DOCURIENT INFORMATION(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SURVEYOR)
LYON, JAMES D
$49 \angle Y O \Phi 1$
EMIGRANT'S NAME
DOCUMENT ID NO.

SURVEYOR INFORYATION(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SURVEYOR)

## MARK JO SPRAGUE

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## Notes about format of document:

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Emigrant's occupation: $\qquad$ Origin: MI With family? $(\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N}) \quad \mathrm{N} \quad$ No. in family: __
Age: $\qquad$
MF: $\qquad$
$\qquad$

Departed from (code): $\qquad$ Arrived at (code): $\qquad$ (use form mm/dd/yy)

Party: $\qquad$
Mode of travel: W (one code only: W-wagons; P-packing: L-passenger lines; H - handcart; X - other)
Number of wagons at departure:
Number of people at departure: $\qquad$ 93 men women children
Draft animals of departure: oxen mules $\qquad$ horses other (use $X$ or a number)
Other animals: $\qquad$ (H - horses; C - cattle; S - sheep; P - pigs; F - fowl; D - dogs; X - other)

Guidebook used by emigrant (enter either a title, or an author and title, if given):

Routes: 1B IE IE MM IO_____ (use codes from the trail maps)
$\qquad$

COED - Census of Overland Emigrant Documents PAGE 3: Survey of Names (page_ 1 of 1 )

Document ID: (49 K \% ه ) MJS 46





LETTERS OF JAMES D. LYON

Appearing in
The Daily Advertiser
Detroit, Michigan

September 10, 1849, and February 22, 1850

Copies Provided by
The University of Michigan
Burton Historical Collection

DAILY ADVERTISER,<br>DETROIT.<br>official parer of the city.<br>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1849.

(iF We aro indobted to an esteemed friend for the privilege of publiching the following lettor from a California emigrant from this county:

Tea Maxe Daft of Font Larazie, July 4th, 1849. Dear Sir: In truth, I can eay that peace, prosperity, health, and happiness, are present with ua, and sensibly felt by us all, on this, the 73d anniversary of the birth of our country's liberts-a day too sacred with Wolverines to be desecrated by travolling. We have a good camping place, and have had one of the best celebrations that I ever took any part in. By placing our wagous in two lines, 12 feet apart, and strotching the covers from one to the other, it formed a nice shade, under which many a true heart beat quick with the pulastions of true patriotism. The company was formed in a procession by the Caplain, and marched a few rods frem the caral, under our national Alag. where we listened to a prayer, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and then to au able and appropriate oration from our worthy friend, W. T. Eexton, delivered in his usually cioquent mannor. We then retired to our hotel, formed of our wagons, where we partook of a very nice dinner-I say a nice dinner, and it was decidedly so. We had pies, cakes, puddings, meats, coffee, and several kinds of sauce, all well cooktd, although done by rude man. After partaking of this rich repast, we spent an hour in drinking toasts, many of which were very appropriate and interesung. The most perfect union and good foeling existed during the whole performance. Never did I see any number of men who enjoyed themsolves bettor. Every heart seemed filled to overflowing with the true spirit of patriotism. This was to me a novel sight-nine-ty-limeo men on their way to the peaceful shores of the Western Ocean, halting on this vast prairie to commemorate the Sabbath of our liberties, and doing it in such perfect order, and with such a show of civilization, in a savage country.

Whilo 1 am writing this evening, the boys are having a cotilion party on the sod, the oveniig being very pleasant. When thoy got 'ired, they fill the air wilh their aweet roices, in singing some favorito cong. Taking it all in all, I hardly think that ninety-hiree men ever had so much pure enjoynient in the same time. You may think this almost impossible; but they were as happy as men could be conveniontls.

Wo are atill making an average of 20 miles por day, and our oxen are in good condition, except a fow tender feet, which we dress in moccanius made of bufiato hide. We frequently meet diaheartened emigrants, ovep at this point, who cay licy havo cortainly found the "Flephant," and aro returaing; but we have hoard this no many times, that wo begio to discredfit them outiroly. Our course is ast "oanard and upward," evor hoping that wo mar coon commence descending toward the goldon valles.

