

# CALIFORNIAN.

Vol. I.

MONTEREY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1846.

No. 1.

THE CALIFORNIAN—Is published every Saturday morning  
By COLTON & BEMPLE.

Terms—SUBSCRIPTION, ONE YEAR \$5 00

" " SIX MONTHS 2 50

## PROSPECTUS.

This is the first paper ever published in California, and though issued upon a small sheet, is intended it shall contain matter that will be read with interest. The principles which will govern us in conducting it, can be set forth in a few words.

we shall maintain an entire and utter severance of all political connexion with Mexico. we renounce at once and forever all fealty to her laws, all obedience to her mandates.

we shall advocate an oblivion of all past political offences and allow every man the privilege of entering this new era of events unembarrassed by any part he may have taken in previous revolutions.

We shall maintain freedom of speech and the press, and those great principles of religious toleration, which allow every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

We shall advocate such a system of public instruction as will bring the means of a good practical education to every child in California

We shall urge the immediate establishment of a well organized government and a universal obedience to its laws.

we shall encourage immigration, and take special pains to point out to agricultural immigrants those sections of unoccupied lands, where the fertility of the soil will most amply repay the labors of the husbandman.

we shall encourage domestic manufactures and the mechanic arts as sources of private wealth, individual comfort and indispensable to the public prosperity.

we shall urge the organization of interior defences sufficient to protect the property of citizens from the depredations of the wild indians.

we shall advocate a territorial relation of California to the United States, til the number of her inhabitants is such that she can be admitted a member of that glorious confederacy.

we shall support the present measures of the commander in chief of the American squadron on our coast, so far as they conduce to the public tranquility, the organization of a free representative government and our alliance with the United States.

we shall advocate the lowest rate of duties on foreign imports, and favor an exemption of the necessaries of life, even from these duties.

We shall go for California—for all her interests, social, civil and religious—encouraging every thing that promotes these, resisting every thing that can do them harm.

This press shall be free and independent; unawed by power and untrammelled by party. The use of its columns shall be denied to none, who have suggestions to make, promotive of the public weal.

we shall lay before our readers the freshest domestic intelligence and the earliest foreign news.

we commence our publication upon a very small sheet, but its dimensions shall be enlarged as soon as the requisite materials can be obtained.

*Indian Excursion.* Captain Fauntleroy, of Company A, California Dragoons, stationed at San Juan, being informed of some depredation having been committed by some wild Indians, left his quarters with a detachment of 20 men, and at night of the second day out, fell in with the party in the Santa Cruz mountains, above Santa Clara. But with all the Captain's precautions, the Indians discovered him before he could get near enough to secure them, they left their horses and secured their retreat in a thicket of brushwood, where it was impracticable to follow them, without imminent risk, and little prospect of getting the Indians, he however, captured about 100 horses, and probably killed one Indian; returned to Santa Clara, and next morning delivered the property to its proper owners, and returned to San Juan. Capt. F. deserves great credit for the promptness with which he acted in securing the property of the citizens, who are highly gratified. His conduct, will go far to gain the confidence and respect of the Californians.

We understand that Capt. Fauntleroy was to leave his quarters at San Juan, yesterday evening, for another Indian excursion to the mountains.

that is proceeding to the shores of the Pacific. The population at present consists of about four thousand Indians; one thousand Spaniards; and five hundred Americans. But

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The population of California is estimated at about 10,000, exclusive of Indians, and probably less than two thousand of that number are foreigners, most of these originally from the United States. The latter was rapidly increasing by immigration, while the natives were, if increasing at all, but slowly. The fact became evident, to a few men, that, under the present state of things, this tide of foreigners, would soon fill up the country, and probably change the very nature of their institutions, they were preparing to prevent it, but before entering upon a history of the measures adopted, we shall premise a few facts in relation to the actors on the part of the Californians.

