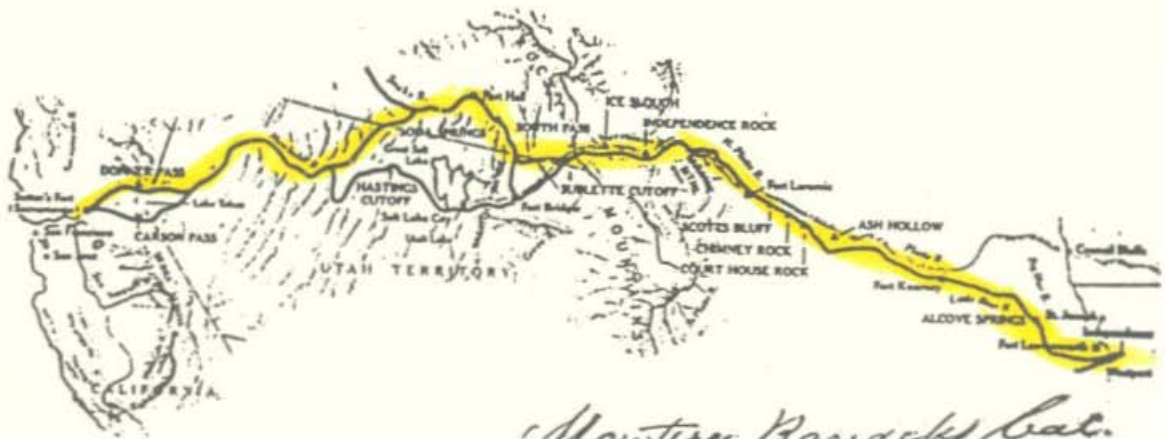
"BARK TASSO. SAN FRANCISCO APRIL 30th/47". John C. Ball writes to his sister: "...in a few days i shall no longer be the first officer of the Tasso, but the noble ship Loo Choo, she will leave here in about a weeks time, either for St.Diego to take what Hides there are collected & home to Boston or otherwise to Manilla & Canton - Should we take the Hides we shall be in Boston next October - if we go to Canton we shall not arrive until february/48 - i would not write until Mr Mellus arrived from to Leeward or when i should be able to inform you more particular about it, but the U.S.Mail which will convey this to its destination, leaves here the 3d of May (Kearny left Monterey May 31st), & as i have two or three to write i am afraid to delay; Captain Arthur left here to day may 1st for Manilla, but will touch at St.Diego where the ship Vandalia is now loading for Boston,& put letters on board for Melissa & one for Ephraim, i shall write to Albert & Harriet by this mail - Mr Teschemacher the Head clerk upon the coast will go in the Loo Choo should she go to Canton which will make it very pleasant for me as he has been on board of the Tasso ever since we arrived upon the coast & has been a very kind friend to me indeed, & says that he will get me a Recommendation from Mr Mellus & that will be sufficient of itself to insure me the command of a



vessel at my return...concerning California i have not much to write - there are about one thousand United States troops in the country who are divided among the different ports, emigrants are pouring in from all quarters & it is destined to be a great country & the key of the Pacific; no one can form any idea to what greatness our beloved country is growing - may God preserve her from Anarchy and confusion like the Republics of old, may she not be swallowed up in her own vain glory...Captain Hatch of the Loo Choo bears the Reputation of being a gentleman & a sailor & most assuredly his looks do not belie it. he wishes me to exchange with Mr Lindsey his first officer not because he engaged so to do when he joined the Loo Choo but because there has been no peace & quietness on board of her since she left home but continual Rows between him & the other officers & crew, & Captain Hatch is a very quiet man & wishes to preserve the same around him...after receiving this you need not write any more letters to California for i shall be far from its fruitfull soil ere they could reach me.....John C Bull"

SEE Henry Toye's letter for the data on this "epic express".

THE WESTERN MAILS



Monterey Barracks Cal.
 May 27th 1847.

Dear Brother.— There are now staying at the Barracks
 A party of men who are to be Gen. Kearney's escort
 across the mountains and I must not miss the
 opportunity to send you a line.



U.S. Occupation of California 1847

Historic letter carried overland by Genl. Kearny on his return to the states following the takeover by the U.S. Army. Kearny had become embroiled in a controversy with Fremont as to who was the Military Governor of California. Events proved that Kearny was in charge and he ordered Fremont to go back east with him. After a journey of 2,152 miles in 83 days, the entire expedition reached Fort Leavenworth on August 22, 1847. On the same day Kearny placed Fremont under arrest and ordered him to report to the War Department in Washington. On August 23rd Kearny left for St. Louis on the steamboat *AMELIA* with the letter shown above, where he arrived on the 25th. The letter was placed in the post office as per postmark ST. LOUIS/AUG 26/MO. In the letter the writer states that it will go "across the mountains" with Kearny and then gives a detailed report on the Mexican War and events in California.

THE WESTERN MAILS

VIA MILITARY EXPRESS.

California Star 1847

— Saturday, April 17, 1847

REGULAR MAIL Our readers will be pleased to learn, that Gov. Kearney has established a semi-monthly mail, to run regularly between San Francisco and San Diego. This mail is to be carried on horseback, by a party consisting of two soldiers; and is to commence on the 19th inst. Starting every other Monday from San Diego, and San Francisco, the parties to meet at Captain Dana's Ranch, the next Sunday to exchange Mails; start back on their respective routes the next morning, and arrive at San Diego and San Francisco, on the Sunday following, and so continuing.

San Francisco
Dec 27

The cover below was carried from San Francisco to Los Angeles by this pony express - the first mail route to be established within California by the U.S. military government. See Father Serra letter for the same route by the Spanish government in 1776 in this collection. Capt. Joseph L. Folsom acted as the military postmaster. The writer of the letter, Henry Mellus came to California in 1835 as a sailor before the mast, with Richard H. Dana in the PILGRIM. For a time he was the agent for Appleton & Co in the Hide & Tallow Trade. Later a partner with W.D.M. Howard buying the Hudson Bay Co's property in 1846. He died in 1860.



The express ran every other MONDAY from either end of the route. Dec. 27, 1847 was the fourth Monday - the day the express would leave San Francisco with this letter for "Angeles" (Los Angeles).

See Henry Toye letter in this collection - May 20, 1847.

Col. R. B. Mason, Gov. of California to L. W. Boggs, Alcaide at Sonoma: "Monterey, California, June 3, 1847, I regret that it is not in my power to afford the people in California any greater mail facilities at this time than the military express that has been established, once in two weeks, between San Francisco and San Diego, which carries the letters and papers for all persons free of charge. This is a military government, and the supreme power is vested in the senior military officer of the Territory."

Lt. W. T. Sherman, A. A. A. Genl. to Col. J. L. Folsom, Assistant Quartermaster Genl. under date of Monterey Jan. 9, 1849: ". The military express mail to and from San Francisco and Monterey is under your control; that from Monterey to Dana's is under is under the control of the quartermaster at Los Angeles."

The two quotes above are taken from the 31st Congress, House of Reps, Ex. Doc. No. 17, Feb. 6, 1850.

St Francisco 23 March 1847

Dear Sir:

I happen to inform you of the safe arrival of the S. Drew to this Port, in 55 days from Valparaiso. I found the Perkins here she did not stop any where after leaving Valparaiso. The Loo Choo has not arriv'd she sailed from Valparaiso a few hours before us. I beg you will excuse these few lines, as I have not time to write more now at this time the express being ready to start for Monterey. I will thank you to forward the enclosed & you will oblige
 Your obt. svt.
 Allen Putnam

Allen Putnam's letter to the Assistant Quartermaster General

"Published by order.

"J. G. T. DUNLEAVY, Municipal Clerk."

There were other and more urgent reasons for the change of name. At that time Dr. Robert Semple, who in the previous year had helped to establish in Monterey the pioneer California newspaper, the "Californian," was busily laying out a new town on the north shore of the Strait of Carquinez, which he proposed to christen "Francisca" in compliment to Donna Francisca, Benicia Carrillo Vallejo, wife of General Vallejo. The race for the more desirable name was won by San Francisco, and Dr. Semple had to content himself with the lady's second name, Benicia, which the town bears today.

In March, 1847, San Francisco had a total population, excluding the New York regiment, Indians and Sandwich Islanders, of about three hundred and fifty. Not for two years thereafter did it have an established postoffice.

WHEN Captain Putnam brought his ship to harbor, one of his first duties was to report to the Assistant Quartermaster General

who had chartered his vessel. The Quartermaster General himself was in Mexico with the army. Accordingly we find the Captain, on the day after his arrival, sitting down to write the following brief report:

"St. Francisco, 23d March, 1847.
 "Dear Sir:
 "I (am) happy to inform you of the safe arrival of the S. Drew to this Port in 55 days from Valparaiso.
 "I found the Perkins here. She did not stop any where after leaving Valparaiso. The Loo Choo has not arriv'd. She sailed from Valparaiso a few hours before us. I beg you will excuse these few lines, as I have not time (to) write any more at this time, the express being ready to start for Monterey.
 "I will thank you to forward the enclosed & you will oblige

"Your obt. svt.
 "ALLEN PUTNAM."

At that time California was under military government, but under whose government was a question. A squabble was then in progress between Generals Fremont and Kearny, reflecting no particular credit on either of them, as to who was entitled to the title of Governor of California. Fremont was in Los Angeles, Kearny at Monterey. Commodores Stockton and Shubrick, of the Navy, were at

San Diego and Monterey, respectively, with their commands. Kit Carson, famous scout, friend and defender of Fremont, was with Fremont in Los Angeles. Fremont considered it necessary to his own interests to send dispatches overland to Washington. Carson was naturally selected to lead the party. The two Navy commanders were invited by Fremont to forward dispatches by the Carson party, but there is no record, nor is it at all probable, that a similar invitation was extended to Kearny.

The Carson party started east from Los Angeles in March, 1847. There were ten picked men in the party, including beside "Don Kit," Lieut. Edward F. Beale, U.S.N., with dispatches from Commodore Stockton, Lieut. Talbot, U.S.N., with dispatches from Commodore Shubrick, some five or six "mountain men" from Fremont's Battalion, and two or three others. They went by way of the Gila River, Santa Fe and Taos, at which latter place Carson had a few days to renew acquaintance with his pretty Mexican wife, Josefa. Late April found the party crossing Raton Pass and descending the Purgatoire. This river, originally called by the Spaniards in their unburied fashion "El Rio de las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio"—The River of the Lost Souls in Purgatory—in memory of some comrades murdered there by Indians without benefit of clergy, was called by the French Canadian trappers the Purgatoire, which, in, turn, was twisted by the American bullwhackers into "Picket-wire!" The party arrived at Bent's Fort, and thence doubtless followed the already well established Santa Fe Trail along the Arkansas to the Missouri River. Carson, Beale and Talbot, pushing on ahead of the rest of the party, were in St. Louis by the end of May, and in Washington the early part of June.

CAPTAIN PUTNAM speaks in his letter of the "express being already to start for Monterey." This, of course, was a military express, for the private expresses which were the parents of the intriguing "Western franks" did not come into being until after the discovery of gold. The month after the letter was written, General Kearny established a regular express between San Francisco and San Diego, composed of two soldiers on horseback, starting from either end and exchanging mails mid-way. Doubtless prior to this, however, occasional expresses were sent when necessary,

and it was one of these that Captain Putnam was in haste to catch.

It is practically impossible that our letter could have gone by the Carson party. That party left Los Angeles not later than March, and even had it been the last day of that month it would have been very difficult to get the letter to Los Angeles in time to catch them. Further, the letter shows that it went to Monterey, that is to Kearny, who as we have said is not likely to have had an opportunity to send any letters by that party. More conclusive, however, is the fact that Carson reached the Missouri in May, and the letter was not postmarked at St. Louis until the 28th of August, and even with the known casualness of frontier postal arrangements, it is extremely improbable that a delay of three months would have occurred at that point. Further, intending to go himself immediately to St. Louis, Carson would not have put the letter on a river steamer when he reached the Missouri, but would have carried it himself.

If, then, the letter did not go by the Carson party, how did it go? There is only one possible way. The contest between Fremont and Kearny ended with the receipt of orders from Washington confirming the latter's authority, and Fremont was forced to submit. While there is good evidence that Fremont acted in good faith in the dispute, and believed his appointment as governor by Commodore Stockton to be superior to Kearny's claims, Kearny was not the man to forgive and forget, even in victory. An army officer since before Fremont was born, he regarded the latter as an officious upstart, and, having determined to go East, he proposed to take Fremont with him and teach him a lesson there that he would not forget. Kearny left Monterey on the 31st of May, 1847. Fremont had before that left Los Angeles, and was at Sutter's Fort. He was ordered by Kearny to await him there and accompany him East. They left the vicinity of Sutter's Fort on June 14, with Fremont and his men in the rear with the baggage. Throughout the journey Fremont was subjected to petty slights, which he seems to have suffered with unusual forbearance. They arrived at Fort Leavenworth on or very shortly before August 22. By a written communication under that date, Fremont was notified by Kearny to consider himself under arrest and to proceed to Washington for trial by court martial for insubordination. Fremont was in St. Louis by August 30,

which is the date of a letter written by him declining a public banquet in his honor. He was subsequently found guilty and sentenced to dismissal from the service. President Polk remitted the penalty and restored him to his rank, but Fremont, smarting under a sense of wrong, refused to accept the restoration and retired from the Army.

There can be no serious question but that our letter went overland with General Kearny. It is true it must have remained in his hands at Monterey for two months. But Kearny's last dispatches went by sail-

ing vessel via Panama before this letter was written, and no further opportunity probably occurred to forward it. On reaching Fort Leavenworth it was placed on board one of the little steamers which picked their uncertain way among the sandbars and snags of the Missouri, where it received the stamp "STEAM 10." The rate was stricken out and the "f" for "free" substituted because the letter was on government business and was entitled to go free of postage. It had ample time, reaching Fort Leavenworth about August 22, to arrive at St. Louis by August

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2c Each: C 46, 64, D 5, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 33, 35, 37, 58, 68, 80, 85, 87, *101, *102, *104, 106, *122, 132, 134, 142, 143, 149, 150, 153, 160, 162, 165, 196, 168, 171, 401, 409, 472, 473, 474, 476, 481, S 77, 113, *143, *144, *145.

3c Each: C 19, 32, 34, 36, *46, *63, 104; D 24, 25, *44, 48a, 50, 64, *81, 82, 83, 95, 107, *123, 124, 138, 144, 154, 163, 173, 174, 175, 405, 466, 466, 467, 475; S 44, 47, 49, 22, 79, *146, *147.

4c Each: C *43, 47, 82, 97; D 29, 32, 36, 42, *45, 48, *61, 88, 93, 94, 100, 132, *150, *161, *454; S 81, *104, 115, 120, *148, *149.

5c Each: C *11, *27, 30, *47, 96, 134; D 9, 27, 45, 60, 75, 91, 135, 170, 181, 188, 463, 479, 506; S 22, 92, 122, *130, *150.

6c Each: C *14, *23; D 63, 69, 76, 77, 89, 413, *453; S 21, *78, *140, *151.

7c Each: C *21, 25, 98, 135; D *19, 84, *400, *420; S 80, 81, 82, 86.

8c Each: C 19, 20, 136; D 7, 9, 11, 56, *63, *66, 86, 90, 140, 480; S 123, 124, *127.

10c Each: C *15, 17, 68, *96, 99, 111, *213; D 16, *110, *120, 145, 190, 191, 292, 294, 458, 509, 569, 569; S 56, 93, 97, 106, 107, 117, *120, 125, *136.

12c Each: C *6, 69, *95, *97, 100, 101; D 67, 298, 416, *461, *462, 561; S 48, 87, 88, 89, 93, *121, 126, *128.

15c Each: C 55, 57, *98, 113; D 4, 71, 92, *130, 275, 290, *551, *556, 557, 567; S 49, *108, *107, *122, *129.

16c Each: D *53; S 26, *108, *141.

20c Each: C 6, 26, 29, 31, *99, 114, 141; D 78, 96, *111, *117, 538; S *123, *131.

25c Each: C 33, *100; D 161, 418, 460, *557, 560, *561, S 30, *124.

30c Each: C *18, 23, *25, *101; D 12, 456, 457, 485, 489, *478, *569; S *121, *131.

35c Each: C *3, 22, 116, 206; D 471, *553; S *126, *132.

