

# THREE DAYS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

## INTELLIGENCE BY THE OVERLAND MAIL.

### INTERESTING WAY NEWS.

#### Cold Weather—Trouble with the Camanches—The Gila Gold Mines, &c.

St. Louis, Friday, Jan. 7.

The overland mail, with San Francisco dates of the 13th ult. arrived last night.

The news is unimportant.

Governor WELLER had offered a reward of \$1,000 for the conviction of any parties in the late mobbing of Los Angeles and Columbia.

A man named WARD had caught A. R. MELONY, the State Comptroller, in bed with his wife. Subsequently WARD shot at his wife, and thinking he had killed her, shot himself, inflicting a dangerous wound. MELONY is 50 years old, married, and has a large family of growing up children. The Press demand his resignation.

Dr. O'Dowd had committed suicide in consequence of having, by administering an overdose of opium, produced the death of a young man named BRADLEY.

The French sloop-of-war *Eurydice*, from the Sandwich Islands Nov. 20, had arrived at San Francisco. She brought no news of importance.

The weather at San Francisco had been colder than was ever before known. Business was quiet.

Arrived at San Francisco, bark *David Godfrey*, from New-York; ship *Black Hawk*, from Liverpool.

The passengers by the mail train report Mr. PARDEE sick at El Paso, but the President's Message was being expressed at the rate of two hundred miles per day.

About fifty persons were met returning from the Gila River mines, discouraged, in consequence of the scarcity of water there. Vessels with provisions for the miners and traders had left San Francisco for Fort Yuma.

Three companies of dragoons had gone from Los Angeles to establish a post in the Navajo country, three hundred miles above Fort Yuma on the Colorado.

The Camanches continued to rob the stations whenever opportunity occurred, and they and the employes of the Mail Company are virtually at war. The latter are building strong station-houses, which are provided with ten to twenty guns each.

The Stockton and Kansas City Mail party had been turned back by the Navajo Indians, with threats of massacre if they attempt to cross their country again.

From the *St. Louis Republican*, Jan. 5.

The Southern Overland Mail of San Francisco, dated 10th December, and four days later than the previous mail and the steamer *rites*, delivered at New-Orleans *via* Tehuantepec, and at New-York *via* Panama, reached this city at the customary hour last evening.

The time out is twenty-five days, and but for an accident to the coach between Springfield and Tipton, and a delay from a similar cause at a point further West on the route, the time of travel would have been shortened to less than twenty-four. Between the stations above, the roads are very heavy and deep in mud, but beyond Springfield and along the entire line to San Francisco they, as well as the stock of the company, are in excellent condition.

The weather was severely cold at El Paso, for a latitude so far south, and there had been several snow storms just previous to the passage of the coach through that place, but they served to obstruct travel very little. The heavy snow at Apache Pass and its vicinity, which we described a week or two back, had entirely disappeared, leaving no obstruction whatever along that portion of the route.

The passengers by this arrival, who came through to St. Louis, are Messrs. D. C. Woods and M. D. C. MILLER of San Francisco, and CHARLES L. SHERMAN of El Paso. Mr. CLARK, a special agent of the Post-Office Department, who had been on a tour of inspection to Independence, Santa Fé and El Paso, was a passenger from the last named place to Fort Smith, from whence he was to proceed to Washington City by way of Memphis.

Mr. Woods, from whom the introductory part of our statement is derived, furnishes us with some highly interesting information regarding the state of the gold mines of Arizona, and the warlike feeling of the Camanche Indians towards the whites. Our informant states that they have already declared war, and cites one or two incidents of recent occurrence that evince a hostile disposition on their part. The effect of the severe chastisement they sustained at the hands of Major VAN DONN and his command of United States troops and a detachment of friendly Indians under Chief Ross, early in October last, seems to have been lost upon the Camanches, and will have to be repeated before they are reduced to thorough subjection.

A few days before the present mail passed, a number of these Indians attacked a watering party in the employment of the Overland Company at Mustang Pond, a location twenty-two miles east of the middle station on the Llano Estacado. Many arrows were shot at the party, fortunately without wounding them, and when they replied with their guns, the Indians took to flight. The water-men made captive of a mule belonging to the savages, and picked up several discharged arrows, which they took with them to the nearest station.