Mr. P., allow me to describo, in an imperfect maunor, some of the sporis and disasters of the 20th of June, 1849-a day that with us will be eror remembered. On account of a heavy rain during the ,rovious night, wo remained in camp until 7 o'clock-one hour later than usual. We proceeded slowly onward for a few miles, when wo discovered some buffilo between us and the river, about a mile distint; after which, some horsemen immediately star th with the intoution of driving them to the train. In this, they succeedod admirably. As soon as the buffalo began to advanice toward the train, the men, (or about fify,) well armed, staticned themselves at differout points where they could best secrete themselves, (the ground being rolling.) all anxiously awaiting the arrival of their "woulied" friends. Driven by the horsemen, they advanced with apparent fearlissness, until they were hailed by the Rangers, who sent them some lead; after which, they began to dudge and run from one point to another, but were entirely unsuccessful in escaping the woll-directod fire of our expert riflemen. Terrifiod at this scone, and maddened by pain, they finally startod thro' an opening in the blufis; but, before they reached them, three large ones were brought down, and others soverely wounded. From these, we soou procured all the meat we wished, and marched onward. The one that 1 helped to dress was judged to be well advanced in his "heens," and to weigh 1400 pounds. He received more than 20 balls, several of which passed through hie vitalsoue grazing his heart; sevoral more penetrated his skull. The meat is sweet and quito tondercome of which we have yot, and can keep it until we returu, if we wish, although we have used no salt on it, but cut in small atrips,and dried it on the sides of our wagon. We have been well supplied with fresh meat since we loft Fort Kearney, having killed several buffalo and muny antelopes.
But to return to the day. The excitement was great, filling every one with life and merriment.I thought of Peter, and what he used to tell us.Just as wo were preparing to move, (after dining on buffalo steak,) we saw a cloud arising in the Weat, which gave the appearance of a terrible storm, and it was not in the loast decoptive; for we had not proceeded far, when we heard a tremendous roaring, and soon the hail began to fall. At this time, I was drivug our team in the rear of the train. 1 made all possible haste in getting loose from the wagon, which I did just in time to save it. What a scoue here presented itself!Sexton, Winchestor, McFarlan, and myself, were under our wagon, where we could view the whole scene in mafety. The whole acrial world seemed filled with the most vivid lightuing. The thunder was shaking "Terra Firma" to its centre.The hail was falling in a manner, and of a size, almost urheard of. Twenty wagons, with three and four paira of ozen to each, were wheeling short around in the road, and ranning to the lee across the prairie, at the top of their epeed, frequenty intersecting each other. The feams that were unhitched, loose catile and horses, were intermine gled-all trying to escape the peling of the storm. The atorm lasted about 20 minutes, in which time the ground was completely covered with hailfrom the size of a robin's egg to that of a gooss. (ir ve. ry nearly,) and these,driven by a fierte wind, made rather a cevere storm. Alter the atorm had ceaseed, the first thing was to gather the thinge togethor agio. The teamo were scatered nicely, some of tham thoing milo dionntimine purues zere
broten, and one load, box and all, was loft near the atarting point. Some of the drivers who could not get their teams unhicched, hung to them during the whole ntorm, and the most of the men were out in some of it, the wagons being mostly gone, so that they were obliged to run some dretance to find sholtor. Some conerad tbeir heads with pails, kelles, and some with their conts; othora clung to the coupling poles of the wagons, as they were moving rapidly over the prairle. All the wagon-covers that were either painted or oilod, looked as if they had been used during the Mexican war ns a breastwork, or had recoived a shower of brickbats: and the men one would havo thought had received a shower of Indian arrows, to have seen the blood streaming from their heads as they gathered themselves togrther after the atorm. The heads of many were badly cut; but none of them had any fracture of the akull. Haskell, while atrenpting to keop his team, was knocked down by a slone; after which, his catto passed over him, bruising him some, but not so as to entirely disable him. He could still do more than some "basswood men." He came to our wagon immediately after the storm, where we washed and bathed his head with camphor. The cattle were many or them cut through on the hips and back by the hail, and some of the ponies were hardly able to travel the next day, on account of their bruises. This was decidedly severe-a touch of the terrific-something of the "Elephant."The tongues were lashed, the wayon reloaded, everything arranged, and we were on our march again in less than two hours. We had scen many severe storms on the prairie before; but they were infants compared with this. Some of the men, who went back about two miles for their ponies, found hail-stones there (one hour after the storm) that were three inches in diameter. This is rather a hard story to believe; but it is loss than reality.
On the south fork of the Platte River, 36 miles from its mouth, near the ford described by Fremont, we experienced this disastrous scone. We forded it abont 50 miles above, at the upper fording place. The river here is about one mile wide, and of an average depth of $2 \xi$ feet, with two chamels, an uneven and quicksand bottom.By raising our wagon boxes 6 inches and doubling leams we crossed without receiving the least damage. From here we passed over rather a hilIy road 18 miles to the North Fork, which we have fellowed the most of the way to this place. Seven miles from Ash Hollow, on the North, wo saw Castle Rock, 50 milos above this is Court House Rock, 12 miles Farther is Chimney Rock, 19 miles from this are Scotts Blafis. Hero some of the men on horseback had some rare sport chasing and shooting Buffalo. One after they had wounded him sversly turned about and "fought them manfully" with his horns, he threw one of their horses nearly a rod, and his rider as much farther. The horse was then quite severely wounded, and the rider frightened much worse. I would try and describe some of these rocky blufis to you, but friend Sexton has done it to J. J. Wright, and I presume you will seo his leters you will find it quite intoresting. From Ash Hollow we have frund many cold apringe, and in thoir vicinity we found nearly double the usual number of gravos, and on the head stoncs of many we saw that dread word Cholera. We une the river water in preference to any other, it being much more heallyy for us now. Kind Providance seamy