40c Each: C 4, *57, 60, *102, 117, 209; D 98, *118, *114, *479, *558, *568; S *109.

50c Each: C 43; D 186, *489, *567.

60c Each: C *4, *29; S *123.

70c Each: C 58, 118; S 119, 506.

75c Each: C 212; D *14, *454; S 90.

\$1.00 Each: C 210; D 37, *565; S 507.

\$1.25 Each: C 28, 121; D *417, *555.

\$1.40 Each: C *58, 124, \$1.75 Each: D 30

\$2.00 Each: C *89; D *120, *419, \$2.25 Each: S *108, *110.

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*C127-43. 6.25	*D293-98. .65	*S126-26. 1.45
*C201-03. 7.75	D 294-98. .48	*S127-33. 1.75
*C204-11. 6.00	*D299-303. .55	*S143-53. 7.00
*D129-31. .35	*D304-06. .25	*S461-03. .35
*D149-18. 12.25	*D331-55. 2.00	*S494-07. .60
*D164-89. 8.75	*D356-89. 2.50	*S498-11. .75
*D275-77. .85	D 556-60. .78	*S412-18. .85
*D278-81. .65	*D563-65. 10.25	*S416-21. .45
*D282-85. .85	*D601-07. 14.50	*S422-25. .35
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28, the date it was postmarked in that city.

There were no direct railroad connections with St. Louis in 1847. The common routes East were either by the mail stage over the National Road to the Baltimore & Ohio, or by river steamer down the Mississippi and up the Ohio. The letter doubtless went by stage over the National Road.

We have said that this letter went overland by the third expedition known to have carried letters from California. The Carson party of March, 1847, was the second. What then was the first? A few words on this subject may be of interest. In June of the previous year, 1846, Fremont and Carson were in Sonoma, Fremont, who had as yet no knowledge of the declaration of war, was in California ostensibly on a "topographical expedition," and had been ordered out of the country. He had however taken an entirely unauthorized part in the "Bear Flag Revolt" at Sonoma in June. When the Californians looked at the crude bear on the flag flying in the Sonoma public square they muttered "Coche" ("Pig"). No doubt they muttered the same word when they looked at the American flag was raised at Monterey, and the military occupation of California began. Fremont, with his California Battalion raised at Sonoma, immediately started for Monterey to assist. He placed himself under the orders of Commodore Stockton, and on July 23 was sent by sea with his battalion to San

Diego, Stockton proceeding shortly thereafter to San Pedro. Joining forces, they occupied Los Angeles on August 13, after a certain amount of opera-bouffe warfare. "Tell the Commodore" said General Castro "That if he marches on Los Angeles it will be the grave of his men." "Tell the General," replied Stockton, "To have the bells ready to toll at eight o'clock, for I will be there." He was as good as his word, but Castro and his army were not there to receive him. All resistance having ceased, the conquest of California seemed an accomplished fact, and ways and means were then considered of advising Washington. As a result Carson and a party of fifteen were started East on September 15, with instructions to carry the dispatches to the President himself. On the Rio Grande south of Santa Fe, however, they met General Kearny and a force on their way to "conquer California," and the General was no doubt piqued to learn that his conquest had already been accomplished. Carson was forced, unwillingly, by the orders of Kearny, to return to California as guide, and to surrender his dispatches, his hopes of seeing Josefa in Taos and of bringing the glad news to Washington. His dispatches were carried East by Thomas Fitzpatrick, himself a famous scout, who had been Kearny's guide until the meeting with Carson. These dispatches, so far as the writer has been able to determine, constituted the first overland mail ever carried from California.

CORONATIONS—USED, UNUSED, AND FIRST DAY COVERS

	Mint Used Day	First Set Cover		Mint Used Day	First Set Cover		Mint Used Day	First Set Cover			
Aden	\$.25	\$4.00	\$6.00	Falkland	\$.14	\$3.50	\$5.50	Nigeria	\$.14	\$3.25	\$5.50
Antigua	.10	.30	.55	Phil	.18	.50	1.15	N. Rhodesia	.20	.30	.55
Ascension	.30	.45	4.50	Gambia	.18	.65		Nyasaland	.15	.20	.20
Bahamas	.14	.28	.40	Gibraltar	.18	.50	.55	St. Helena	.18	.18	1.40
Barbados	.16	.30	.40	Gilberts	.18	.50		St. Kitts	.10	.30	.50
Bastotland	.18	.20	.55	Gold Coast	.18	.90		St. Lucia	.10	.30	.50
Bechuanaland	.18	.20	.55	Grenada	.16	.30	.60	St. Vincent	.18	.30	.50
Bermuda	.16	.28	.45	Hong Kong	.22	.30	.60	Seychelles	.22	.22	1.00
Br. Guiana	.18	.28	.45	Jamaica	.16	.28	.45	Sierra Leone	.20	.50	.50
Br. Honduras	.18	.30	.50	Kenya	.22	.30	.60	Somiland	.22	.50	.70
Br. Solomon	.16	.20	.40	Leeward	.16	.30	.60	St. Setta	.22	.30	.60
Cayman Is.	.14	.28	.40	Malta	.16	.28	.40	Swaziland	.20	.30	2.20
Ceylon	.22	.30	.50	Mauritius	.25	.50	1.15	Trinidad	.18	.30	.60
Cyprus	.20	.30	.50	Montserrat	.16	.30	.60	Turks Is.	.20	.30	.50
Dominica	.16	.40	.80	Newland	.18	.28	.50	Virgin Is.	.20	.30	.50
Newfoundland	11 additional values								2.10	2.50	4.75

DOMINIONS

SW. Afr.	\$1.85	\$2.00	\$4.00	N. Guinea	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50	Niue	\$.28	\$1.00	
S. Africa	1.20	1.50	3.00	Papua	.50	.75	1.25	Gr. Britain	.06	.03	.15
S. Rhodesia	2.40	4.00	3.90	N. Zealand	.28	.35	1.12	3 Morocco	.20	.30	.75
Nauru	.65	.80	3.00	Cook Is.	.30	.40	1.00	Canada	.05	.04	.15

Crown Colonies, compl. mint, 135 stamps \$6.75. Dominions compl. mint, 56 stamps 7.75. Complete Mint set as listed 202 stamps..... 16.50. Complete Used set 302 stamps..... 37.50. Bechuanaland Used Blocks \$1. Bastotland Used Block \$1. Swaziland Used Block \$1.

All prices subject to change or cancellation without notice.

W. C. PHILLIPS & CO., INC.

750 Main Street

Hartford, Conn.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Fort Yuma Cal^a Nov. 1. 1855



FORT YUMA • CONTRA COSTA EXPRESS

FORT YUMA This post was first established in October of 1849 as Camp Calhoun. In March of 1851 it was moved to the summit of a rocky hill on the west bank of the Colorado River in California and renamed Camp Yuma. Then in 1861 the name was officially changed to Fort Yuma, although it was being referred to as Fort Yuma as early as the folded letter shown above, which is dated November 1, 1855. The fort played an important part in aiding the California bound gold rushers, emigrants, U.S. boundary survey parties and the Indians. It was in the early spring of 1856 that the commanding officer, Col. Martin Burke, arranged through the Yuma Indians to obtain the release of Olive Oatman, who had been captured with her sister by the Apache Indians in 1851. The Oatman family of the father, mother and seven children had gone on alone from the Pimo Indian village towards Fort Yuma heading for California. On the evening of March 29th they were brutally attacked by a renegade band of Apache Indians and all were killed except the two girls who were taken into captivity and a boy who was left for dead but managed to escape. Olive's sister died in captivity. The nearest post office to the fort was Yuma, Arizona across the river. The cover shown was probably carried by military express to Benicia Barracks, California. Thence by J.W. Hoag & Co./Contra-Costa Express to San Francisco and the U.S. mails — December 20th.

THE WESTERN MAILS



WELLS, FARGO & CO. established the agency at FORT YUMA, California on the west side of the Colorado river in 1859. See BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL, in this exhibit, which operated over this route from September 15, 1858 to July 1861 and carried express for WELLS, FARGO. Cover shown was used in September 1870.



FORT YUMA, CALIFORNIA

THE WESTERN MAILS



OVERLAND TO THE PACIFIC.



The San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line.

THIS LINE which has been in successful operation since July, 1857, is ticketed for PASSENGERS through to San Diego, and also to all intermediate stations. Passengers and Express matter forwarded in NEW COACHES drawn by 2 mules over the entire length of our Line, excepting the Colorado Desert of 10 miles, which we cross on mule back. Passengers get 100 cents in their tickets to ride in Coaches, excepting the 100 miles, above stated.

PASSENGERS TICKETED TO AND FROM SAN ANTONIO AND

Fort Clark,	Fort Bliss,	Tucson,
Fort Hudson,	El Paso,	Arizona,
Fort Lancaster,	Fort Fillmore,	Fort Yuma,
Fort Davis,	La Mesilla,	San Diego.

The Coaches of our Line leave semi-monthly from each end, on the 21st and 24th of each month, at 6 o'clock, A. M.

An armed escort travels through the Indian country with each mail train, for the protection of the mails and passengers.

Passengers are provided with provisions during the trip except where the Coach stops at Public Houses along the Line, at which each Passenger will pay for his own meal.

Each Passenger is allowed thirty pounds of personal baggage, exclusive of blankets and shoes.

Passengers coming to San Antonio can take the line of mail steamers from New Orleans twice a week to Indiana; from the latter place there is a daily line of four horse mail coaches direct to this place.

On the Pacific side the California Steam Navigation Company are running a first class steamer, semi-monthly, to and from San Francisco and San Diego.

FARE BY THIS LINE AS FOLLOWS, INCLUDING RATIONS:

San Antonio to San Diego, \$200	San Antonio to El Paso, \$100
" " Tucson, 120	Intermediate stations 1 1/2c. per mile.

Extra baggage, when carried, 40 cents per pound to El Paso, and \$1 per pound to San Diego.

Passengers can obtain all necessary outfits in San Antonio. For further information, and for the purchase of tickets, apply at the office of the Company in this city, or address I. C. WOODS, Superintendent of the line, care of American Coal Company, 50 Exchange Place, New York.

**G. H. GIDDINGS,
R. E. DOYLE,**

Proprietors.

Passenger travel by "Jackass mail" in the late '50s is outlined in this old advertising poster possessed by the Bancroft library.

"JACKASS MAIL ROUTE"

On June 22, 1857 the U.S. Government awarded a contract to James E. Birch for a semi-monthly mail service between San Antonio and San Diego. It was to be in effect from July 1, 1857 to June 30, 1861. The first westbound mail arrived in San Diego on August 31, 1857. The line was soon dubbed the "Jackass Mail" because passengers often had to ride on muleback from Fort Yuma to San Diego. The sand desert over this leg of the route was too heavy for coaches. After September of 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail handled most of the mail between El Paso and San Diego until it was discontinued because of the Civil War. The cover shown above is routed "Via El Paso and San Antonio" but apparently was carried by steamer to San Diego, or via Panama to New Orleans, because it is stamped "DUE 7" to make the steamship rate of 10 cents. Thence to Nueces Town, Texas.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Office of the "Alta California" Newspaper,

F. MacCRELLISH & CO Proprietors.

San Francisco, Nov 18 1859

Mr

Edward C Wharton

Dear Sir

We wish you would on the receipt of this ascertain the time of the departure of mail from your city via San Antonio and send us a short weekly letter, with the latest telegraphic news &c. by that route. The agents of the Company think they will be able to

"Via San Diego & San Antonio"

The "California Alta" requests that Edward C. Wharton, of the New Orleans *Picayune*, send a weekly newsletter via San Antonio and the *Jackass Mail* instead of the Butterfield route via Saint Louis. They want to try the new route and save three days time. The cover shown was carried by steamship to San Diego and thence overland via Fort Yuma and San Antonio. It is postmarked at San Francisco November 21, 1859.

ALTA CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER OFFICE

No. 124 SACRAMENTO STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

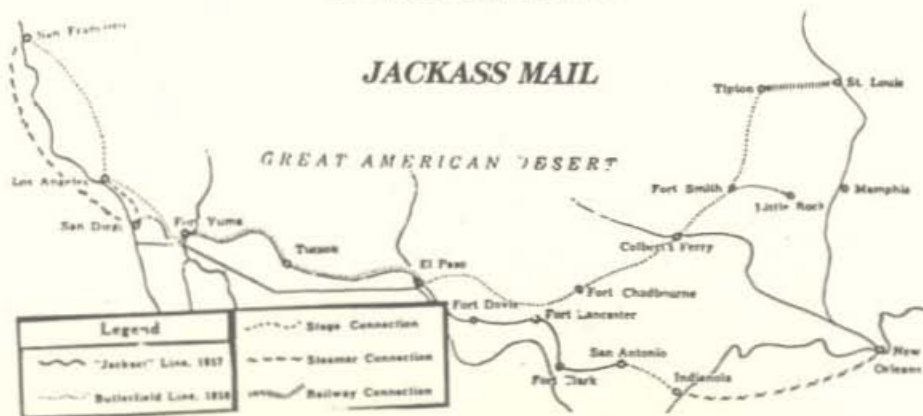
Recd 18 Dec



Mr Edward C Wharton
Picayune Office
 New Orleans
 Via
 San Diego
 & San Antonio

THE WESTERN MAILS

JACKASS MAIL



WESTBOUND

Sellers Tavern Pa, April 19, to Fort Yuma, California via San Diego. Cover is rated 10 cents for over 3000 miles and was most probably routed via Panama. Thence from San Diego to Fort Yuma via the "Jackass Mail". No year date but probably 1858 or 59.

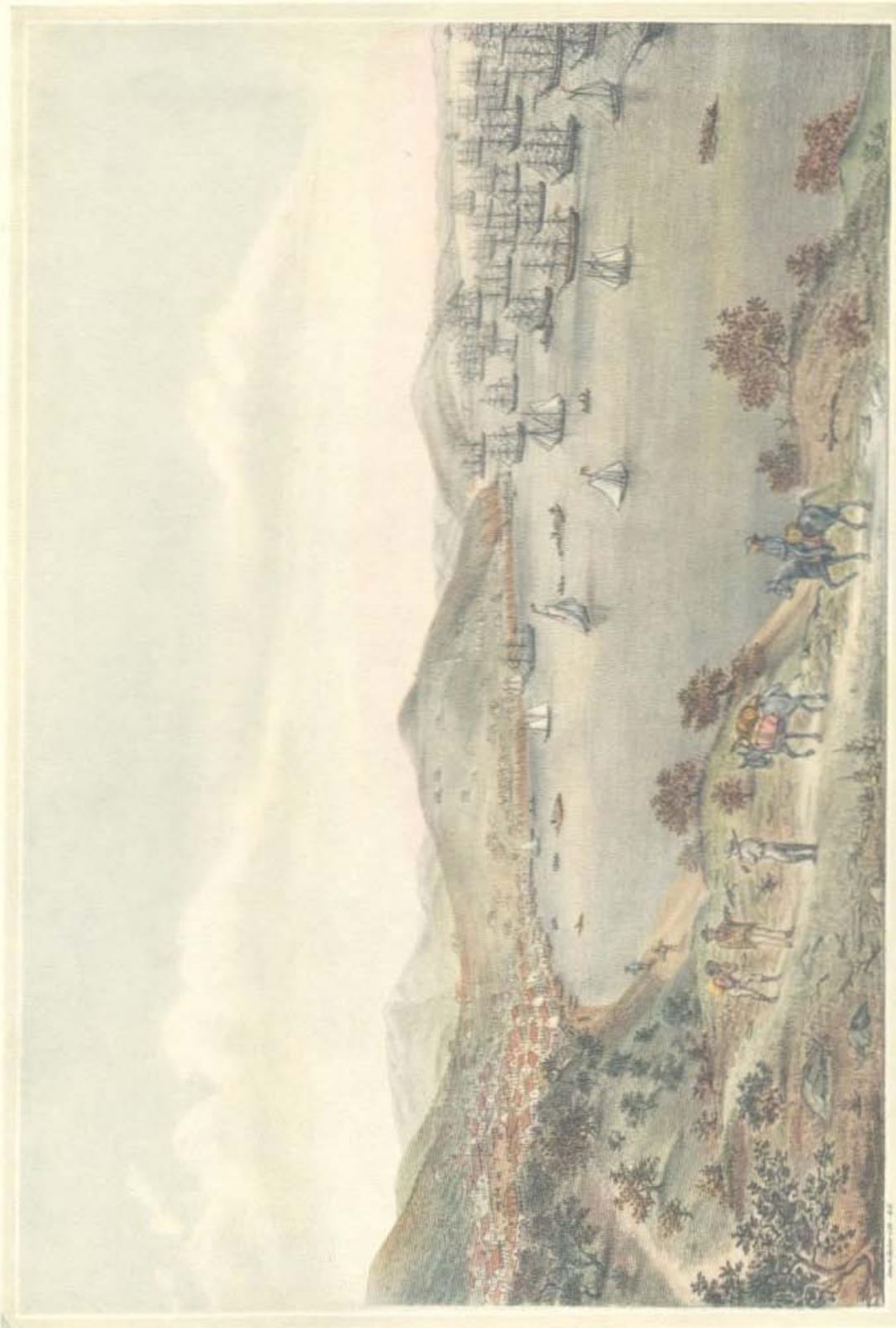
EASTBOUND

Jackson, Cal. Feb. 5, 1860 to Nueces Town, Texas. A double rate for under 3000 miles — 3¢ × 2 for a total of 6 cents.