Lieut. McLane, of the 1st Dragoons, was in town yesterday. The company has just returned from another indian excursion to the mountains. The Indians are beginning to find who has the country, they have divided into small parties, which renders it next to impossible for a company to find them. The only effectual means of stopping their inroads upon the property of the country, will be to attack them in their villages, in the California Mountains. We are in hopes, that, at least a division of that company will be sent down the Toolary valley, and to cross the mountains at the Bear River pass, to meet the emigration on the 10th of September, at Trucky's lake. Should such a division be sent, under command of Mr. McLane, his suavity of manner and gentlemanly deportment, with the knowledge he will have acquired of the country, will be of great service to the emigrants, and to the country.

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9-5-1846

## A PROCLAMATION

*To all persons and citizens of the District of Sonoma, requesting them to remain at peace, and follow their rightful occupations without fear of molestation.*

The Commander-in-Chief of the Troops assembled at the Fortress of Sonoma, gives his inviolable pledge to all persons in California, not found under arms, that they shall not be disturbed in their persons, their property, or social relations, one with another, by men under his command.

He also solemnly declares his object to be, first to defend himself and companions in arms, vvhov were invited to this country by a promise of lands on which to settle themselves and families; who were also promised a Republican Government, vvhon having arrived in California vvere denied the privilege of buying or renting lands of their friends, who instead of being allowed to participate in, or being protected by a republican government; vvere oppressed by a military despotism; vvhov were even threatened by proclamation, by the chief officers of the aforesaid despotism, vwith extermination if they should not depart out of the country, leaving all their property, arms, and beasts of burthen, and thus deprived of the means of flight or defence, vve vvere to be driven through deserts inhabited by hostile Indians, to certain destruction.

The California Battalion of mounted Riflemen will be kept in the service of the Territory, and constantly on duty to prevent and punish any aggressions by the Indians or any other persons upon the property of individuals, or the peace of the Territory; and California shall hereafter be so governed and defended as to give security to the inhabitants, and to defy the power of Mexico.

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## THE WALLAWALLA INDIANS.

The following narration of the circumstances connected with the death of the young Chief, Elijah, of the wallawallas, is from the pen of Mr. White, Indian Agent, and is found in a copy of an official communication to the Secretary of War, of the U. S. Government:

The most painful circumstance that has occurred lately, transpired just fall at California. The Keyuse wallawallas and some of the chiefs of the Spokans, entered upon the hazardous, but grand and important enterprise, of going directly through the Indian country to California, with a view of exchanging their Beaver, Deer and Elk skins, together with their surplus horses, for meat stock. As they had to pass through an extensive country, inhabited by the savage and warlike Clamats and Chestes, where Smith, Turner, and so many other white parties had been defeated, we are at a loss to conclude whether their valor is more to be commended than their rashness of their stupendous enterprise to be censured.

They were well mounted and equipped, the chiefs clad in English costume, and the residue attired in dressed skins, moulded to their several tastes. The journey of seven or eight hundred miles, after some fighting, watching and much fatigue, was accomplished, and their numbers not lessened. Taking their own statement, their reception was cordial, and the impression which seems to have been made upon the minds of the whites, by these distant and half civilized people, upon an errand so commendable was most favorable. The treating and salutations being over, the trade commenced in good faith and to mutual satisfaction, all moved on well, till on an excursion to procure Elk and Deer skins, they met a marauding band of mountain freebooters, fought and being victorious, took a prize of twenty horses, all previously stolen or plundered from the whites. On returning to the settlement, the spaniards laid claim to the animals. The chiefs remonstrated, said agreeable to their customs the animals were theirs—the spaniards explained their laws and showed the animals not to be vented, (is not bearing a transfer mark,) and told the Indians they must give them to the rightful owners, as all Americans and others did.

The Indians seemed grieved and rather incensed, said in their country six nations were on terms of amity, and in case any one of these nations stole a horse, the tribe was responsible for the safe delivery of that animal to the rightful owner, but in case the blackfeet or any other formidable enemy, steal or capture, the property is supposed lost without redemption; and as we have captured these horses, at the hazard of our lives, from your long openly declared enemies, we think they ought, in justice, to be ours. They condescended to offer ten cows for the redemption of the horses, the chief not replying five more were added, he still remaining mood and without replying, the negotiation unhappily broke off. A day or two after, an American seeing his mule among the number captured, said it was his mule, and have it he would. "Will you," said a young chief, by the name of Elijah, heading and stepping into the lodge, immediately loaded his rifle, came out and observed very significantly, "go now and take your mule." The American much alarmed remarked, "I hope you are not going to kill me." "No I am going to shoot that eagle just perched upon a neighboring oak." Not liking the appearance the