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& \text { DAILY ADVERTISER } \\
& \text { Detroit, Michigan } \\
& \text { September } 10,1849
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(as all the traders tell us) more rain than has fell in any three years of their remembrance, producing very good feed where it has been scarce be-
fore. Near Scotts Bluffs there is a Blacksmith shop and store, owned by a Jrenchman who says he has been there trading with the Indians for 14 years. Heshoes horses for one dollar a shoe and selts the tire on a wagon for $\$ 8$; all other work in ptoportion. He sells flour at eight and Bacon at $\$ 10$ per hundred. We, however, had ne occasion to pay him any such prices, being furnishod with all the necessaries which he had for sale It is astonishing to see how some companies live in this unfettored land. I will tell you how one man, who was packing throngh on mules, told us he lived. In the morning before packing his thules he cut off a chunk of bacon, hung it on his saddlo and filled hie pockets with crackers mounted his mule and eat his bacon aud crack'rs as he travelled aleng the road; at uight he unpacked his mule and took out n new supply of the same, and so on. living (or staying) day after day on raw bacon, crackers and water. We have not had the pleasure of seeing any Indians since we left the Kansas. I have often been in company of a friend several miles from the cainp and without arms. we are in no more danger than in our own State. We are still meeting the disheartened and returning emigrants. Bejond Fort Laramie, over the Black Hills, we are told that the "Elephant" is in waiting, ready to receive us and greet us with a hearis wolcome. This will be very pleasant to us, but if he shows fight or attempts to stop us on our progress to the golden land, we shall attack him with sword and spoar. I am stopped sudden-

Give my respects to all enquiring friends, and above all things write to me in Califoruia, and oblige your hamble friendd,

DAILY ADVERTISER.<br>DETROIT.<br>official papgr de the city.<br>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1850.<br>V. 3. Pargioyz, the Americun Newspaper agem, is Ageit ror tive paper, and authorized to take AUVERTIDENGNS AMU SUBSCHIPHOND rame ratrs as requirei by us. His oflices are at<br>BOSTUN, 8 Congress sireet;<br>NGW YORK, Tribune Building; PHILADELPHIA. N. W. Gor. Third and Che

Cur Gallicornle Gorrespondence.

Ocerland Jonemey to Califormin-Un the Wromg Trock-Latoson's Cut-off a Himbug-Deal and Dying Oxen-Suffering an the Desert-A Man Drinking Blood io Quench Thirst-Boiling trot Syrings-Teams Abundoned-Raw Dog Meat Repudiatel-Fansting on CrowsThe Sirnughtress of Pine Trees-Secing the Dleplant-A Damp Ber-Leter. Wiiling-Men Dying by the Road-Site-The Trus Character
of Woman-Abundance of Cold-Gambling.