Probably carried by the Butterfield stage to connect with the Jackass Mail.



THE WESTERN MAILS



THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO JUNE 11 1849.



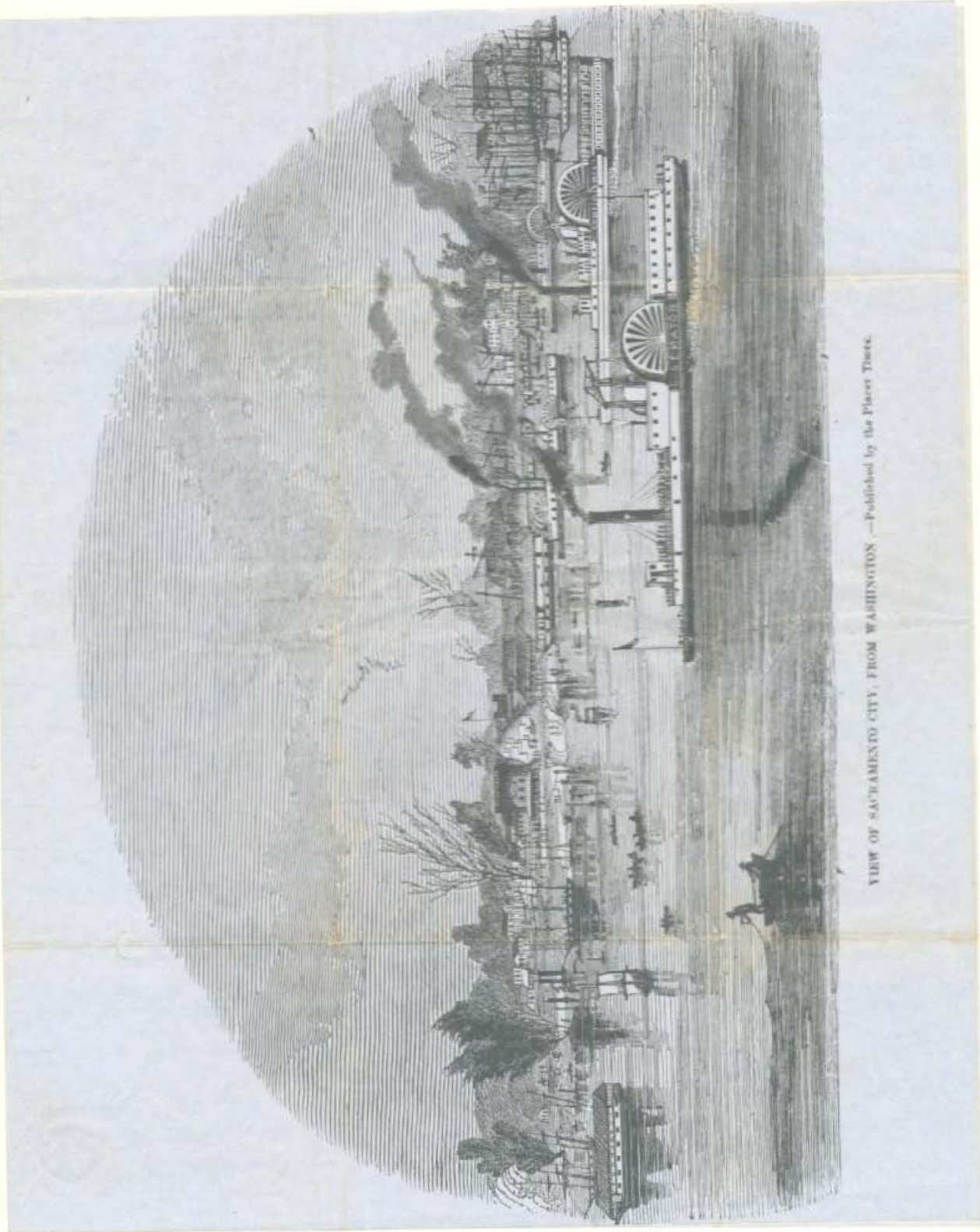
San Francisco

18

Redding Springs California
Feb 25th 1851

Dear John, Mary Ellen, and Elizabeth

I received a few lines from each of you yesterday, and was pleased to hear that you had received your little lumps of gold. Since then I have sent each of you another little lump. I hope your anticipations with reference to the return of your father was realized soon after you wrote to me, though I have not yet heard of his return to Springfield.



VIEW OF SACRAMENTO CITY, FROM WASHINGTON. — Published by the Placer Times.

THE WESTERN MAILS



PACIFIC EXPRESS COMPANY

With the failure of ADAMS & COMPANY in February 1855, some of its former employees organized the PACIFIC EXPRESS which lasted until early 1857. It operated in California and Oregon carrying letters, parcels and freight, making connections with steamers to the Atlantic States via PANAMA.

Its printed frank was the pony and rider as shown on the cover above as well as several handstamps as on the cover below.



THE WESTERN MAILS

THE "HOUNDS" & GOLD RUSH JUSTICE 1849.

"Stockton Aug't 21st 1849 - on the/

Dear John.....There are craft arriving here every day from ^{San Joaquin} San F[ra]ncisco and one that came yesterday left as the steamer was coming up the bay. Though on the river they heard from good authority that the cholera was raging with awful violence in the States and that Genl Worth[Wm.J.] and [President] James K Polk were dead and Genl Scott[Winfield] at the point of death - I hope that it may not be true or that it may be greatly exaggerated - This is all I have as yet heard - I hope that it all may prove untrue though a few days we shall hear more. I am now more able to give you some idea of this country than when I wrote to Pa some days since. The mines are already thronged with people who are making according to their industry the harder they work the more gold they gather. I presume that the average may fall short of an ounce a day which passes here for sixteen dollars, gathered in small scales and lumps about half the thickness of window glass and the same length & breadth but the shapes are as various as broken glass - This place last winter had 2 houses and now has regular inhabitants of at least one thousand and tents are constantly being erected. It would strike you as singular to see the houses - the best of which have wooden frames with canvass stretched over them while others like ourselves have the regular tents fastened down with tents. Port Cozzens and myself are the only ones who as yet have left San F - They the remainder being engaged erecting their house to do which they had to buy a lot for 3,500 dollars - about 25 by 100 ft or else pay a ground rent of from 200 to \$300 per mo. We brought to this place one of our tents and some few goods all of which would not amount in N.Y. to 150 and have about \$200 in silver & gold & the dust in our pockets and pay a ground rent of two ounces (32 Dolls) per mo. The proportion here is greatly in favor of the States though foreigners of all nations are here in crowds and a good linguist would have plenty to try his powers. About a fortnight before we arrived there was a society of rascals here who had great power called the Hounds - The citizens of this place have confined and tried before an alcalde [Mayor] and twelve jurymen the two leaders and the head Captain [Sam Roberts] of all was hung last Monday - all the citizens arming them to prevent any disturbance. I attended part & left when the white cap was put over his head and the rope adjusted - all passed off very quietly and every thing is now as peaceable and even more so than at home [at Stockton or back in New York?] The Mexicans who are notorious for stealing are deterred by the summary maner in which justice is done and goods of all descriptions are lying out of doors in any quantity without a particle of loss. While we hear nothing in the shape of crime being committed any where in California since the suppression of the "hounds". I forgot to say they were princepally Mexicans* SEE NOTE. It would amuse you to see us live making our own coffee and boiling and stewing over a furnace in the open air and at night spreading our hammocks on the ground a blanket on that and covering ourselves with another and a coat &c for pillows. it is hard living and yet to answer what you would like to know whether I would be here or home I would say that unless recalled by some unlooked for event I do not expect to return for years without I make [a] fortune in a very short time and when that does happen won't I trot for home quick. You can make money in California but you can't live here much better than an Indian without paying 21 Dolls per week - Clerks and waiters can get in San F from 150 to 250 and even more a month. I would advise any young man to come out here and try it, and the very best you can do is to get all the money you can together and come out, but above all join no company - I have regulated this a number of times though our vessel[a company ship that he and his group came out in] will in case of a severe winter be an ark to us. remember me to all friends/

Truly your friend Rutger"

THE WESTERN MAILS



Cover shown originated at STOCKTON and entered the mails at SAN FRANCISCO SEP 1, 1849 and was rated 40 cents to NEW YORK.

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ABANDONED SHIPS BY GOLD HUNGRY CREWS. TELEGRAPH STATION ON TOP OF HILL TO THE RIGHT AS SEEN FROM RINCON POINT.

The "Hounds", mentioned in the letter, was an organization of the disbanded New York Volunteers regiment, which had come out in 1847. Their claim for being was "self protection", but it was more like "unorganized lawlessness". They conducted a campaign of violence & robbery, mostly against the Latins from South America. On July 15, 1849 they attacked the district called "Little Chile. The next day the citizens organized into companies and arrested 20 of the Hounds. That same afternoon a "peoples court", with the alcalde [mayor] acting as judge, convicted 9 of the accused, including the leader Sam Roberts. However, because of the disturbed conditions at the time, the sentences were never carried out. The records do not show that the leader was hung as related in the letter. It may be that the leader came very close to being executed and was released at the last moment - after the writer had left the scene as he states in the letter. See opposite page for content of the letter.

THE WESTERN MAILS



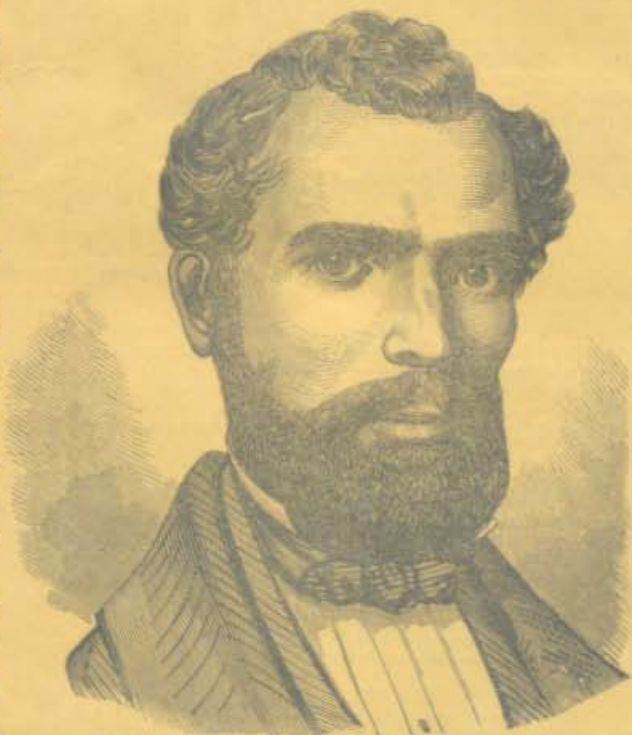
ADAMS & COMPANY'S EXPRESS. Organized by Alvin Adams, Wm. B. Dinsmore and D. H. Haskell in 1849 to operate in California. Besides mail and express they also conducted a banking business, becoming the largest shippers of gold in the West during their time. With the failure of Page, Bacon & Co. in 1855, Adams was forced to close.

Cover above originated at LAWRENCE Mass JAN 29 1852, rated "10" cents to Yankee Jims Placer Co, California, where it was picked up by Adams and forwarded to Placerville. The "COD \$1" was the express charge. Cover below was carried in the mails from SAN FRANCISCO to MORMON ISLAND, where it was picked up by Adams and forwarded to Benecia. The "5" was the postage rate. No express charge is indicated.



125
1139-4

A TRUE AND MINUTE HISTORY
OF THE
ASSASSINATION OF
JAMES KING OF WM.
AND THE
EXECUTION OF CASEY AND CORA.



A LIFE PICTURE FROM DAGUERRETYPE.

A most excellent likeness of JAMES KING OF WM. None who knew Mr. King can fail to recognize in these lines a very exact portrait of the original. - (A. S. of May 20th, 1866.)
A very good likeness of the late Editor of the "Evening Bulletin," apparently from a Daguerreotype taken from life. - (True Calligrapher.)
Giving his features in life, in excellent. - (True Talk.)

J. W. MERRILL,

SAN FRANCISCO.

Sunday P.M. June 1st 1856

Dear Perry

I am quite glad to be too busy
Steamer day to write to you so I will now, & will
leave the letter open till that time in case anything
new or interesting turns up, Last Steamer day I
was so full of Anxieties & excitement that I didn't
write to anyone I sent your letter however & a
paper containing an account of the death of James King of Mass,
the Grand Jury leaving terrible times here
since you left, I will send you some more papers
by this mail that will give you full accounts of
the proceedings of the Vigilance Committee & the Mem-
bers of the Committee I should judge what we are
doing here.



Mr W. E. Perry
Savona

Steuben Co.

New York

Excuse
of the
hurry
room
town,
& as
his
was
price
a street
as they
are here
are not
done
every
town
about



ASSASSINATION OF JAMES KING OF WILLIAM.

On Wednesday afternoon, May 14th, at about five o'clock, JAMES KING OF WILLIAM was shot by JAMES P. CASEY, in front of the Pacific Express Company's office, corner of Montgomery and Washington streets. The weapon used was a large-stead Colt's Navy Revolver. The ball entered the breast of Mr. King under the armpit, in the left side, as he had a half-horse in his hands, passing obliquely upwards to his point of exit on the posterior part of the shoulder-blade.

The circumstances of this base murder are these: Mr. King, while on his way from his office to his residence, was accosted by Casey at the above point. When within about thirty feet of each other, Casey raised his voice and asked, "Are you armed?" Mr. King stopped suddenly, looking towards Casey, his arms folded in his usual cloak, and without speaking, Casey advanced a few steps, and as he advanced, said—"Drop your left hand, drop your right hand, drop your left hand, drop your right hand, in the scabbard, and say to me, 'I am shot.'" He turned towards the Pacific Express, still uttering expressions of pain, and paying little or no attention to Casey, entered the Express office, Casey was immediately arrested.



SURRENDER OF JAS. P. CASEY AND CHARLES CORA To the Vigilance Committee, on Sunday, May 18th, 1856.

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT MAY BE RELIED ON AS CORRECT, BEING COMPILED FROM THE MORNING GLOBE OF MAY 19th.

Early in the morning a movement was visible in the concentration of a large body of men at the two meeting places of the Vigilance Committee on Farmington street. On Saturday evening, the 17th May, the Executive Committee held a late session, and previous to its close, all members of the armed corps were notified to be on the ground early in the morning. At 10 o'clock orders were given to proceed for a demonstration on the jail, the Committee having resolved to obtain possession of the persons of Casey and Cora.

The first movement on the part of the Vigilance Committee was the dispatching of an advance company of six hundred men, armed with pistols and knives, who approached the jail in small squads from every direction. This was successfully resisted and almost resulting war attention from the police. This company acted as scouts, and on the concentration of the armed body they moved up to the jail on the east of the jail. About 11 o'clock, a large detachment, escorted by a company of citizens armed with shot-lock muskets, was received from Captain Montgomery's store, on Sanson street, and placed on Broadway, near the jail. From half-past eleven to a quarter past twelve, the companies of the Vigilance Committee, to the number of near fifteen hundred, armed with loaded muskets, quietly marched through various streets to the scene of action, and deployed through Kearny, Duport, and Brocken streets, into position on Broadway.