Another incident observed by the passengers, occurred near the place where the Indians had assaulted a *cavallada* of the company, a short time before, and run off with thirty-two mules. At the eastern ford of the Concha River, the stage passed at night between two camp-fires of the Comanches. Some hours before reaching the ford there had been a heavy rain-storm, quite sufficient to have extinguished the fires, but as the stage came up they were burning freshly, and logs of wood had evidently just been added to them, indicating that the Indians, on hearing the sound of wheels and voices approaching, had retired to conceal themselves in the bushes along either side of the road. The passengers having been informed of the unfriendly disposition of the Indians, were in momentary expectation of an attack while crossing the stream, but were allowed to pass without molestation, the former not rising from their ambush. The mail party being pretty numerous and well armed, preserved a determined bearing. It was this course, perhaps, that deterred the Indians from sending a volley of arrows at the coach and its attendants and inmates. Captain SKILLMAN, of El Paso; Mr. RAMSTEIN, living in the Piney, and Mr. BRADFORD DALY, of Apache Cañon, all of whom know the Camanches well, are of opinion that they will soon attack some one of the overland stages, and whenever they can arrange an ambush by which an assault can be made with sufficient security. The four companies of the second United States Cavalry that were ordered to Fort Belknap, Fort Washita, and other posts in that country, abandoned by the transfer of their garrisons to the Utah line of operations, were at Fort Smith when the mail came through, and were to leave for the West on the day following. The early presence of the troops, however, will check the Camanches and terrify them into a course of good behavior before they can do any serious mischief.

The Apaches were peaceable, and had gone into Winter quarters at Apache Cañon, where they were encamped to the number of three or four hundred. They say they don't intend to fight white men. Antelope and deer, upon which this tribe subsists, are very abundant in the region they frequent; but it lies to the south of the buffalo range. The chief, MANOUS COLORADO, with a hundred select rascals of his race, was still absent on his Sonora expedition. The tribe had not heard what progress had been made in robbing and murdering Mexicans.

Major BEN. McCULLOCH, sent out on a Government mission to this part of Guayamas, in Sonora, had arrived at El Paso by the last out-bound mail. He had declined to satisfy those who were curious to learn the object of his mission. Ex-Sheriff JONES, of Kansas, was proceeding safely on his way, accompanied by his family. The destination of Mr. JONES is Paso Del Norte, where he will relieve CALED SHERMAN, the present United States Collector of that place.

Col. TRUE, of Kansas and Nicaragua memory, had gone from Tucson to Paton's Silver Mine.

From the Gila River Mines the news is of favorable character. Some of the miners, discouraged by lack of water for mining operations, had gone away, but they had been more than replaced by arrivals from the San Joaquin Valley. Four or five hundred men were at work, making an average of five to fifteen dollars per day. Owing to the difficulty of getting water (they have to carry the dirt in sacks a distance of a mile to a mile and a half,) they washed no dirt that yielded less than twenty-five cents per pan. In prospecting a range of country extending along both banks of the Gila for fifty or sixty miles, and three to five miles wide, had been examined. Gold was found to exist throughout this whole range. Quartz was abundant, but no quartz mines had been opened. Two or three agents of San Francisco Mining Companies were examining the country to ascertain if machinery for crushing quartz could be introduced with profit. Mr. Woods exhibited to us a pair of sleeve buttons of elegant workmanship made by Mexican jewelers in El Paso from Gila gold. All their work is said to display a rare degree of skill. The miners were rapidly building up a town of shanties called Birchville, in honor of a Mr. BRACH who first discovered the deposits along the Gila River.

The mail from San Antonio, Texas, had arrived at El Paso 24 hours ahead of contract time.

Mr. PARDEE, the Express Agent in charge of the President's Message and reports of the Cabinet Secretaries, was at San Pedro River, only eleven days out from St. Louis. The distance to be traversed before reaching San Francisco was a little over 800 miles, and the road good. It was thought he would complete the trip in seventeen days. Between El Paso (which was reached in nine days) and Mesilla, fifty-seven miles distant, he was occupied but five hours.

The weather had been unusually cold all through the country.