man left without attempting to obtain his mule. A day or two after, the Indians left their encampment and walked down to Capt. Sutter's Fort, to Church, and from the best information we have received, all being ex-parte, the following appears to be nearly the facts:—After service Elijah was invited into an another apartment talking with a brave and sensible chief of the age of five and forty, and while there in an unarmed and defenceless condition, they commenced menacing him for things alleged against the river Indians of this upper country, in which these had no participation; called them thieves, dogs, &c. This American then observed, "yesterday you was going to kill me, now you must die," drawing a pistol; Elijah who had been some five or six years at the Methodist Mission and had learned to read, write and speak the English respectably, said deliberately, "let me pray a little first," and kneeling down at once, commenced, and while invoking the divine mercy was shot through the heart or vitals dead upon the spot.

Every measure was then taken, as the Indians say, to cut them all off. The cannon and other fire arms were brought out and they were hotly pursued, and interrupted at the ferries, and every measure taken to prevent their escape, but at length they all arrived safely after manifest suffering, leaving all the herds they had purchased and paid for, in California. Taking for truth an Indian report, this horrible affair creates considerable excitement, and there is danger of its disturbing the friendly relation that has heretofore existed between us here, and all those formidable tribes in region of wallawalla and Snake River. They had no sooner arrived than Ellis the high chief of the Nezperces, was deputed to come down and learn our opinion regarding the affair. They could not have sent a better agent, the whites all giving him a handsome and cordial reception, from wallawalla he accompanied Mr. Grant, chief trader at Fort Hall, down to Vancouver. He called on Governor McLaughlin, whose great experience and address was serviceable. He spoke touchingly of the violent death of his own son upon the northwest coast and left the impression that he could not help sympathizing with the father and friends of the deceased young chief. Mr. Douglas too an early friend, patron, and favorite of Ellis aided much in convincing him that all the good and virtuous could not avoid the most painful regrets of so melancholy a circumstance which must have occurred by reason of the difference in their customs, imperfectly understanding each other, or as he would charitably hope, from some excusable circumstance. Under the influence of this salutary language and interview, Ellis arrived at my house in Willamette about the first of March. Having a short time before got a hasty communication, written in excitement, from Dr. Whitman, who was under serious apprehensions that it might be revenged on some of the whites of the upper country; he assured that I was most happy to see this, my most faithful friend and interpreter. Learning from Dr. Whitman, who resides in their midst, how much they were all excited by reason of the violent and treacherous death of this educated and accomplished young chief, and perhaps more especially the loss they had sustained, and then after suffering so many hardships and encountering so many dangers, losing the whole, I apprehend there might be much difficulty in settling it, particularly as they lay much stress upon the restless disaffected emigrants late from Willamette loading them with the vile epithets of dogs, thieves, &c. From which they believed or affected to, that all their loss and disasters was occasioned by these slanderous reports, therefore held us responsible.

He assured me that the Keyuse, Wallawallas, Spokans

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Tan d'Ocilles, Flatheads, Nezperces and Snakes, were all on terms of amity, and that a portion of the aggrieved party were for raising about two thousand warriors of these formidable tribes and march to California at once, and nobly revenge themselves on the inhabitants and then by plunder enrich themselves on the spoils. Others not indisposed to the enterprize wished first to know how it would be regarded, where and whether we would be neutral in the affair. A 3rd party were for holding us responsible as Elijah had been killed by an American, and the Americans incensed the Spaniards.

Sir, how this affair will end is difficult to conjecture; the general impression is, it will lead to most disastrous consequences to the Californians, to themselves or to the settlement of the Willamette Valley. My principle fear is, that it will result in so much jealousy, prejudice and disaffection as to divert their minds from the pursuit of agriculture, knowledge, and the means of civilization which they have for such a length of time been so laudably engaged in obtaining. Should this be the case with these numerous brave and formidable tribes the results to them and to us would be indeed calamitous.