THE SURRENDER.—About 1 o'clock, the troops were all in position and prepared for action. On the south side of Broadway, facing the jail, they stood in triple lines, supporting the front rank with their rifles, which were loaded, and fired at right. To the west of this, a solid column was formed on the north of Broadway upon the next very long line extending to Kearny street; the same were carried through Pike's Alley, and surrounded the jail on all sides. Small detachments were stationed on the adjacent house-tops overlooking the jail, and on the rear every approach was strongly guarded. The men were clothed with military provision, and the effect was that of an actual siege. These fearful preliminaries being accom-

plished, the guard of the Vigilance Committee having previously been withdrawn from the interior of the jail, a portion of the Executive Committee descended stairs at the jail door, which was promptly answered them. On their entrance, they were met by Sheriff Seward and his deputy, Mr. Hartness, supported by a very small posse consisting of police, those who had been on duty having been dismissed on the nomination of the Director of the police. Previous to this demand, the keys and lock were removed from Casey's cell. The President of the Committee made a formal demand for the possession of Casey. The Sheriff promptly replied, stating that he was in his cell. The President ordered it, and in the presence of those surrounding him, informed him of the purpose of his visit. Casey expressed his willingness to go, and requested that he might have a fair trial and not be dragged through the streets, which were answered him. He was then hand-cuffed by Marshal North, and in company with two of the Committee and the Marshal, the latter at Casey's request, he was conveyed in a carriage placed in front of the jail door. Before leaving the jail, a letter was handed to the Sheriff, informing him that the Committee would furnish an escort for Cora. The carriage was then surrounded by a heavy detachment of troops, and presented to the Committee rooms.

THE SURRENDER OF CORA.—At this time the carriage was drawn up in front of the prison, and surrounded by a guard similar to the one which conducted Casey. The anti-committee of the Executive Committee brought Cora forth, dressed, and he was placed in the carriage. Cora was dressed with extreme neatness, and appeared composed. It is stated that he took farewell of all his friends, including Belle Cora, whose last remark is represented to have been, "Good by, Charley, I've done all I could to get you clear." The field piece was then placed in front of the carriage, and the main body of the troops surrounded the carriage, and moved slowly to Duport street, leaving detachments still on guard at the jail.

THE WESTERN MAILS



THEY HUNG CORA & CASEY OUT OF THE WINDOW

Descriptive letter of the Vigilante days in the San Francisco of 1856. Dated at San Francisco June 1, 1856 and placed in the post office June 5th by the NOISY CARRIERS. John Terry, a member of the Sacramento lumber firm of Friend & Terry, writes: *"I sent you a letter however & a paper [giving] an acct, of the death of James King of Wm [William]. We have been having terrible times here since you left. I will send you some more papers by this mail; that will give you full accounts of the proceedings of the Vigilance Committee etc. The members of the Committee I should judge must be by this time 10,000 people - they are governed by an Executive Committee which consists of some 20 to 30 of the best merchants in town - they keep several hundred men on duty all the time guarding their rooms & prisoners & are looking up the 'Hounds' round town - they have got any quantity of guns, cannon & ammunition & besides every member has his revolver & knife. Gov. Johnson [J. Neely] & the Authorities that was have ordered them to disband & to give up the prisoners but they wont, & I think they would have a sweet time forcing them to do it, as strong as they are ... Every town almost in the state are with them heart & hand. They have now caged in their rooms [Fort Gunnybags] Billy Mulligan [the county jailor], Bill Carr, & some 1/2 doz others of the same sort. Yesterday Yankee Sullivan killed himself with a case knife rather than to be hung or transported [out of the country]. The rooms are on Sacramento St. At Davis & Front [streets] they hung Cora & Casa [Casey] out of the window the same time that they buried King. In their searchings round town they found an old Ballot Box that had been used which had a false bottom & sides & these d-l's that they have caught, explain how they used it & have accounted for the Elections of men that no body voted for. They have raised some \$30,000 for Mrs. King. I think this breaking up of this gang [Hounds & Sidney Ducks, see below] of rowdy office holders in this state will be a good thing for all of us."* Terry then reports the wreck of a Schooner on Coose Bay, Oregon and the attempt to save a woman and child: *"Lou [Louis] in attempting to save a woman & child was drowned. They thought the vessel would go to pieces & Louis & the mate attempted to get the lady passenger & her child ashore in a small boat - the boat swamped & they were all drowned except the mate who had an air pillow with which he managed to get on shore."* Terry then comments on business in general and the lumber trade: *"We are having dreadfully hard times here, there is no goods of any kind selling & it looks like sunday every day only more so - this Vigilance excitement has had a tendency to stop business for a time."* On June 4th he adds: *"The Vigilance Committee are still operating - the last party arrested was Charley Duane - Gov. Johnson has ordered out the militia & declared the city under martial law - We dont anticipate any fighting yet although we may have some before the thing is through with..."*

The Hounds were recruited mostly from the lower stratum of the New York Volunteers that had come out with Col. J. D. Stevenson during the American occupation in 1847. They were organized by Sam Roberts and represented the lawless element of society. The Sydney Ducks were convicts who had been deported to Australia from England and with their arrival in San Francisco joined with the Hounds. The government in far off Washington was too busy with the neutrality laws and the slavery issue to be concerned with law-enforcement in the golden west. The cover is postmarked at San Francisco June 5, 1856 having been placed in the post office by THE NOISY CARRIERS as per their handstamp on reverse of the cover. See *above*.

THE WESTERN MAILS

A great letter on the financial houses and their affairs in the days of the Gold Rush. Jessup was collecting monies owed to Nat Miller who had sold his business and returned to Long Island, N. Y. in 1852. Of historical note is Jessup's comments on the state of affairs on the Nicaragua and Panama routes.

SAN FRANCISCO MAY 4th, 1856. "Friend Nat, Enclosed please find sight Dft on Van Vleek, Read & Drexel of New York for Ten hundred & Sixty Seven 95/100 Dollars (\$1067.95) for amt as annexed. Money is so infernally tight in this market that I could not collect it when due April 1st and expected that I should have to renew it for three months. The commissions of 5% amtg to \$55.00. I have not deducted, concluded to let it be as a nestor and whence I come down to the East end of that Island will offset it in board at \$5 per week will furnish all the luxuries, if not will have to shorten the time and increase the price. Looking over old memorandums I find your letter of Instructions, instructs or directs me to purchase (whenever the amts were collected) Exchange of Burgoyne & Co or Page, Bacon Co. Those two institutions having gone in I felt at liberty to purchase of D. S. & Church and as white men, particularly Bankers are so very uncertain in this country I want you to distinctly understand that I don't underwrite for a d-d one of them. The enclosed piece of paper called a Dft or Exchange cost \$1100 cash on delivery in this market and if you don't realize \$1067.95 on the sale of it just consider yourself a victim and hang it up in frame in your parlor as a "memento mori" or as an evidence of the degeneracy of a community of which you were once a member. Another banking house failed yesterday Argenti, Cavallier & Co our old friend and fellow villain Felix of Metcalf vs Argenti, Vigilance Committee notoriety. They occupied the institution where Plume & Burgoyne drew their last financial breath. The pestilential atmosphere was contagious. Even the hale, hearty, lecherous and licentious Felix the Italian could not stand it. 'The young disease must subdue at length, Grew with his growth and strengthened with his strength'

His monied reputation made him a very important man on the streets but like his confreres and predecessors, he withered, pined and died. 'Requiescat in Pace' and his whore likewise.

In the name of everything Holy what is the name of the Town where your nearest P. Office is located? It appears to me that every letter has some new P.O. mark on it.

Well I have not been gunning lately, but what is the use writing to you about gunning [hunting], ditching and stone fencing would be more interesting topics. What do you find to talk about during the winter evenings nestling around the stove at the village Inn. I know you go there. Know your disposition, temperament and habits. The darkey can't change his skin or the Leopard his spots. The honey moon has waned and Nat has fallen from grace or relaxed into his old habits. Ain't that so Nat? I may be wrong in my conjectures, if so I'll apologise. I may have measured your wheat in my bushel.

The Capt Dennison is no other than your old friend Sam Denniston, have heard nothing about or from him lately and hardly recollect what the circumstances or provocation were that led to his capture, it would be severe on his family if he had to stretch hemp.

Mess A. S. Edwards & Co are doing a very good business that is judgeing from appearances, they keep the side walk crowded with goods daily. They must sell a great many goods in a small way, but when you divide the profits of the year by Four it is drawing the wire down very fine. I should like to reverse the thing and divide my expenses for past two years by that same figure 4. Would have no objection to a parlee on it. The C. S. N. Company [California Steam Navigation Co.] will declare a dividend from the Profits on the receipts of last month [April]. This is the first revenue from that institution for the past Twenty Months. Its affairs are in a more sound and healthy condition now than ever before.

I am in hopes of getting a judgement from Supreme Court either pro or con on my Ship Property this month. The prospect brightens. As soon as the last mentioned operation is brought to focus I shall visit Long Island. Not before.

Nat I am getting gray right fast and what is still worse I can't respond to feather bed music as of yore or as a friend says, am getting stronger as I grow older. Five years ago I could not keep it down with both hands, now one finger suffices. If I don't get married before long there will be no necessity of making a Eunuck of me, shall be perfectly harmless.

THE WESTERN MAILS

San Francisco
May 1st 1865

Kind Sir,

Enclosed please find Eight Dollars
and a half & a receipt of Duane's for Ten Dollars
& Sixty Seven and a half Dollars, (\$1067.50) for amt of exp
as annexed

Original
40

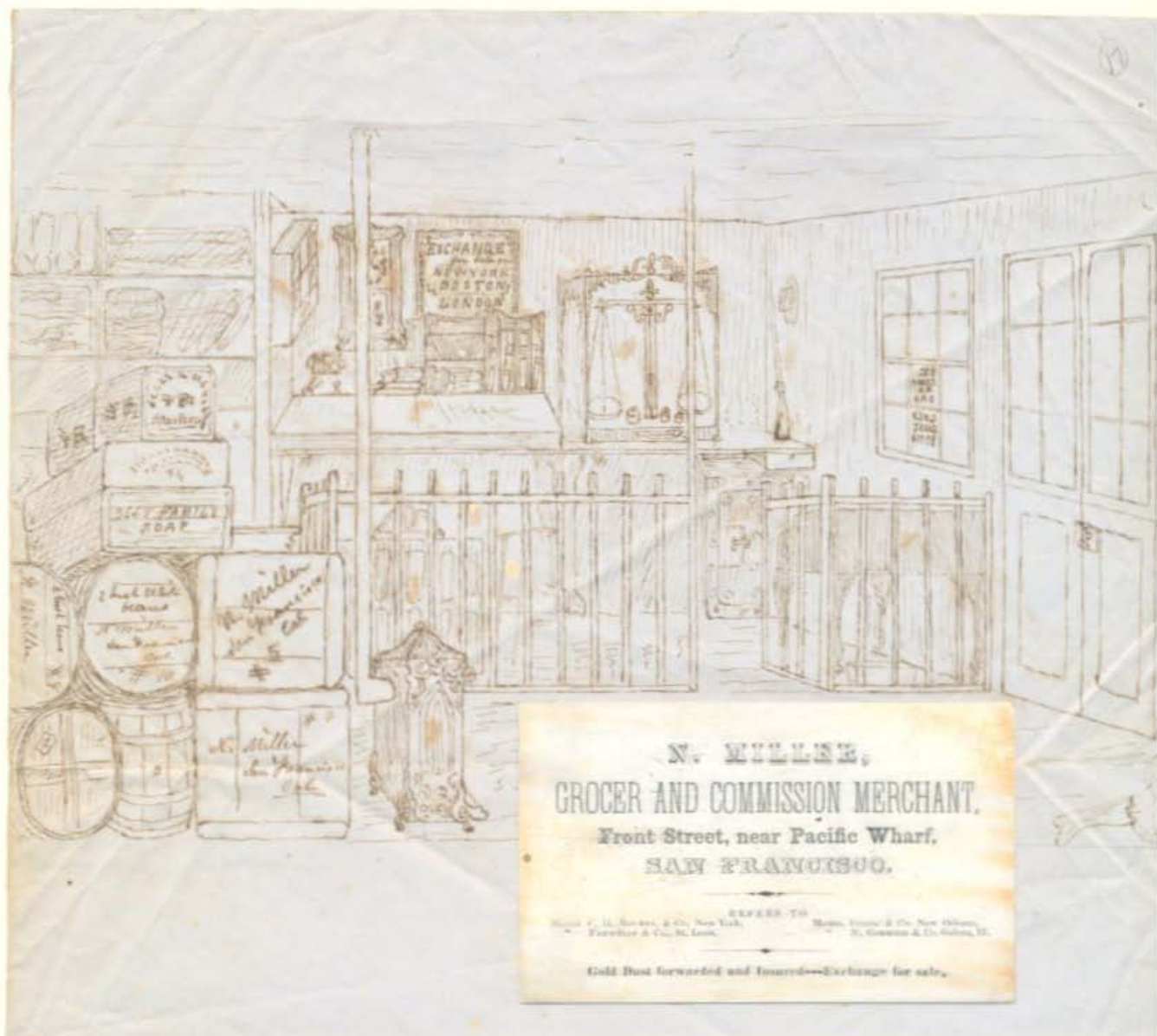
100.00
100.00
100.00
100.00

I could
not collect
The
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ed
let
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what
will
the
by
with



They are having a right merry time on the Nicaragua and Panama routes. I hope that Walker [William] and his fillibustering confreres stretch hemp and as for those interesting black sons of bs at Panama hanging would not do them justice. Just let them tackle a ship load of passengers from California then the day of retribution will come. Uncle Sam must take that country or we (Californians) have concluded to annex it. The papers represent that a company is now forming here by Capt Shaffer and Charley Duane (who was shipped out by the Vigilantes in 1856 and came back in 1862) to go down and give them a small specimen of the difference in the raw material between unarmed passengers from the States and those returning. The two steamers leaving tomorrow may carry to Panama 1500 able bodied men, a good portion of whom have faced all such music as guns pistols and knives, and every Mothers son of them will carry the tools with them. Panaminos and Jamaica negros had better migrate. My kind regards to your Lady and if there is any good looking young lady in that town, (not so dammed young either) get out a habeas corpus and don't have the injunction removed until I come on. It may be in less than one year Rich N. Jessup."

Richard M. Jessup was born at New York City in 1819. On January 10, 1849 he sailed, for California, on the ship HARRIET NEWELL via Cape Horn, arriving at San Francisco on July 24th. He died at Panama on February 4, 1865 and was buried at Taboga. Apparently Jessup was a member of the Vigilance Committee and also an Alderman of San Francisco. In some fashion he was associated with the California Steam Navigation Company and was a member of the Society of California Pioneers from whom the above data was obtained.



N. MILLER,
GROCER AND COMMISSION MERCHANT.
 Front Street, near Pacific Wharf,
 SAN FRANCISCO.

REFER TO
 Messrs. F. H. BROWN & Co., New York, Messrs. JAMES & Co., New Orleans,
 Forsyth & Co., London, W. GIBSON & Co., San Francisco.

Gold Dust forwarded and Insured—Exchange for sale.

NATHANIEL N. MILLER was born at Brookhaven on Long Island, New York the very same day that Wellington defeated Napoleon at Waterloo - September 15, 1815. On January 13, 1849 he sailed for California on the ship TAROLINTA, Captain Cave master. There were 85 first cabin and 38 second cabin passengers on board. The ship arrived at Rio de Janeiro on March 5th, sailed on the 10th and were twenty days off Cape Horn because of adverse winds. They arrived at Valparaiso on May 8th and the bay of San Francisco on July 6, 1849. See letter written on board the TAROLINTA. Miller built the first store to be constructed at Clark's Point and Battery street and then moved to Front street near Pacific Wharf. In 1851 he was a member of the "Executive Committee" of the Vigilantes. He was a successful business and sportsman as the letters of Richard Jessup will testify. In 1852 he was called home to Long Island to manage his fathers estate. Miller kept up his interests in California and his membership in "The Associated Pioneers of the Territorial Days of California" until his death at Brookhaven on December 23, 1896. The illustrated letterhead showing the office in Miller's store was probably intended for his business stationery.