## Sax Francisco, Dec. 24, 1850.

Dear Sir: I take the liberty of addressing a
fow lines to you, in regatd to some of the dificul. tios, privations, and miseries, to which emigrants aro oxpoted in coming across the country; and, Alen, some fow things in regard to this, "the land of gifitering dreams." I will endeavor to write nothing but the naked truth; and, if any of my friends think of coming, please tell them what they will probably oncounter; and, if they have any regard for their own comfort, I think they will semain under the care of their parente and friends, unles they come merely for the sake of seeing the country between hore and the States. The country is indeed worth seeing, and will well pay a man for his time and trouble, if he has any relith for the benuties of wild scenery. If mere wealh it what they are after, it will hardly pay the cost.
Trom the time we left Fort Laramie, we were travelling over the most uneven, rocky, and mounthinos countriss, that toams ovar were drivell crot, ezcept some fow river-bottoms and deserts. I will here mention that I have lost my joursal, and am anable to give correct distances.

From Fort Laramie, we had about one week's trevel, with but litule or no feed for our teamssoudr tough and hilly-water scarce-catule getting lame, their feet being worn through-men wosn out from night drives-and yot our journey Juth bogun, comparatively.
Whilo crowing tho Black Hilts, wo made a drive of 18 miles on the darkost night I ever experienced. We were obliged to do it on account of the ceaveity of feed and water. It was with the createst difificaliy that wo kept the roed. The foremont team whs preceded by a light, and the monelder followed from the sound of the wagon. We canld not cee orain the lengh of the team we mory diving, and the road was so rough and mporen, thes three or four men were required (in many pleces) to keep the wegons from upsolting. In mexy places, we were obliged to lock threo whest and then let our oxen alido on all fouss.

Before reaching the Sweel Water River, we came to aome harge alkali aprings and lakes. In many places, the earth is covered with a cruat of caloratue of good quality, from one-half to an inch in thickness, cabsed by the eveporation of water from the springe. Hundreds of osen wore killed along here by being permitted to drink from these eprioge.

We made the South Pass Ang. 4th, and had two atampedes, which resulted in the hreaking of our wagon-tongue, and one horn from our nearwhecl ox-moro sport than damage, by half.
After crussing the summit, we had above 80 milos' travel, with litule or no feed, and only two watoring placen, (the Littlo and Big Sandy.)

From the Big Sandy to Green River-48 miles -the road was very rough, and wo water. This drive is called the dead cattle shoot, very appro-priatoly-for the road was quito well lined with dead catle, horses, and mules. This is on Sublett's cut-off: Here we began to see wagons dererted; and, at the crossing of Green River, it was estimated that there was one handred wagons burved, and their loadings destroyed.

At the north bend of Bear River, 8 miles west of those beantifal soda springs, instead of going the Fort Hall road, we took the emigrante' cut-off, leaving the Fort about 40 miles to the north. -
 tain road. As a specimen, we descended one bill, where we were obliged to lock three wheels of the wagons for one long mile; and the passage down the mountain is very rocks, and just wide gnough to admit a wagou to pass-the teamster bolug olliged to walk, or rather slide down. on the atide of the alope. It was not nufrequently that we rravelled all day, and until 10 or $120^{\circ}$ clock at night, without finding any water. Desertod wagous and dead cattlo are like mile-stones.
While we were travelling on St. Mary's River, wo travelled nights and rested days, on account of tho heat and dust. Before reaching the Humboldt Valley, we had the most extreme heat during the day; and,during the night, it would freeze ice one inch thick, in our buckets. Here, too, we foand the deadly scorpion. Some of them were of common size; but they were mosily small.
About 70 miles from the sink of St. Mary's (or Humboldt) River, we were indaced to leave the old trail, and take the northern route, known as Lawion's cutoff. Some designing rascal and inhuman wretch had put ap notices along the road, and at the forks, advising omigrants to take the northern road-stating that there was another rood loading directly to the mines, and ruaning betweon Lewsun's aud Truckey's roates, called the Cherokee cut-off. In this, there was said to be more water, better feed, and much leas of desort, and, greater thau all, ouly 92 miles to the opper mines on Feather River. The Cherokee route, we soou found, was tike - Mormon miracles' and 'hoop suakes;' it existed 'ouly in mames.'When we latt the River, we oxpected a short dosorth and prepared ourselves accordingly. At the cloce of the first day, we found a small apring on the aide of a high and steep monutain, one mile from the road. Wo atopped, fed some bay, (there boing no (feod, and conmenced, al 9 o'clock P. M., fo toke our teame on the mountain for wator. Nover whes there a aet of men that worked more firmfolly than wo, and in was 48 o'clock A. M. boforo we could ret water for all our teama-:

Wo then atarted immediately, and reached water again at 4 o'clock P. M. Here we found dead catte without number. After resting a short time, and giving our oxen a limle water, (which was vary poor.) we started again, expecting to find a ereek in 8 miles. Wo were very tired, and our teams ceomed nearly ochanated, having had no reat for 2 days, and but litte food or water, and the weather asceedingly hot, and the roads very duut. From here, we travelled till 4 o'clock. over the mont barren and desolate country I ever caw. Soeing no sigus of water, wa halted four hours to give our teams rest, and rest some ourselves. Jor my part, I was a very lithle weary about the ankles, having beon coustantly on my feet for upwards of 40 hours, and travelling over the mountains, where the dast and sand were ankle deop. At ejght o'clock A. M., we arrived at Black Rock Spring, about 25 miles from our last watering place. Nearly the whole distance is a dead, level, barron desert, with a soil similar to leached ashes. In several places, there had been holes dug; but the water was quite salt. On the lant 16 miles of this desert; there were nearly 100 wagonc; and oxen, horses, and mules, were thick enough to have formed a complete line the whole distauce. The road was completely lined on both sides, and the stench arising from them was almostsuffocating. The sight was indeed horrid. In several places, we saw from 6 to 12 oxen in a gang, seme of which could stand upon their feet; but most of them were so faint and weak, that they could only raise their heads, and make an attempt to low, as they looked at us wory imploringly. As wo passed along, we could hear the groans and moaninge of the dying oxon, which had been left to perish irom thirst and carvation. Such sights are indeed horrid for any person to look upon, who has any feeling of sympathy for the brute. Mauy porsons who started ou the last 25 miles in the fore part of the day, suffered very much from thist. The water nt the last place being very poor, and all expecting to find water in a phort distance, wo oue brought bot a amall quantity, and many not any. Thus they wero situatod-teams reduced from fntigue and privation-weather extromely hotthe air full of duat. Some were obliged to remain ou this detert for more than 36 hours. on account of their teama, and sufiored vory much.In one case, a Dutehman, with his wife, was loft on the decert for three daye before they could got a chance to escapo. They bought some water once at the rate of 50 cents por quart, which kept thein from perishing. One man, in crossIng, was obliged to tap the veins of oxen by the road-nide, and drimk their blood; and then he came near perishing before ho could reach Black Cock Spring. This apring is far from being rofreshing, as it is boiling hot, and highly chargod wilh alkali. The water, affer ruaning some distauce, bicame cool enough for our teame to drink. Still, it was very hurfol, on account of the alkali. Many lost their entire teams. For nearly 110 . miles from thin place, we found but very litte except warm, alkaline water, and no reed except dry ur doal graes.
We cromsed the Sierra Nevada Mountains Oct. 12th, 3 iniles auth of the Oregon line. Here we were obliged to double teame for nantly two miles. The ascent is vory steep and dificult. We were from suurice until dark gelting over the
mounfuin with 2 wagons. When we had sareIy passed the dividing ridge, I concluded that I had driven oxen long ouough. My head was pained from hallouing-my lungs were sors, and my patience was nearly threadbare. Here we met the first relief train sent out by Goverument, and ubteined correct information in regard to the distance and condition of the road to the valley. Wo gave our team and wagon to a kind gentleman and lady-(Sexton and inyself had bought out the other boys)-took a pack of 40 lbs. upon our backs, and started for the diggings, the nearest of which were 400 miles distant. We made quite a quick trip, and arrived safely in the valloy, without meeting with serions dificulties.We were semetimes rather cuol, sleeping on the mountains with nothing but a single blanketthe uights being quite cool, and our clothing often wet with perspiration; and our food was not of the lest hiad; but still we did not eat any "raw rog." Now and then, a good fat crow was killer, and roasted on the coals; but we would generally get beef. We might have had venison and bear enough; but we hated to spend time in hunting.