To prevent such a result, I wrote through Ellis a long and rather sympathizing letter to the chiefs of these tribes assuring them that I should at once write to the Governor of California, to Capt. Sutter and the President of the U. S. respecting this matter, and with a view to divert attention, and promote good feeling, I invited the chief to come down this fall, in company with Dr. Whitman and Mr. Spaulding, to confer with me on this subject. I likewise wrote them that on condition they would defer going to California until the spring of '47, and assist me in getting a manual labour literary institution started, for the English education of their sons and daughters, a subject they feel the deepest interest in. I would, of my own private funds, give, to be equally distributed among them, five hundred dollars, to assist them in buying young cows in California, and in the mean time do every thing in my power to get the unhappy affair adjusted.

I likewise proffered, (as they are so onger for it,) to start the English school next fall, by giving them the services of Mr. Lee, my interpreter, for 4 months, commencing on the first of November next. Ellis more than properly appreciated my motives and proffers, said he was of the full belief the chiefs would accede to my every proposition. Spoke of the importance of the English school, and of the strong and general desire to obtain it. He left in high hopes of a continuation of peace and onward prosperity to his people.

E. WHITE, U. S. Sub-Indian Agent.

New Helvetia, 21st July, 1845.

Thomas O. Larkin, Esq., U. S. Consul.

DEAR SIR:—I received a letter of the U. S. Sub-Indian Agent, Dr. E. White, from the Oregon Territory, from the same gentleman you will receive letters concerning the wallawalla affair, likewise he wrote to the Government of California about the same, Dr. VWhite writes me that he reported this affair to the Secretary of VVar.

It is not unknown to you what happened here; but now I will give you every particulars—when these people arrived here, consisting of the VVallawalla Chief, Piopiopio, and his son Elijah, educated by the Methodists on the VVillamette, the young chief of the Keyuses, Capcapelic, the Nezperces chief, Latazi, another chief, with some people of the three different tribes, amounting to about 36 men, with their women and children. As I was formerly acquainted with their dignitaries, when I passed through the Oregon to Fort Vancouver, I received these people well and with great hospitality, gave them good advice, how to behave themselves in this country, and gave them in my official capacity, passports, and permission to hunt within the limits of my jurisdiction, and no further, knowing very well that they would have plenty of difficulties if they would go in the settlements. Elijah the pupil of the Methodists behaved very saucy and haughty & more independent than the chiefs, in the first place he killed a young man of his own people, when encamped close by the fort, whose body was ate up by

the hogs, which was the discoverers. On the road from here to the San Joaquin he would have killed another of his people, if Mr James VWilliams had not taken avay his rifle, in the moment he wanted to kill him, this boy was the terror of the old chiefs, he had the whole rule over them, and no doubt he would have become a great tyrant among his people. When I returned from Monterey la t winter, they were again encamped close by the fort, a good deal of complaint came in by the people here, Mr Grove Cook was among them, he claimed a mule which they got from the horse-thiefs or the wild horses, Mr. Cook could prove that the mule was his property and they would not give her up to him, Elijah told him to go and take the mule when he is brave enough, taking his rifle, and after a few words levelled the rifle on Cook. VWhen I called them to me to tell them in my official capacity, to come here with all their horses in my corral, to part all the horses which do not belong to them out, and that they are entitled to some recompense for their trouble of getting these horses from the horse-thiefs or from the wild horses; but they refused to give them up, saying that the rule among them was, to keep everything they can get in this way.

VWhen I was explaining to them that after the laws of the country, they would have to give up all the horses which did not belong to them, and that I would compel them to give them up. Then I was interrupted, and called by Dr. Pedro Kostromitnoff, the Russian Agent, who was on a visit here, I was about a half an hour with this gentleman, when we heard a shot, we went to see, and there was Elijah shot dead by Mr. Cook, in my house, and in my office, in presence of about 15 foreigners, and the chiefs of these Indians, which fled immediately, and did no more see one of them. Elijah called Cook a liar, after or in a quarrel which they had together. It was very disagreeable for me that this happened in my house. I thought the chiefs would come here and deliver the horses, but they moved camp and travelled fast the vvhole night. The next morning by day-break, I sent 30 armed men after them, to compel them to give up the horses; but they could not overtake them, and lost their tracks. They were encamped several