Address to Mr. William
San Francisco
California

Ship Sarcobata at sea July 1st 1849
North Lat 33.08 West Long 123.45

(3)

Dear Mother

When near our port of destination I had commenced writing a few letters to my friends and shall by no means forget you I send likewise from Valparaiso which gives the particulars of our voyage up to that place - we have had fine weather and pleasant sailing most of the time since we left our last port and if we get now a few days good wind we will reach the golden gate where I expect to find tumult enough so that I shall commence my letters out here on the plains pacific I am going to write to the most of my friends and time if they do not answer my letters I shall consider my wish to cut my acquaintance - at Valparaiso I engaged my self to view the country on city taking up the grapes near millions grapes to be clear of which is a fine fruit as you wish to see and after taking a stock of the above named articles would pass away the time looking at the Anacostias as they traped along the shore I found them the pretty black eyes and hair like our Halls only they don't scratch or bite and I think they will get over that at any rate I am going to drop me a line before long as I want to engage the post the first paradango after I get back this sea voyage has made me ten years younger than I was when I left and I shall be only a youth if I live to get back - I would like to have you all look down ^{on} us some day at dinner such fun as we have would make the meant

I have felt better in health and in spirit than I have for some time - I have felt better in health and in spirit than I have for some time - I have felt better in health and in spirit than I have for some time -

will break you down and one word more and then I
will leave the ballance of my letter to fill up in California
that is go up in the old garden after you have perused this
grab a pen and give me an answer I dont care if you
do like that but you must write to me I will never till
time I am going to write to some other and I am determined
to know if I can what is going on - San Francisco Cal⁹ July

I'll tell me someone has on the 6th and fine quite and
has over sail of shipping in his little small craft and
is confusion and upsurge of many kind very long while boats
are high one hotel and put a large one out for 150000 dollars
for you this may seem large to you all but I have seen more
the son of your west speaking room let for twenty thousand a year
ground just my head I and going I think till some other stated
I full confidence money can be made but business is worth
500 dollars a thousand but I shall sell some goods at first rate and
other will not pay much at least at this place it is better
on as goods as at the Indies as far as that business goes
and if Kate was here and showed matter and of her shares on
me she would be Lyndeb - a Scrimmel stands no chance
him if he shows off for all share by each other you
would be surprised to see goods and fine some left after
about the town no one makes any thing common labour
is worth from 12 to 20 dollars per day and living high although
provisions are generally cheap and Delia from a friend that
said your father's family well but not and word from
Dorothy Co I was much disappointed it is the d. d. had you
all know how to write and he often seemt do it after I have
been up to the mine where I think will be soon I will
write little and particular if I had the sail boat but I
could make money just as fast as I want to she would
be worth more than any ship in port as she could run
up the river with passengers and get one hundred of gold
upside for as many as she stow on and three hundred
dollars for the two of furs she would be a fortune and
would always be wanted as steamboats are not yet there
and it is more than the could afford will be enormous more
worth 40 dollars a Co which is about a 1/2 of gold and
then in but better timber about this place but up the river some
take trees I have been asked to do and sent two letters of my acquaintance
one a Widow and good looking but I and after some time I
and shall not play the gambler the way that nature California
side would rather than be open Elm you must try and read this
I never wrote to John Lyndeb but I will go by the next
steamer and I hope find you all or write to you at present

FACE & BACON, ST. LOUIS, MO.

DUPLICATE



DUPLICATE

Page, Bacon & Co.

EXCHANGERS

THE CHRYSTIE & BEAN EXCHANGE BUILDINGS

San Francisco,

April 12, 1856



No 2701

at your request of this
DUPLICATES of Exchange (original and duplicate unpaid copy,
to the order of *P. S. Church*

ADVERS

Check paid

Please record and place to account of

to Messrs Duncan, Sherman & Co

New York,

Page Bacon

to 2 days



41

Treadwell, Sather & Church, Bankers,

A DOMESTIC EXCHANGE



EXCHANGERS FOR

\$1000

SALLY F. HALYALGO

May 8, 1856

SECOND

Pay to the order of *Miller & T. Hall*

to Van Vleet, Reed & Drexel,

27 Wall St. New York.

2

Bank of Exchange & Finance, 111 Broadway, N.Y.

THE WESTERN MAILS



GOLD RUSH CAMPS

ROUGH & READY CAL. FEB 17 1858. Post Office established July 28, 1851 in Nevada County. Postmark ties a strip of four of the 1¢ 1851 issue on a 10¢ Nesbit envelope, paying the ocean mail rate.

HANGTOWN was established as Old Dry Diggin's in 1848. Because of the influx of riffraff and criminals, who committed robberies and murders, the irate citizens took matters into their own hands and flogged or hanged the perpetrators. By 1849 the place was being called **HANGTOWN**. On April 9, 1850 the post office was established as **PLACERVILLE**, but it was not until May 13, 1854 that the town was incorporated under that name.



SAN FRANCISCO CAL. 10 1850. Folded letter to **HANGTOWN** rated 12½ cents - the within state rate for California.

Empire Canyon, Cal.
Sunday, Feb. 23^d 1853

Your letter of Dec. 14th I received today, and read it with delight, and satisfaction. The assurance that I have not offended you, has relieved me of a great weight. For your kind advice I feel truly thankful; but at the same time I must insist that it is unnecessary; for, 1stly, one year ago last New Year's eve I made a resolution to quit drinking, and since then I have not tasted a drop of any kind of liquor.

2^d - It seems that I have left my deposit deposited at home, or it may be that the women here are so depraved, and disgusting, that I have nothing to do with any of them.

3^d - I am doing what I can to make a decent living; and whether I keep my money, or not "time and chance will best determine". I go into no extravagances, nor spend anything unnecessarily; but at the same time I deny myself none of the comforts, and necessities of life. If I could

In your last two letters you have given me a
 lively description of the "living nobility". I
 here attach a cut, which
 represents, his Imperial High-
 ness Prince Reet 1, (after one
 of his secret, or cabinet councilors)
 as well as a dog named type
 by Claudet could. You
 might perhaps pronounce
 his serene Majesty slightly
 incriminated, but he can be
 seen, with his ministers around
 him, in this condition, at all
 - most any hour of every



Reet 1
 of Georgetown, Col.

day. There are certainly some of the Claudet
 dogs in this country that are bristled.
 With a short sketch of general ideas, and
 the necessities of our mutual acquaintance, I
 must close my letter. The winter, so far,
 has been remarkably dry, & pleasant. The
 country now presents a charming appearance
 the trees, and hills are all green, and many
 beautiful wild flowers are in full bloom. So
 far we have seen no snow, or ice. The winter
 presents nothing new - but little work has been
 done in the dry digging, and the work in the
 rivers has not yet commenced. As to the polit-
 ical affairs of the State, I presume there is no

THE WESTERN MAILS



LINN'S STAMP NEWS

MAY 5, 1997

Forty years before the Dust Bowl sparked a migration to California, this hand-drawn cover from Cincinnati in 1896 depicted a Conestoga wagon headed for the Golden State. Written on the canvas is "Oklahoma for starvation/Kansas for desolation/Texas for devastation/Nebraska for damnation/Going to Cal. to sponge on my relation." Collector Floyd Risvold has only a photograph of the cover made at the Camera Corner in Oakland, Calif., in 1940, and naturally wonders where the original may be today.



Shortly after the publication of the cover by Linn's, the original shown above, was sent to Risvold. The following note appears on the reverse of the photograph, "Here's a cover of the "Not so Gay Nineties". I acquired the original a few weeks ago. If you are an Anti-New Dealer its " To Hell with the Democrat Administration" will strike a responsive chord, despite the fact that the administration in question was that of Cleveland [a Democrat]!". At the time of this notation in 1940 it was the Democrat Administration of Franklin Roosevelt, and now comes to attention after one hundred years, for the third time under the Democrat Administration of William Clinton. The same punch line could apply if you are an "Anti

WELLS FARGO BANK
NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONHISTORY DEPARTMENT 1920
475 BANSOHE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111
(415) 398-4157

May 21, 1985

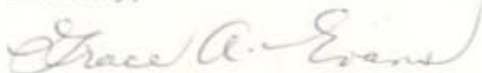
Mr. Floyd E. Risvold
4801 Upper Terrace
Edina, Minnesota 55435

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Enclosed is our invoice No. 3536 in the amount of \$295.00, covering purchase of a model stagecoach from our History Room. Please make your check payable to Wells Fargo Bank History Department and mail to my attention at the above address.

It was a pleasure meeting you, Mr. Risvold.

Sincerely,

Grace A. Evans
Operations O

Enclosure



WARD!

COTTONWOOD!

LOSS, \$4,300.

rest and conviction, of all
ortionately for each; and
y, or proportionately for any part
WELLS, FARGO & CO.

PROTECTOR NOV 12

VPD SHEET PROTECTOR NOV 12

VPD SHEET PRINT

MINER'S LIFE--ILLUSTRATED.



THE HONEST MINER'S SONGS.

The One He Sings at Home.

The One He Sings Here.

TUNE--HOMER'S
 Like some of the ancient bards,
 I'll leave this modest strain,
 As found in California's mines,
 To find the golden days,
 For who could work five years till night
 Had five on his head and nose,
 Then one can pick up the next night
 Enough to buy a horse.

TUNE--
 O California! that's the land for me, for
 I'm going to California the gold hunt for
 These from the snowy mountain side,
 I come down the golden road,
 and approach a carpet of red soil
 O'er all the shining sand;
 The stones run on golden beds,
 O'er paths of goldmine,
 The valleys are full of gold, you said
 I should a plenty mine
 O California, no

'T'll take my wash bowl for my head,
 And wash the gold from out the sand,
 In California,
 And when I get my pocket full,
 In that bright land of gold,
 'T'll have a rock and hammer true,
 Live over--

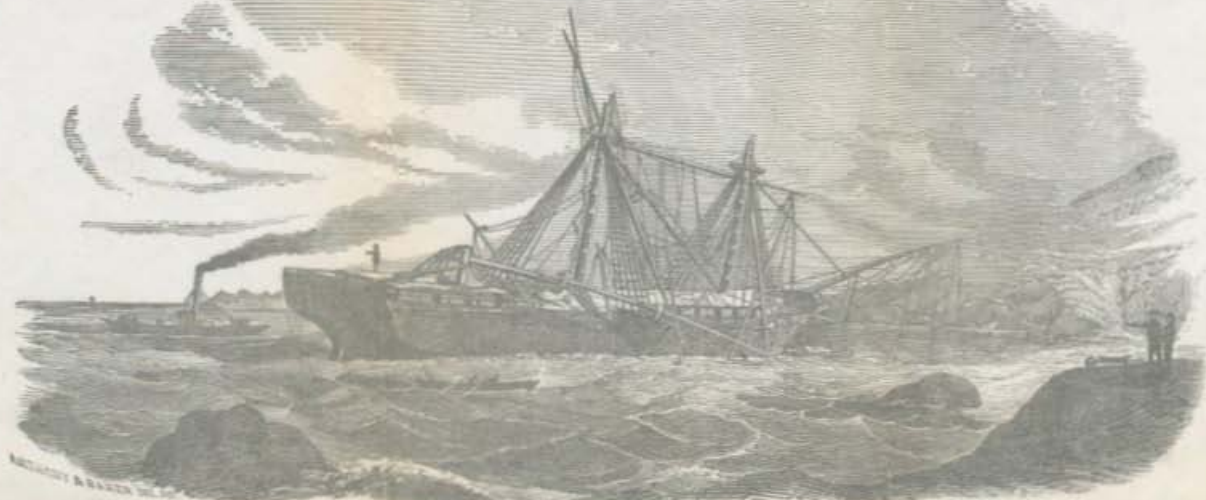
TUNE--JIM ENGLISH'S LONELY
 Oh sitting on a big quartz rock,
 Where gold is said to grow,
 I'm thinking of the weary folk,
 That I left long ago,
 My love is dead, so is my bed,
 My black is going out,
 I've worked until I'm almost dead,
 And soon I shall "go" out.

I'm thinking of the better days,
 Before I left my home,
 Before my love with gold was cross,
 And I began to roam,
 These were the days, no more are seen,
 When all the girls loved me,
 When I did live in happy days,
 They wanted and needed for me

But awful change in this to tell,
 I wash and wash myself,
 I never more shall find a well,
 But here stand for gold,
 For my shall be in clean white sheets,
 And in my blanket roll,
 And oh! the girls I thought so sweet,
 And all the girls I thought so sweet,
 And all the girls I thought so sweet

FRIENDS IN THE CITY.

MINER'S SONGS.



(PUBLISHED BY THE WESTERN OFFICE, CLAY STREET, FORTSMOUTH SQUARE.)

WRECK OF THE CLIPPER SHIP "GOLDEN FLEECE."
OFF FORT POINT, BAY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco April 29th / 54

Dear Cousin

I take up my pen to address to you a few lines to you hoping to find you in good health as this leaves me at present they last I wrote to you I was in Rio Janeiro under peculiar circumstances but it all turned out in my favour they American Councils came on board and ordered us to sea and to get fresh provisions on Monday as long as it was in the ship and the took 7 men out of the

GOLDEN FLEECE. Medium clipper built at Boston in 1852. Operated in the New York/California trade during the Gold Rush period. She made two voyages to San Francisco via Cape Horn. On her second voyage she arrived at San Francisco on April 10th and left for Manila on April 21, 1854. On her way out of the bay she was caught in an eddy and drifted onto the rocks off Fort Point in the Golden Gate. All efforts to save her were futile and she became a total loss. This illustrated letter sheet must have been made shortly after the accident as it bears a date line of April 29, 1854.

Sacramento, June 19, 1856.

Dear Genl.

I have seen your letter to Gov. Johnson relative to your appointment as one of the Commissioners of War Debt. It struck me at the time the bill was under consideration that it required too many duties of the Board to be attended to or it ought to be by a member of Congress who attended to his duties in such; but still it was considered by the Legislature that your name would give weight and

**THE LAW AND ORDER PARTY
IN OPPOSITION TO THE VIGILANTES**

SACRAMENTO, JUNE 19, 1856. Doctor Wm. H.R. Wood, who had been the Deputy to James W. Denver, the Secretary of the State of California, writes to Denver regarding the state of affairs in California: "We have had a dreadful time of it with the Vigilance Committee in San Francisco since the last steamer. They have banded themselves together, taken the law into their own hands, and have commenced the work of hanging and banishing with a vengeance. They have fortified themselves in San Francisco and declare their intention of doing as they please. The Governor issued a proclamation declaring them in a state of Insurrection but could obtain no assistance from the United States forces either of men or arms. Representations will be made to the government by this steamer in relation to the matter. Such high handed proceedings have never been known in this State before, nor in the country that I am aware of... The affair of Phil. Herbert is creating some excitement here. The black Republicans — Vigilance Committee men and such like are awefully down on him and endeavoring to make political capitol out of it..." In 1855 Denver and Philip T. Herbert were elected to the House of Representatives from California. Herbert had been a "Mariposa monte-dealer" and had killed a fellow student at college in Alabama before coming to California. On May 8, 1856 he had entered Willard's Hotel in Washington for breakfast. While ordering same he became angry with the waiter who refused to serve a "hot breakfast" because it was past 11 A.M. In the confusion that followed, Herbert shot the waiter, Thomas Keating, who died within several minutes. In two trials Herbert was acquitted but on his return to San Francisco in August of 1856, the Vigilantes handed him a formal letter requesting him to leave the state and never "again make California your residence." Needless to say he took their advice and left. Herbert had been one of the Governor's "law and order party" in opposition to the Vigilance Committee along with Dr. Wood and Denver.

SUNDY AMUSEMENTS IN THE MINES.



A SUNDAYS AMUSEMENTS.



A DAILY PLEASURE.



OCCUPATION FOR RAINY DAYS.



A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

THE WESTERN MAILS

San Francisco June 19/56

Dear Nat

I forwarded the particulars up to date of last steamer. The Vigilantes are now arrayed against the pretended Law & Order party - six worthies were shipped before and we have now another batch of eight in custody for shipment tomorrow - a few others have had warning to vamose but decline - if they do not leave tomorrow I fear there will be a collision of the two factions, as they have placed themselves under the protection of the state authorities - if they resist the state authorities & they will go together - The Vigilantes are strong & determined - Resistance will result in a complete revolution yet I think without much loss of blood we may have a brush in this city, but the state

SUCCESS TO THE VIGILANTES

SAN FRANCISCO JUNE 19, 1856. "The Vigilantes are now arrayed against the pretended Law & Order party - six worthies were shipped before and we have now another batch of eight in custody for shipment tomorrow - a few others have had warning to vamose but decline - if they do not leave tomorrow I fear there will be a collision of the two factions as they have placed themselves under the protection of the state authorities - if they resist the state authorities & they will go together - The Vigilantes are strong & determined - Resistance will result in a complete revolution - yet I think without much loss of blood - we may have a brush in this city but the State will be easily carried by the Vigilantes - We have between five & six thousand armed citizens enrolled in this city with as many more who stand ready to join if the fight begins - One thousand is the highest estimate of the opposition but you know they are desperate and we do not like to loose good men for bad ones - We are well organized and certain of success but the greater determination is not lose a man if possible - We are strongly entrenched at Fort Vigilant (also known as Fort Gunnybags) with about 30 pieces of cannon & 2000 stand of arms - The remaining 4000 arms are stationed in different sections of the city to guard approaches and prevent surprise - if a gun be fired in resistance to the mandates of the Executive Committee (Vigilantes) we be to the present state authorities ... ballot box stuffers etc etc - I will send you the papers with latest accounts of tomorrow - Success to the Vigilantes ... (signed) Medicus."

Doctor William Carman, who sometimes signs "Medicus" or "Pills", writes to Nathaniel Miller about the exciting days of the Vigilantes of 1856.

THE WESTERN MAILS

YANKEE SULLIVAN IS GONE

L.E.Leaman writes from "Grass Valley Cal June 3rd 1856" to his brother in Fallsburgh, N.Y.: "I send you by this mail some twelve or thirteen papers containing full particulars of the great excitement in this state - The People are bound to clean out the murderers Gamblers thieves &c &c. I wrote to you last mail and sent you papers, did you receive them - Yankee Sullivan is gone in "his guilty conscience was too much for him. You will see the account of his arrest by the Vigilance committee and his committing suicide &c &c. I never saw such an excitement in my life. There are thousands all through the mountains organized and ready to go down to San Francisco and assist the Vigilance committee. The Atlantic mail will be up to night. There was no fighting nor any smash up on the Isthmus (Panama) this trip. There is bound to be a regular revolution in this state.....send out of the state about a hundred of the worst cut throats and then one can live here with some safety....."



Cover postmarked "GRASS VALLEY Cal JUN 4" 1856.
Routed overland and rated 10 cents for over
three thousand miles,

Francis Murray, alias Yankee Sullivan, was an English prize-fighter of Irish birth. He had been shipped, as a convict, to Australia, where he escaped to the United States. Sullivan was arrested by the Vigilance Committee for stuffing a ballot-box and rigging elections. Found guilty he was sentenced to be "transported out of the territory of the United States.....never to return to California, under penalty of death." On May 31, 1856 Sullivan committed suicide.



MINERS AT WORK WITH LONG TOMS.

Copied from a Dejeuxreskyp sketch by Josk & Quirel Lithographers Jackson 3' 28.



Monday 31st March

Dear

*I shall not go up to day as
 I thought I would write of the matter
 what is expected to day - Nothing
 new to add - I thought I would send
 you a picture showing you the way
 we work here - there are two or
 three toms together in this picture - we
 work both one - I had a long talk
 with Mr. Hunt Saturday, and I don't blame
 him for not leaving the money, after
 his having been told what the mine*



LYNCH LAW, VIGILANTES AND MORALITY

SONORA, CALIFORNIA NOV. 25, 1851 ... "You have of course heard of the action of the Vigilance Committees in California. Here in (Sonora) they confine themselves to merely whipping a few scoundrels. Quite a number of criminals were hung in this neighborhood by Lynch law before the Vigilance Committees were organized but in only one instance has a prisoner been forcibly taken from the authorities. That prisoner was dangling by the neck about 15 minutes after the people got him. His name was James Hill and I think he was from Madison or Oneida Co. [N.Y.]. It may be that his real name was not Hill. He was a hardened villain and probably deserved his fate. Our Police is composed of the most resolute men in the country. When they attempt to arrest a person it is very unsafe to attempt resistance for they will drop a man certain with one of Colt's 6s - We have a Catholic church but no Protestant although in progress ... The influence of California morality will be deeply felt in the States when the thousands of Californians return and each one will be a teacher to more or less of his friends and acquaintances of the accomplishments he has picked up in California. Many of the sons of the most respectable families at home are engaged in the practice of the most degrading vices and their friends might as well mourn their death ... A. A. N. Tuttle".

According to H.H. Bancroft, in POPULAR TRIBUNALS, a David Hill was convicted of armed robbery by the citizens of Campo Seco on June 29, 1851. He was sentenced to death by hanging but was rescued by the Sheriff and taken to Sonora where an armed mob seized him by force. The mob gave Hill fifteen minutes to make his confession and say his prayers before he was swung into eternity from the limb of a tree. The folded cover shown above was routed "Via Panama" and bears the straightline postmark of SONORA, CALIFORNIA NOV.25,1851.

It is almost certain the David Hill was James Hill as reported by Tuttle above.

THE WESTERN MAILS



Hanging of Jenkins on the Plaza.

VIGILANTE JUSTICE 1851 THE HANGING OF JOHN JENKINS BY THE SECRET REGULATORS

A two page letter postmarked at **SAN FRANCISCO JUN 12**. It is addressed to Placerville and bears the intra-California rate of 12½ cents. The writer gives a vivid eyewitness account of the hanging of John Jenkins by the Vigilance Committee. Jenkins was hanged at two o'clock on the morning of June 11, 1851 - the day before this letter was written. Sketch shown below is from **THE ANNALS OF SAN FRANCISCO 1854**.

"On last Monday night a person named John Jenkins was discovered stealing a small iron safe on Long Wharf. Pursuit was immediately given and the fellow overtaken. He was tried by a band of Secret Regulators, who after a trial of six hours, found him guilty, and sentenced to death by hanging. He was taken on the plaza, a rope was swung over a beam, his hands were manacled, one or two long pulls were given, and the poor wretch was swung into eternity. He struggled hard for a few minutes, the blood gushed from his nose and mouth, he drew his legs up convulsively and then stretch out, perfectly dead. The body was swinging there for several hours, being viewed by thousands of spectators, and remained there until the officers cut him down, and took him to the dead house. The man was an Englishman and a most noted bad character. It is an awful state of affairs in a populous city like this to see a person strung up on the plaza, for the crime of larceny. But our citizens have suffered so much by the depredations of these miscreants, and the laws are administered in such a lax and dilitary manner, that it is actually necessary, for us to resort to violence to secure the protection of life & property. The Governor is at present holding an inquest on the body, for the purpose of finding out the persons who committed the deed. The person who pulled the rope it is said is Capt. Wakeman, formerly commander of the Steamer New World." Dated at San Francisco, A.C. June 12th 1851 by Fred A. Snyder.

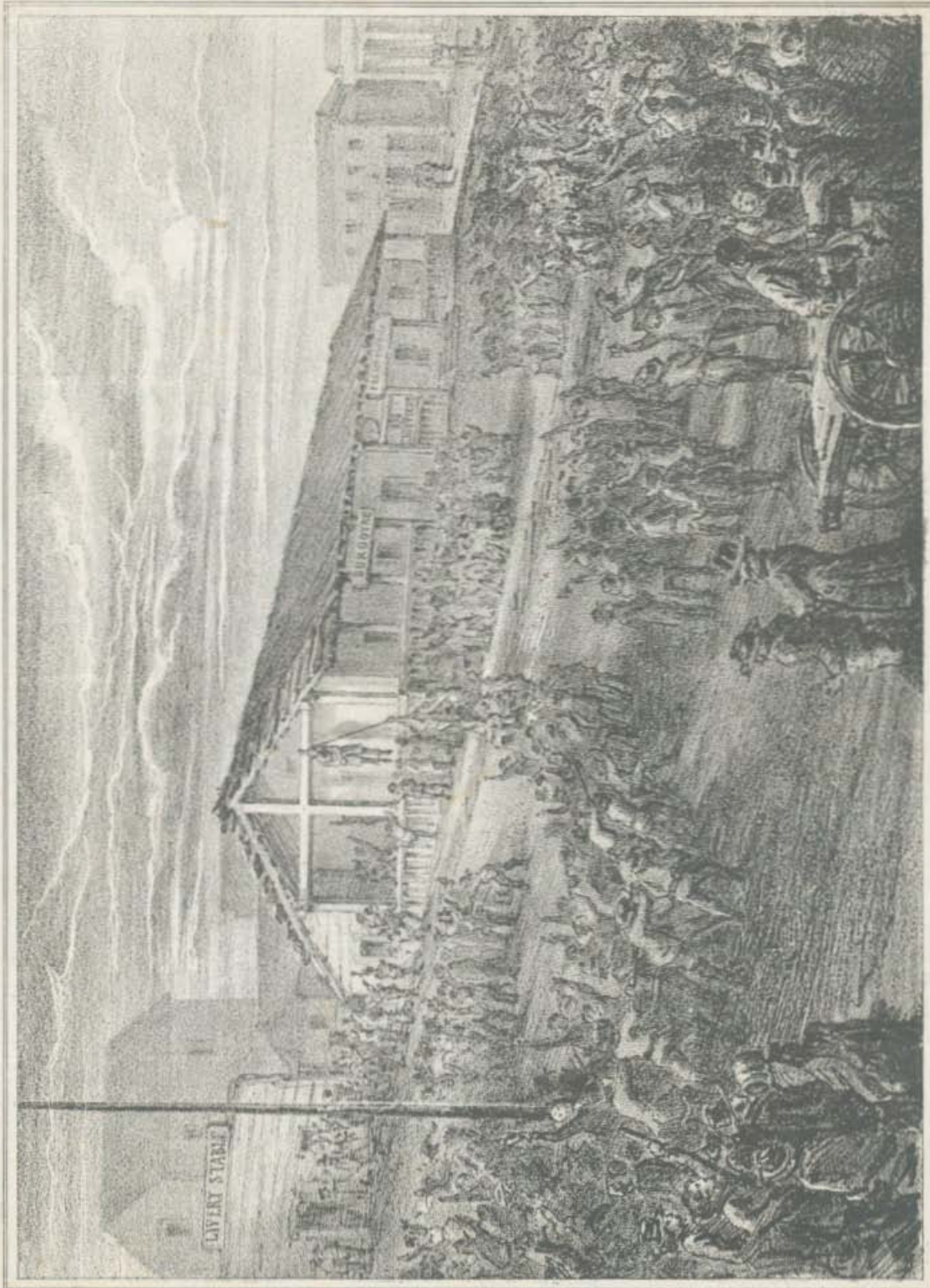
THE HANGING OF JOHN JENKINS
VIGILANTE JUSTICE IN THE DAYS OF THE GOLD RUSH

San Francisco, Cal.

June 12th 1857.

Dear John:

Your letter enclosed with that of Davis was
duly received, and that you are doing well is a source
of great gratification to me. Even if you should never
make any money, - you have gained good health
and developed your constitution, which is of greater
consideration than anything else in this world.
We have no news here of any great interest. On
last Monday night a person named John Jenkins
was discovered stealing a small iron safe on Long
Wharf. Pursuit was immediately given, and the
fellow overtaken. He was tied by a bond of some
regulator, who after a trial of six hours, found
him guilty, and sentenced to death by hanging.
He was taken on the plaza, a rope was swung
over a beam, his hands were manacled, in one or
two long pulks were given, and the poor wretch
was swung into eternity. He struggled hard for a
few minutes, - the blood gushed from his nose and
mouth, he drew his legs up convulsively and then
stretched out, perfectly dead. The body was swinging
there for several hours, - being viewed by thousands
of spectators, and remained there until the officers
cut him down, and took him to the dead house.
The man was an Englishman, and a most noted
bad character. It is an awful state of affairs in a



As after the scene by W.C.K.

THE FIRST TRIAL & EXECUTION IN S. FRANCISCO ON THE NIGHT OF 10th OF JUNE AT 2 O'CLOCK

John Jenkins, a Sidney man, entered the store of M. V. on the evening of 10th of June & carried off a robe after he was captured he was brought to the corner of Sansome & Bush St. where he was tried by a jury of the highest respectability, and condemned to be hung. The execution took place on the Plaza on the same night at 2 o'clock immediately after evidence of death was passed upon him. He was asked if he had anything to say, only I should wish to have a copy of the law & writer, which was given him.

As after the scene by W.C.K.

THE WESTERN MAILS

San Francisco 30th June 1851

Friend Geo.

I send you a very graphic picture of an execution by the People on the body of a Sydney man - a notorious character - who on being apprehended in the act of stealing a safe (a small one) containing about \$200 - was taken and tried by a peoples jury was condemned and hung - as represented - on the morning of the 11th inst. at 2 A.M. -

The old adobe building on the end of which he was hung - was burned on the 22^d a representation of which I send you also - We are slowly recovering from those calamities of the 4th May & 22^d inst. and still entertain hopes of outliving them -

However it is considered by many as a case of "Quien Sabe?" (Who knows?)

We are all well but some of us have got a schucking - Remember me to all old friends in Tubbam and believe me

Fray Yours

Jas O'Grady

San Francisco 30th June 1851

I send you a very graphic picture of an execution by the People on the body of a Sydney [Australian] man - a notorious character - who on being apprehended in the act of stealing a safe (a small one, containing about \$200 []) - was taken and tried by a peoples jury was condemned and hung - as represented - on the morning of the 11th inst. at 2 A.M. - The old adobe building on the end of which he was hung - was burned on the 22d a representation of which I send you also - we are slowly recovering from those calamities of the 4th May & 22d inst. and still entertain hopes of outliving them - However it is considered as a case of "Quien Sabe?" (Who knows?)
 Jas O' Grady.

1
copy
sent
1855

Head Quarters California Militia,

Office Quarter Master and Adjutant General,

Sacramento, November 4, 1855

Gen J. W. Bennett & Hon P. T. Herbert
W.C. from California & Hon J. B. Miller
Washington D.C.

Sir Permit me
to call your attention and through you that
of your colleagues ~~from P. T. Herbert~~ first
to the claims of California upon the general
government for an additional supply of
arms and Ordnance stores, and secondly
to our necessities in the premises.

The claim we set up is based upon
the following facts. Viz. California was
admitted into the union as a state, and
consequently entitled to all the privileges

WEAPONS FOR THE CALIFORNIA MILITIA

(CALIFORNIA). KIBBE (W. C.). Quarter-Master &
Adjutant-General of California. Autograph
Letter Signed, 4pp., 4to, Head Quarters Calif-
ornia Militia, Sacramento, November 4, 1855.
Addressed to three congressmen from the state,
and pleading for arms to put the California
militia on a par with other areas. Kibbe ar-
gues at length that California's position
makes her "more exposed to attacks of a for-
eign foe" and that, because of the mixed popu-
lation, "Mobs and violent demonstrations have
been of frequent occurrence during the past
year," etc. Long and important. \$1.75.00

to and entitled,
and denying the
a passed establish
a system of
in every respect
the laws of Congress
law was continued
effect is the law
at the present
time. But we received no quote

This is written at "Murphys," notwithstanding the heading is from the "Big Trees," the reason of that is, that both Hotels are kept by the same Parties and they have their Paper all printed in this manner.



MAMMOTH GROVE HOTEL,

SPERRY & FERRY, Proprietors.

CALAVERAS COUNTY, CAL.