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days near Mr. Lasser's farm, about 100 miles from here, above in the valley, they did not molest him at all, and they told him nothing vvhhat had happened here. I thought all the time that some of them vvhould return here to see me, but they did not. Nearly all of them have a fevv head of cattle to receive from me, for Leather Pantaloons, Buffalo Robes, Rifles, and some curiosities, etc., for this they have all orders to receive their cattle at any time, on my farm, at Feather River. Doctor VWhite speaks of their property vvhich they fled and left here, to give him an account of it, that is all what they left, and the best would be to sell their orders to people of the VVillamette, vvhho intends to come here to buy cattle, by presenting these orders the cattle vvhll be delivered at any time.

Doctor VWhite states also, that they are very vvhilling to give up the horses vvhich don't belong to them, or as many and as good ones, on condition that their property be returned, and the murderer be delivered up either to him, or to the Indians. They call the name of (Cook,) Knight.

Dr. VWhite says that Elljah, (the pupil of the Missionary) vvas by no means viciously inclined, but vve believe here all, that Elljah vvas a great rascal. I have the honor to remain, vvvith entire respect, your most obedient servant.

JOHN A. SUTTER.

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The narrative of the circumstances connected with the death of the young chief of the VVallawalla tribe, inserted on our first and fourth pages, will be read with profound interest at this time. It discloses a scene at which humanity shudders, such acts of cool deliberate guilt cannot escape retribution. No nation can pursue its path to prosperity and peace through crime. There should be no departure here, from that spirit of forbearance which has characterized the policy of the United States towards her indian tribes. Any such departure will be visited with the rebukes of the whole American people. VVe entirely mistake the principles of the present Governor General of California if he will sanction any act of wanton cruelty, by any officer or private under his command. VVe know he will not.

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9-26-1846

**WALLAWALLA INVASION.**—No certain accounts as yet, (Sept. 16, P. M.) as to the force of the Wallawalla Indians, in the Sacramento Valley. All the available forces have moved up the Valley to support and strengthen Fort Helvetia. No act of hostility has as yet been committed by them.

## **RETURN OF THE EXPEDITION UNDER CHARGE OF PURSER JAMES H. WATMOUGH, FROM THE CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS.**

This company of 40 men, reached San José on the 14th, after a fatiguing campaign of two weeks, into the Indian country, they have recaptured over 100 horses, and killed and wounded several Indians, in the various skirmishes at the Indian camps. Mr. Watmough led his men many leagues beyond the point of any previous campaign.

# CALIFORNIAN.

10-10-1846

**THE DISTURBANCE.**—We have no further intelligence from the Pueblo below except what reaches us in the shape of rumor, and that is that the insurgents were entirely after plunder, that no man of substance was among them, but on the contrary guarded his property from their lawless violence, with the utmost care. The foreigners it is stated are the greatest sufferers, but to what extent is not known.

The forces of the Savannah are there by this time, and Commodore Stockton must be very near there in the Congress. We do not credit the report that Mr. Howard's vessel has been taken, she could have slipped her cables if necessary and gone to sea. We presume the whole affair has been very much exaggerated, but not quite so much as the bloody rumor about the Wallawalla Indians, who have since dwindled down to forty, on a peaceful trading expedition!

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**HORSE STEALING.**—The Indians crept upon Carmel last Tuesday night, and stole some fifteen or twenty horses, most of them belonging to Mr. Tooms of this place. The intelligence of the loss was known here on Thursday afternoon, and the following gentlemen started immediately in pursuit:—Messrs. Toomes, Thoms, Dye, Shellinberger, Wigman and Capt. J. de la Torre.

Lieut. Maddox, commanding the military forces here, furnished them very properly, on the emergency of the occasion, with the United States horses. They all went well armed, and took a rout by which they expect to be able to overtake the Indians before they reach the Toolaries. When the military posts, which Commodore Stockton contemplates shall have been established, the Indian depredations will be in a great measure prevented.



# CALIFORNIAN.

10-24-1846

Excerpt from Commodore Stockton's reply  
to Colonel Russell's address made to him on  
landing at Yerba Buena on the morning of  
the 5th of October 1846

The Magistracy was restored, and the civil Government was again in operation—all was quiet and peaceful. We returned to our ship, and to Monterey, leaving in the city, Captain Gillespie, with a small force of about fifty men, to aid the Civil Magistrates, if necessary, in the performance of their duties; on our arrival at Monterey a courier brought intelligence that Sutter's Fort on the Sacramento, was threatened by one thousand Wallawalla Indians; we immediately with the Frigates Savannah and Congress came to your aid.

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11-7-1846

**THE INDIANS.**—Capt. Montgomery the Commandant of the northern department, issued some time since a Proclamation to the inhabitants of his department, in reference to the Indians. The following is a copy:—

“It having come to the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief of this District, that persons have been and still are impressing and holding to service, Indians against their will, without any legal contract, and without a due regard to their rights as freemen, where not under legal contract for service. It is hereby ordered that all persons so holding or detaining Indians, shall release them, and permit them to return to their own homes, unless they can make a legal contract with them, which shall be acknowledged before the nearest Justice of the Peace, and which contract shall be duly kept by both parties.

The Indian population must not be looked upon in the light of slaves, but it is deemed necessary that Indians within the settlements, shall have employment with the right of choosing their own master or employer, and having made such choice, they must abide by it, unless they can obtain permission in writing to leave, or the Justice, on their complaint, shall consider they have just cause to annul the contract, and permit them to obtain another employer.

All Indians must be required to obtain employment and not permitted to wander about in an idle and dissolute manner, if found so doing, they will be liable to arrest and punishment, by labor on the public works, at the discretion of the Magistrate

All officers, civil or military, under my command, are required to execute this order, and take notice of every violation thereof;

JNO. B. MONTGOMERY,  
Commandant of the Northern Department of California.

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11-7-1846

*Missions.*—The missions contained in the territory are 21, they were built at different epochs, that of San Diego being the first was built in 1769, its distance from the presidio of the same name is two leagues, the rest were built successively, according to circumstances, and necessity, the last one was founded in the year 1822, under the name of San Francisco Solan, and is the most northern of all.

The edifices in some of those missions, are more extensive than in others, but in form they are all nearly equal, they are all fabricated of mud bricks, and the divisions are according to necessity, in all of them may be found commodious habitations for the Ministers, store houses to keep their goods in, proportional granaries, offices for soap makers, weavers, blacksmiths, and large parterres, and horse and cattle pens, independent apartments for indian youths of each sex, and all such offices as were necessary at the time of its institution, contiguous to and communicating with the former is a church forming a part of the edifice of each mission, they are all very proportionable, and are adorned with profusion.

The conjunction of indians reside about 200 yards distant from the above mentioned edifice, this place is called the rancheria, those in most of the missions are made up of very reduced quarters, built with mud bricks, forming sts., while in others the indians have been allowed to follow their primitive customs, their dwellings being a sort of huts, in a conical shape, which at the most, do not exceed 4 yards in diameter, and the top of the cone may be elevated 2 yards, they are built of rough sticks, covered with bulrushes, or grass, in such a manner as to completely protect the inhabitants from all the inclemencies of the weather, in my opinion these rancheries are the most adequate to the natural uncleanliness of the indians, as the families often renew them, burning the old ones and immediately building others with the greatest facility. Opposite to the rancherias and near to the mission is to be found a small garrison, with proportionate rooms, for a corporal and five soldiers, with their families. This small garrison is quite sufficient to prevent any attempt of the indians from taking effect, there having been some examples made, which causes the indians to respect this small force, one of these piquets in a mission has a double object, besides keeping the indians in subjection, they run post with a monthly correspondence, or with any extraordinaries that may be necessary for Government.

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11-7-1846

**ROBBERY.**—On Friday evening, the 30th ult., between 8 and 9 o'clock, a store, belonging to D Antonio Mendez, was broken open, and property stolen to the amount of eighty-three dollars and fifty cents.