May 31st 1871

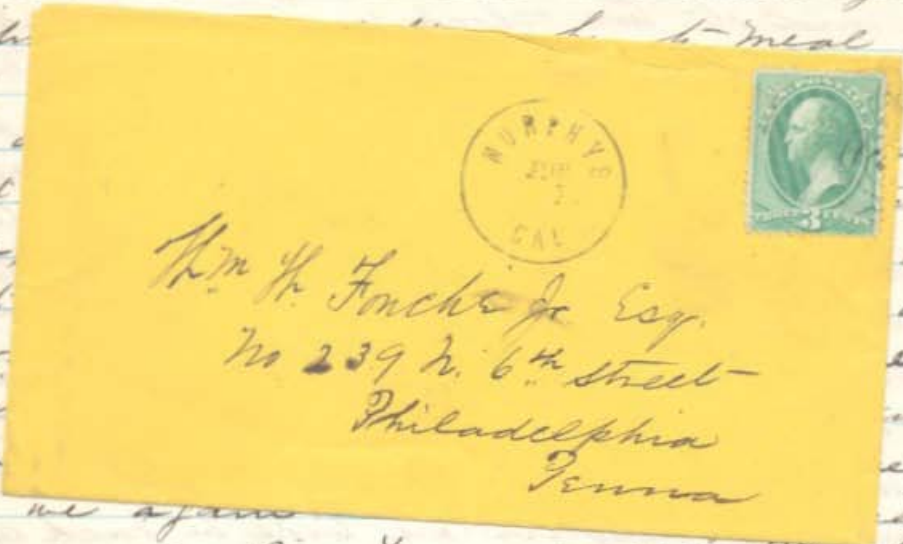
Dear Friend Hill,

At last we are en Route for the "Geo Semite," having left Frisco Monday morning at 8 am via C.P.R.R. arriving at Stockton about 12.30 where our Carriages were

awaite... to meal we pushed on to P.M. was at

Copper is not got so morn fifteen when we again arrived at Big Trees at 4.30 P.M. After Supp we strolled around for a while and then sought our Conches, and this, Wednesday, morning, we

rambled among the Giants of the Forest



Wm H. Fouché Esq.
No 239 N. 6th Street
Philadelphia
Penn

I wished you were with me old Boy to see these
Big fellows, for they are perfectly grand, you
will see by the description annexed the magni-
tude of some of them, I measured two of them
myself, one called the "Pride of the Forest"
measured fifty three feet in circumference
and the other "Phil Sheridan" seventy and
a half feet, The Mother of the Forest as you
will see, is larger than these, it measuring
seventy eight feet in circumference, just imagine
if you can, old fellow, a tree thirty two feet in
diameter, and then they are so beautiful, they
look very much like a Pine; they seem to have
crowded out all small trees, and there is little
or no underbrush which makes them look still
more grand. Hell as everything has an end, so
did this, and at two o'clock we again look to the
Carriages, and here we are again back at "Mumphys"
which we leave to-morrow morning, and push
on toward the south, and if nothing happens
we will rest to-morrow night at Garrote,
which will land us just one day from the Valley.
I will write to you again soon and let you
know how we are getting along; if you were
only with me I should feel much better,
This trip will tend to keep us from home a little
longer, but don't despair we will be back some
time in June, Remember me to all at home
and to enquiring friends not forgetting "Shad"
Your Friend on the Road,
Will S. Bonlater

THE WESTERN MAILS



Unusual use of the 12c stamp of the 1851 issue, diagonally cut in half, to prepay the overland rate of three cents per half ounce, or five cents if unpaid. Apparently the covers were one ounce and the postmaster did not recognize the stamps as being valid and rated them as unpaid mail as per the "10" cent collect charge. In the case of the "piece" which bears the "10" in manuscript he added the "X" beside the stamp to indicate the reason for doing so. TWO BAD that the piece and the cover were not in reverse!

THE SADDEST WORDS OF TONGUE OR PEN ARE THOSE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!



THE WESTERN MAILS

"From the Democratic State Journal of July 29, 1852.

"To the Democratic State Journal: Gents.—My attention has been called to an article in the Alta California of the 26th instant, in answer to a card published by the members of the Relief Train in your paper of Saturday last. Puerile and silly as it is, it may perhaps merit a passing notice. The whole tenor of the article shows that we were right in charging that the assault on Governor Bigler was made by an 'envious and malicious heart,' and when detected and exposed the editor of the Alta can resort only to epithets to defend himself. It is just the course any other blackguard would have taken. As to the threat held out at the conclusion of the article, I can only speak for myself, leaving the other members of the train to act as they may think proper. If the editor of the Alta thinks himself aggrieved by anything I may have said or done, it is for him to find me, and when so found he may rest assured that he can have any 'issue upon the matter' he may desire. Lest he shall have an excuse that he did not know where to find me, I will state that during the summer I shall be engaged in the Relief Train and on the first Monday in January next expect to be at Vallejo.

J. W. Denver.



San Francisco, July 30, 1852

Sir - In an article published in the Sacramento Democratic State Journal on the 24th inst., and signed by yourself and ten others, in speaking of a paragraph which appeared in the Alta California of the 26th of June last, you say -

"We are well satisfied that none but a personal enemy could imagine any such thing, and that enemy must be of the smallest possible calibre who could descend so low as to pervert facts" etc. etc.

And again, you add -

"We can have but one opinion of this attack upon the Governor - that it could have emanated only from an envious and malicious heart."

In a subsequent communication to the same paper, signed by yourself alone, and published on the 29th inst., in reply to an article which appeared in the Alta California of the 26th inst., you reiterate your previous assertion in the following language -

"We were right in charging that the assault on Gov. Bigler was made by an 'envious and malicious heart,' and when detected the editor of the Alta can resort only to epithets to defend himself. It is just the course any other blackguard would have taken."

As I am the author of both the articles published in the Alta California which have been alluded to by you as above quoted. I find it my duty to demand from you a withdrawal of the offensive and unjust charges and insinuations which you have made.

I have the honor to be Very Respectfully/Your Obedt. Servt.

E. Gilbert

J. W. Denver, Esq. / This will be handed to you by my friend H. F. Teschemaker, Esq.

Sacramento City/August 1st 1852.

Sir, In reply to yours of the 30th ult. I have only to say that not one word of the cards you allude to can be withdrawn by me unless the articles calling them forth are withdrawn by you.

E. Gilbert, Esq.

I remain, Sir/Yours Respectfully/J. W. Denver.

San Francisco, July 30, 1852.

Sir—

In an article published in the Sacramento Democratic State Journal on the 26th inst. and signed by yourself and ten others, in speaking of a paragraph which appeared in the Alta California of the 26th of June last, you say—

"We are well satisfied that none but a personal enemy could imagine any such thing, and that enemy must be of the smallest possible calibre who could descend so low as to pervert facts," etc. etc.

And again, you add—

"We can have but one opinion of this attack upon the Governor—that it could have emanated only from an envious and malicious heart."

In a subsequent communication to the same paper, signed by yourself alone, and published on the 29th inst. in reply to an article which appeared in the Alta California of the 26th inst., you reiterate your previous assertion in the following language—

"The mere right in charging that the assault on Gov. Bigler was made by an 'envious and malicious heart,' and when detected the editor of the Alta can resort only to epithets to defend himself. It is just the course any other blackguard would have taken."

(over)

Sacramento City
August 1st 1852.

Sir,

In reply to yours of the 30th ult.
I have only to say that not one word
of the cards you allude to can be withdrawn
by me. The articles calling them forth
are withdrawn by you.

I remain, Sir,

Yours Respectfully

J. W. Devereux.

E. Gilbert, Esq.

Sacramento, August 1, 1852.

Sir-

As you decline, in your note of the 1st inst., just received, to withdraw the offensive and unjust charges and insinuations alluded to in my note of the 30th ult., it only remains for me to demand the satisfaction known to the code of honor.

I am, Very Respectfully,

Your obt. servt.

E. Gilbert

J. W. Denver, Esq }
Sacramento }
}

Per H. F. Stephenson, Esq.

Sacramento City,
August 12th 1852.

Sir,

I have just received your last communication, and in reply, answer, that I am ready to give you any satisfaction you may desire, and refer you to My friend Doct Boyerly, to make all preliminary arrangements;

Yours Respectfully
J. W. Denver
Sacramento City
August 1st 1852.

Sir,

I have just recd yours of today. My friend Dr. Boyerly is authorized to transact any business for me in connection with it.

Yours
Respectfully

J. W. Denver

C. Gilbert Esq.

THE WESTERN MAILS

DENVER - GILBERT DUEL & THE "code of honor".

During the winter of 1851-52 thousands of westbound emigrants were caught in the deep snows in attempting to cross the high Sierra Nevadas. Governor John Bigler persuaded the California Legislature to appropriate \$25,000.00 with which to send relief trains and relief parties to rescue the emigrants. At the time Denver was a state senator and had been put in charge of organizing the relief trains. When the first train left, Governor Bigler personally led it on horse-back through the city. The next day an article appeared in the Alta California, by Edward Gilbert, founder and Editor, charging the Governor with making political capital out of the relief train. Denver answered these charges in another paper which led directly to the Denver - Gilbert Duel, as documented by the four letters in this collection. The duel took place at sunrise on August 2nd at Oak Grove, about 13 miles up river from Sacramento. Denver, being the challenged party, had the choice of weapons, and selected the Wesson rifle at 40 paces. The first interchange of shots left both men uninjured. Denver walked off and laid down his rifle, but Gilbert stood in his place and demanded a second shot. After 15 minutes of conversation with both parties, Denver picked up his rifle and said "Now, I must defend myself". Two rifles cracked simultaneously and Gilbert was probably dead before he hit the ground. In 1884 Denver was a candidate for President at the Democrat National Convention, but failed to get the nomination of his party because of the duel in 1852. SEE Denver in the Mexican and Civil Wars in this collection.

GILBERT DEMANDS SATISFACTION

Sacramento, August 1, 1852.

Sir - As you decline, in your note of the 1st inst., just received, to withdraw the offensive and unjust charges and insinuations alluded to in my note of the 30th ulto., it only remains for me to demand the Satisfaction known to the code of honor. I am, Very Respectfully, /Your Obedt. Servt./ E. Gilbert
To J. W. Denver, Esq. /Sacramento.

As it turned out, Gilbert, by this note to Denver, was signing his own death warrant!

DENVER ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE.

Sacramento City / August 1st 1852.

Sir, I have just received your last communication, and in reply, answer, that I am ready to give you any satisfaction you may desire, and refer you to My friend Doct Bryarly, to make all preliminary arrangements.

Yours Respectfully / James W. Denver.

Sir, I have just recd. yours of today. My friend Dr. Bryarly is authorized to transact any business for me in connection with it.

E. Gilbert Esq.

Yours / Respectfully / J. W. Denver

THE WESTERN MAILS



WELLS, FARGO & CO. The above is the type II of the printed frank..



HUTCHING'S PANORAMIC SCENES.—NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.



SHASTA.

A few miles from the Sacramento Valley, and is the head of wagon-transportation. From most of the Northern counties receive their supplies, to carry which about 20,000 pack mules are used. Although Shasta has suffered heavily from fire, it is now, by the enterprising activity of a large and flourishing town. It has a population of about 500 white persons, in the midst of Chinamen.



JACKSONVILLE, O. T.

Is prettily located in the Rogue River Valley, about 25 miles north of Traska. Surrounded by good agricultural and mineral land, it invites and rewards an industrious population. Goods are transported here upon pack animals, from Crescent City and Shasta. There are 100 facilities in the valley, and among the number about 60 marriageable ladies!



YREKA.

Some centre and equity east of Siskiyou, and one of the richest and most extensive mining districts. The city contains 47 substantial fire-proof, and about 400 wood buildings, and the flats and lower town has an enterprising population of between 3000 and 4000 persons, view is from the hill east of town, showing Yreka Flat and the trails to Humboldt and Siskiyou in the distance.



MOUNT SHASTA.

This is the highest peak in California, being 14,266 feet above the level of the sea, and of volcanic origin. About 100 feet from its summit, there are three small hot sulphur springs, the temperature of which is 150 deg. At its base, and from beneath a vast snow bank, flow the head-waters of the Sacramento river. In the foreground of the above view, lies the Shasta Valley.



SCOTT'S BAR.

Is situated on Scott's river, about five miles above its junction with the Klamath river. The scene presents a flaring scene opposite the Bar. From this claim it was no uncommon thing to find 10 pounds of gold from a single pan of dirt. Below this, there are French, Johnson's, other Bars, equally remunerative and were it not for the very heavy "slipping," men burners in a single season.



WEAVERVILLE

Is the county seat of Trinity. It has a population within the township of about 1,200. There are 22 stores, 2 express and banking-houses, 16 hotels and restaurants, 6 saloons, 4 meat markets, 5 heavy stable and corral, lead-bee carpenters, blacksmiths, doctors, lawyers, &c. &c.—and said to be only one eligible female candidate for matrimony within the county! The view above was taken after a snow storm.

17
Yreka December 11th 1856

Pliskyou County California

Walter Maycut

Long absences make me feel anxious
to hear from you and furthermore to see I write to you
inform you of the one not long since written and also
inform you that I am yet harvesting the land of the
and enjoying good health and I hope when these few
comes to hand they will find you in possession of the same
desirable blessing I must confess that I have not been very
punctual in writing to you I own a great deal of apology for
not writing sooner to you I sometimes console myself and
think of the old adage: Better late than never I have had
to do the case just as in writing to my friends and relatives
but it is not worth while to try to please anyone if they receive
a letter from anyone they generally want another one and
if they don't receive it in a short time they will stop writing
absolutely but let me say to you that will not be all
it is owing to the situation or circumstances a person may
blame in if you will pardon me this time I will try and do
in future I am very thankful to you for being so kind
in writing to me you have also been very kind I suppose
your kind letters why because there is nothing more interest
to me than the perusal of a letter from an absent friend it is
to me the necessary the associations of other days and has a tendency
to keep alive a friendship towards one another Harrison & Co
are both well and the baby is good looking and it gives
I suppose that Harrison & Co. has yet shown by this time
I think has just returned to the prison a given week
is on his way to the state and Thomas has made a

FIRST CALIFORNIA OVERLAND MAILS

By A. R. ROWELL

C. CORWITH WAGNER of St. Louis is the fortunate owner of a stampless cover of outstanding historical interest. It went overland from San Francisco to New York in the summer of 1847, by the third expedition known to have carried letters from California. It is probably the oldest California overland letter existing today; and a study of its contents, and of the times which gave it birth, opens up an interesting vista of the westward course of empire. It travelled on horseback from California to the Missouri River, down the Missouri by river steamer to St. Louis, east from St. Louis by stage coach to the Baltimore & Ohio, and thence to its destination by railroad. It was five months and five days on its journey from San Francisco as far as St. Louis. Recently, in the present writer's hands, it was again, after ninety years, within sight of the spot where it was written, and from thence it went back to its owner, over substantially the same route, in two days! This time there was no endless shuffle of horses' hooves in the desert sand, no rattle of rain on the saddlebags, nor rumble of the stage on the old National Road. Instead only the singing of steel rails and the long whistle of the locomotive.

This letter was written from San Francisco on March 23, 1847, by one Allen Putnam and addressed to Col. Henry Stanton, Assistant Quartermaster General of the United States Army, at New York. It is stamped "STEAM 10," with the "10" scratched out and an "f" written beneath it, doubtless for "free," and it is postmarked St. Louis, August 28. Both markings are in red.

To get the historical setting for this letter, we must go back a bit. In 1846 the Mexican War was in full swing. In June of that year one Jonathan D. Stevenson, then a member of the New York legislature, and a man of considerable military

ability, was authorized by his personal friend, President Polk, to raise a volunteer regiment for service in California. This he promptly accomplished, and on August 1 the regiment was mustered into service at Governor's Island. Some delay occurred in obtaining the necessary transports, but finally three sailing vessels, the *Thomas H. Perkins*, the *Susan Drew* and the *Loo Choo*,

were secured for that purpose. Due possibly to political enmity, suits for damages were instituted against Col. Stevenson by certain malcontents who had been dismissed from the regiment. Stevenson took refuge aboard one of the transports

and defied the sheriff with a threat to shoot him if he set foot on deck. The sheriff's discretion prevailed over his zeal for duty, and on the 26th of September, 1846, the

three transports, under convoy of the U.S.S. *Preble*, sailed away on a six months' voyage to California. Allen Putnam was master of the *Susan Drew*.

The *Thomas H. Perkins* arrived in San Francisco Bay on March 6, 1847, the *Susan Drew* on March 22, and the *Loo Choo* before the end of the month.