On Monday, 2d inst. an Indian, named Juan José went to the house of Mr. Job F. Dye and offered for sale a small case bottle, for one dollar, the bottle was immediately recognized by Mr. Dye's shopkeeper, who refused to pay the Indian for it, on this, the Indian, perceiving he was suspected of the robbery, started, but did not get above four or five hundred yards, before he was taken by James Hayes.

On being brought to the Magistrate's Office, before Judge Colton, he confessed the fact of having robbed the store of D Antonio Mendez, in company with another Indian named Juan, and that he still had a part of the stolen property hid away, his companion Juan being brought before the court denied all knowledge of the robbery, but amongst the articles which they had hidden was found a bayonet which was immediately recognized by three persons as the identical bayonet which the Indian Juan had found two or three days previous to the robbery, while he was cleaning out a well. This and other circumstances afforded sufficient evidence for his conviction, and the Indians, Juan José, and Juan were sentenced each to one year's imprisonment, and hard labor on the public works.

Part of the property stolen was restored to its owner which amounted to about one third of the amount stolen.

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# CALIFORNIAN.

11-14-1846

The following is a translation of a description of California written about the year 1822 by a gentleman well acquainted with the territory and its situation as it then stood.

## DESCRIPTION OF UPPER CALIFORNIA.

[continued.]

The direction of the fathers, without any other person interfering in any way whatever, so that if any one mission has the good fortune to be superintended by an industrious and capacious padre, the indians disfrute in abundance, all the real necessaries of life, at the same time the nakedness, and misery of any one mission, is a palpable proof of the inactivity of its director. The missions extend their possession from one extremity of the Territory to the other, and have made the limits of one mission from those of another, though they do not require all this land for their agriculture, and the maintenance of their stock, they have appropriated the whole; always strongly opposing any individual who may wish to settle himself or his family on any piece of land between them, but it is to be hoped that the new system of civilization, and the necessity augmenting private property, the people of reason, will cause the Government to take such adequate measures as will conciliate the interests of all. Amongst all the missions there are from 21 to 22 thousand catholic indians, but each mission has not an equal or a proportionate part in its congregation, some have 3 or 4 thousand, whilst others have scarcely 400, and as this difference may be computed the riches of the missions in proportion, besides the number of Indians already spoken of, each mission has a considerable number of gentiles, who live chiefly on farms, annexed to the missions, the number of these is undetermined.

The Indians are naturally filthy and careless and their understanding is very limited; in the small arts they are not deficient in ideas of imitations, but they never will be inventors their true character is that of being revengeful, and timid, consequently are very much adapted to treachery; they have no knowledge of benefits received, and ingratitude, is common amongst them, the education they receive in their infancy, is not the proper one to develop their reason, and if it were, I do not believe them capable of any good impression. See note 1st. All these Indians, whether from the continual use of the sweat house, or from their filthiness, or the little ventilation in their habitation, are weak, and unvigorous; spasms and rheumatics, to which they are so much subject, is the consequence of their customs, but what most injures them, and prevents propagation, is the venereal disease which most of them have very strongly; clearly proving that their humors are analagous to receiving the impressions of this contagion; from this reason may be deduced, the enormous differences between the births and deaths, which without doubt, is one tenth per year, in favor of the latter; but the Missionaries do all in their power to prevent this, with respect to the catechumens situated near them.

# CALIFORNIAN.

12-5-1846

The quantity of hides gathered yearly is about 30 or 40 thousand, and the arrobas of tallow with very little difference will be about the same, averaging the price of each article at two dollars, we shall see that the intrinsic value in annual circulation in California is \$140,000. This sum divided between 21 Missions, will give each one \$6,666. supposing the only production of the country converted into money with what would the Indians be clothed, and by what means would they be able to cover a thousand other necessaries? Money is useful in amplyfying speculations, but in California, as yet, there are no speculations, and its productions are barely sufficient for the absolute necessary consumption. The same comparison may be made with respect to private individuals, who are able to gather a few hides and a few arrobas of tallow, these being in small quantities, the average barter is very insignificant. Now if this is the only vendible branch, which in itself is scarcely sufficient to supply the actual necessities of the inhabitants, and an obstacle put across it, what would be the result?— It appears to me the consequence would be very palpable, and I think it almost useless to name them.