The name "San Francisco" as a designation for the little community growing up on Yerba Buena Cove, was at that time less than two months old. On January 30, 1847, the following ordinance had been published in Sam Brannan's "California Star":

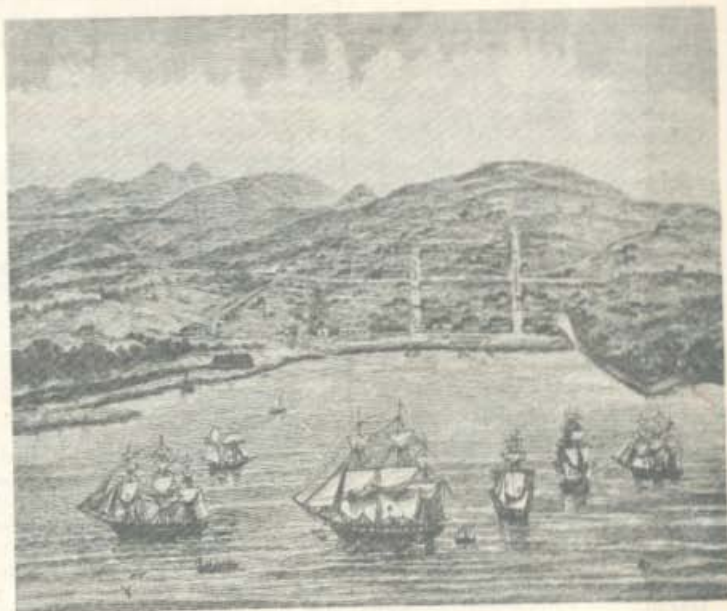
"WHEREAS, the local name of Yerba Buena, as applied to the settlement or town of San Francisco, is unknown beyond the district; and has been applied from the local name of the cove on which the town is built; THEREFORE, to prevent confusion and mistakes in public documents, and that the town may have the advantage of the name given on the public map.

"IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, that the name SAN FRANCISCO shall hereafter be used in all official communications and public documents or records appurtenant to the town.

"WASH'N A. BARTLETT, Chief Magistrate.



"STEAM 10" Cover addressed to Col. Henry Stanton



View of San Francisco (formerly Yerba Buena) in March, 1847. (After a lithograph designed and published by W. F. Swazey.) A—U.S.S. Portsmouth. BBB—Stevenson transports Susan Drew, Thomas H. Perkins and Loo Choo. C—Ship Vandalla. D—Coasting Schooner.



Vicinity of San Francisco.



SAN FRANCISCO, AS IT WAS 1849.

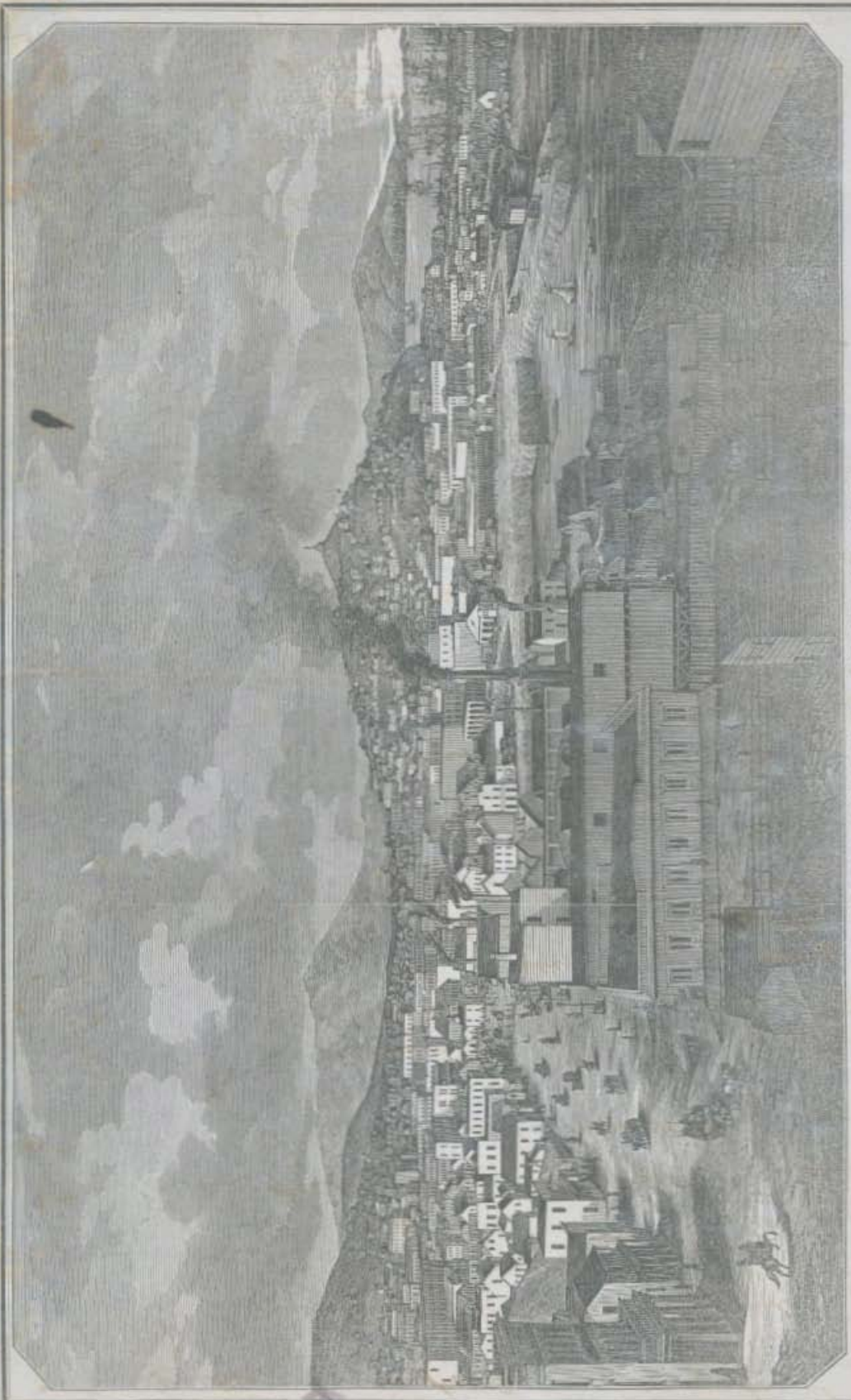
Taken from Hinton's Photo, by G. H. Barker, Jan. 1, 1904

We have presented two views of the City of San Francisco, the one from the water, the other from the hillside. In this way we can bring more forcibly to the reader's attention the astonishing development and incredible rapidity with which this great metropolis of the Pacific has sprung. We have seen the city in its infancy, and we have seen it in its maturity. It is a city that has grown up in a few years, and it is a city that has grown up in a way that is almost unparalleled in the history of the world. It is a city that has grown up in a way that is almost unparalleled in the history of the world. It is a city that has grown up in a way that is almost unparalleled in the history of the world.

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View from Russian Point, by D. M. Baker, Dec. 1854. SAN FRANCISCO AS IT IS, 1854.

to be found the superior products of every class, the markets of New York, though more extensive, do not present so great a variety.

The commerce of San Francisco and America have been their wealthiest harbors, and it is estimated that \$20,000,000 of foreign capital is here employed. Gold, the great article of export, is rapidly populating the interior, and the necessary necessaries for their use, and the pure gold into silver, and silver into copper, amount of which are over four feet in length, where vessels of the heaviest tonnage can approach. The harbor is unobscured, and spacious enough, as has been often remarked, for the masts of the whole world. The entrance is easy, and the depth throughout, being to take a vessel in or out to sea, is about thirty fathoms.

The number of arrivals for [The number of arrivals for 1843 were—

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2000 were—

In 1840, San Francisco had but one church, while now it has twenty, and a number of charitable institutions. There are two public libraries, the Mercantile and Law Library, of about 5,000 volumes each, and a number of private ones. The number of churches is about 100, and the population is about 100,000.

It is found the superior products of every class, the markets of New York, though more extensive, do not present so great a variety.

The commerce of San Francisco and America have been their wealthiest harbors, and it is estimated that \$20,000,000 of foreign capital is here employed. Gold, the great article of export, is rapidly populating the interior, and the necessary necessaries for their use, and the pure gold into silver, and silver into copper, amount of which are over four feet in length, where vessels of the heaviest tonnage can approach. The harbor is unobscured, and spacious enough, as has been often remarked, for the masts of the whole world. The entrance is easy, and the depth throughout, being to take a vessel in or out to sea, is about thirty fathoms.

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High, Esmeralda Basin, Tuberculosis, Microphilia and Anomalous Phenomena, Child Rape, Min., Custom House, and several other institutions. The city is situated on a hillside, and is surrounded by mountains. The population is about 100,000.

It is found the superior products of every class, the markets of New York, though more extensive, do not present so great a variety.

The commerce of San Francisco and America have been their wealthiest harbors, and it is estimated that \$20,000,000 of foreign capital is here employed. Gold, the great article of export, is rapidly populating the interior, and the necessary necessaries for their use, and the pure gold into silver, and silver into copper, amount of which are over four feet in length, where vessels of the heaviest tonnage can approach. The harbor is unobscured, and spacious enough, as has been often remarked, for the masts of the whole world. The entrance is easy, and the depth throughout, being to take a vessel in or out to sea, is about thirty fathoms.

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2
Tazewell Eldorado Co Call May 1880

Mr William, H. Bush

Dear Brother

With pleasure I improve this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am in good health at present and that these lines will find you all enjoying a similar blessing. I am still at work in the mines in a ravine near the edge of placerville where you should receive your letters to me but I expect to be in the hill digging a short way in a tunnel to work. I haven't ^{sent} written at this present time I have written so to you and never received but would you that I don't feel like writing or express express my feelings to you oh I feel sorry for I don't know is the reason or it perhaps you do not write to me but I never got them I written twice a month ever since first of February and never heard that I should like to hear from you especially from another not heard from her since you wrote to last June nothing more at present only gave my respects to all in family

I remain your affectionate till date
William Winfield Bush

HUTCHING'S
CALIFORNIA
SCENES.



GATHERING ACORNS.



GATHERING SEEDS.



OF TRAVELING.



AN INDIAN FANDANGO.

The California Indians are in sterner mood; but they are well and stoutly formed. Their features are coarse, broad, and of a dark chocolate color; their hair is black, heavy and straight. In their habits they are unclean and indolent. Their men are built of boughs, bark or old rags, and are smoky, small and dirty. The women do the work, the men the eating, grumbling and sleeping. Their dress consists of any old and cast-off garments of the whites. Their food is acorns, roots, grasshoppers, weed and flower seeds, grass, river, wild grapes, rabbits, rats, squirrels and fish, but they prefer land bass and white fish. The following are their methods of providing for their wants:—

GATHERING ACORNS.—A large, cone-shaped basket is carried on the back of the females, fastened by a band running across their foreheads. The acorns, packed from beneath a tree, are thrown over their shoulders into the basket; they are then dried and stored or ground.

DIGGING ROOTS.—This is accomplished by the females and old men driving a pointed stick into the ground, and turning out the roots.

GATHERING SEEDS.—This is done by the females beating them with a hook into a cone-shaped basket.

CATCHING GRASSHOPPERS.—A hole is dug deep enough to prevent their slipping out, after which a stick is thrust of Indian, both old and young, who with a hook lead the insects toward the hole, into which they fall and are taken prisoner. Sometimes the grass and weeds are set on fire, by which they are destroyed, and afterwards picked up.

GRINDING ACORNS, &c.—Acorns, berries and flower seeds are reduced to flour, and grasshoppers, by the females pounding them upon a rock with an oblong stone, weighing from six to ten pounds.

COOKING FOOD.—Bark-lined and water-tight baskets, holding from two to four weeks, are filled with water, into which flour or meal is stirred; hot rocks are then put into the basket, until the water boils. It is then poured into smaller baskets to cool; when it is about the consistency of paste or soup, and is water from the baskets with the fingers. Rabbits, rats, squirrels, &c. are broiled upon a stick, or boiled in the basket until they are cooked. Grasshoppers are gathered into sacks and saturated with salt water; they are then placed in a hot trench and covered with hot rocks for about 25 minutes, when they are eaten like chickens, or after being ground, are mixed with the soup or starch.

FANDANGO.—These are popular and social gatherings of Indians for dancing, eating, laughing, talking and leaving the traditional goodness of their noble dead. Any particular tribe, wishing to give a fandango, send messengers to the chief of the neighboring tribes, who receive a small bundle of weeds or sticks, which show the number of days before it takes place. Preparations immediately commence upon an extensive plain by those invited as well as those giving the invitation. Rabbits are skinned, grasshoppers and fish are caught, acorns, roots, weed and flower seeds, river, grass, wild grapes and onions are provided in suitable quantities. As each Indian dresses according to his own extravagant notions of paint and feathers, several weeks are sometimes consumed in making head dresses of different colored feathers, horn and ear ornaments and mask decorations, in every Indian variety of style and color. When the day arrives, groups of dancers may be seen wending their way toward the festival scene. In the evening, when all are assembled the "band"

begins a monotonous "Joo, Joo," with a reed whistle and wooden castanets—while the dancers keep time by a perpetual "to-ah! to-ah!" until out of breath, when they cast themselves to hear from the lips of their greatest chief or patriarch, the heroic deeds of their warrior ancestors; after which comes the feast. That being over the dancing is renewed, and generally continued until morning, when they finish the remaining staples and retire to rest under a large tree.

BURNING THE DEAD.—The natives which impels the California Indians to burn their dead, arises from their religious views. They believe in a vast and pleasant camping ground somewhere westward, where Indians live together in perpetual ease and plenty, and which is presided over by a great spirit of un-speakable goodness. They believe also in an evil spirit, who is constantly watching every opportunity to lure them, and who bearing the power to keep them out of heaven, it is their duty, by constant exertions, to thwart. They believe, also that the best is immortal; that while the body is burning the heart leaps out, and if by noise or motion, they can attract the evil spirit's attention, the heart escapes to its haven of rest and is forever safe; but if the body is buried, the evil one keeps continually guard over the grave, and when the heart would escape, it is made prisoner, and is thenceforth employed to annoy their living relatives. When an Indian is known to be dying, his head is tilted gently upon the lap of some relative, and his eyes gently closed, while those who are standing around, breathe in a low monotonous chant the virtues of the dying. The moment his heart has ceased to beat, the sad offices are conveyed to his relatives, and the low chant of thanksgiving commences, and leading upon their cheeks, with streaming eyes, they apostrophize the spirit of the departed. The corpse is now prepared for burning, the knees being forced toward the chin upon the breast, and the limbs and body bound firmly together into the tightest possible compass; it is then wrapped in a blanket and placed upon the back on the ground, with the feet exposed, every sound is hushed, and both men and women sit in silent groups around the corpse for about twenty minutes, when all simultaneously rise—the women to renew their wailing, the men to build the funeral pyre. When this is about two feet in height, every sound again ceases, and a death-like stillness, the men lift the corpse upon the pyre, after which it is covered by covered with additional brushwood. The eldest and dearest relative then advances with a torch and fires the pile. When the first curl of smoke is visible, the deprecating howlings of the women become almost appalling. The men stand in silence and unobtrusive silence, while the sacred ritual, having place in their heads, commence a frantic dance around the burning body, occasionally turning it over that it may consume more speedily, and give the heart a better chance to escape, while, with wailing of cloths and hideous noises, they are attracting the attention of the evil one. Meanwhile the personal property of the deceased is tossed into the fire, his relatives frantically adding their own valuables, even to the man's garments upon their persons, that he may want nothing in the great camping ground. When the whole is consumed, the ashes are scraped together, and a rude wreath of flowers, weeds and brush is placed around them. A portion of the ashes being mixed with water, is poured over the face of the deceased, as a badge of mourning, which is allowed to remain till it wears off, which is generally about six months.

THE
CALIFORNIA
INDIANS.



CATCHING GRASSHOPPERS.



GRINDING ACORNS, &c.



COOKING FOOD.



BURNING THEIR DEAD.

Cabot Cr. N. O. Nov 26th

Dear Cousin

Not having rec^d a letter from
since wrote my last which was near
ago Had begun to think that you could not
I have rec^d my epistle or you would have
have written You will see by this that I
changed my place of Rendezvous from a
hot City to that of a Mountainess I find
as I am standing at this desk and where you
would not know me should I chance to
into your house Wish it were so that could
in this evening and take tea ^{with} you But
is many of a dreary mile between us to
passed before we can converse together

And it is hard for me to set an
time when will come There are so
ups & downs in a California Life One
your prospect is fore another and
is blasted and the only way I find
to keep at work and keep paying out
as fast as can earn the prospect the
for think if keep trying shall strike it
I am at work in a store for
per month and shall probably stay
untill next summer and perhaps
My Partner that was with me has
taken a Wife and is living happily
over there about three weeks since
some 40 miles from here Expect that the