Bread we could not beg, buy, nor steal, on account of its scarcity, and for my part I did not wish to as long as there were women and children destitute. At one time we were in the mountains for three days, where we saw no signs of a white man. This we did to shorton the distance, and probabiy gained about one day's travel, ( 36 miles, ) beside seeing some of natures richest scenery and rarest beauties. On some of the most elevated peaks over which we travelled we found white pines 7 feet thick, 250 feet high, and as straight as the path of a christian. Pine, spruce, cedar and balsam, are here in great abuudance and of an enormous size. The Rangers left all their wagons in the mountains between the dividing ridge and the valley. More than 200 teams perished in the mountains, leaving all their loading a prey for the rude savages who had stolon large numbers of animals from the emigrants, besides killing ten or twelvo men. The emigration have all reached the valley. The women and children were brought in by the relief trains sent out by the goverament; but they even, were put on short rations for several days. The men packed in, some of them travelling in snow from 2 to 3 feet deep. This was seeing "the Blephant" in earnest. There is no joKing about that I assure you,and what was worse, the most of them, like myself,arrived in the valleg without money-100 miles from the mines-and board \$5 per day. No fabor could be had short of the mines, not even for your board. I went immediately to the mines on Foather river, whers Ifound provisionis very dear. Flour, meal, pork and beans being $\$ 1$ to $\$ 150$ per pound; potatoes, butter and cheess, \$150 when wo arrived, but was soon $\$ 200$ and $\$ 250$. One thing was in our favor-the traders will trost miners to ulmont avy amount; so Sezton Bentley and mysolf bought provisions and mining tools, and soun paid for them. Then the raing ceason ast in, and of 16 dave 12 anly womenting ans -demor rethe netor yon soon find tront. I heve seen Deather river tise 20 feet in 6 hours-covering the richest dige. sin--driving miners from theirtents, and carrying
off hundreds of cradies, (by the way, ours walked off down ntreans one night.) I concludad that I was exposing my health too mnch, and thut vithout any prospect of getling much gold, consequenily; I came to this cily, where I intend to spend the winter. On my way from the mines to Sacrainento City, I was caught out in a storm, and after Iravelling until 10 o'clock P. M., 1 laid myself down on a point that was not overfiown and soon fell asleep, alhough it was raining very hard.When daylight dawned 1 found that I was quite damp, the water being more than an inch deop where I was sleeping. At first. I had a mind to trausform myself into a fish and swim to the city; but the water was too shallow in many places!Or the 20 miles that 1 had yet to travel, I waded in water from 2 to 18 inches deep nearly half the time, besides swimming several sloughs. This was iudeed rather more than I had bargained for or been accustomed to-but suffered no great incouvenience from it. By many, this is called an unheafthy climate, but 1 think it the reverse, I know that one-half the exposure that I sufiered here, would laid mie low in the grave had 1 beon in Michigan. How long could a man live in the States to be wet from day to day, and sleeping on the wet earth night after night, and that with his wet clothes on, without any protection except a blanket? All this $I$ have undergoue, aud I was neter more heallhy in my life thau at presout. I have hardly seen an ill hour since I left the Rocky Mountains. There is some consideraWe sickness here to be sure, and the only thing to be wondered at is, that they don't half die.

I have many extracts from letters said to have been writen in California, (in the New York and J3oston papers, which are not wholly true. Some 1 thinl, are written by business men here, in order to induce more people to come here that they may fleece them, as they will mrost assuredly doThere are too many here now for their own good. Thousuuds would have been home before this,liad they money onough to pay their passage; but that is not my casc. I am quite content, gold being not my only object here. The amount of suffering on the latter part of the route was alinost incalculable. So one except those who suw or experienced it, can have any idea of its extent.Sights, the thoughts of which, would make the Hood chill in any humun breast. After I left the train. I saw men sitting or lying by the road side, sick with fevers or crippled by scurry, begging of the passers by, to lend them some assistance; but no one could do it. The winter was so near, that it was sure death to tarry, and the feams were all siving out, so that the thought of hauling them in the wagous was absurd. Nothing could be doue, consequently they were left to a slow lingering death in the wilderness. This was, certainly, an uwful state of things- and beyoud repair. The voomen claimed the first attention, and all the assistance that ceuld, under the circumstances, be given. Many of them suffered more than I ever supposed any femele conld endure. The days were extremoly hot, and they travelling day after hiay, week after week-over roads very dusty, rough, and mountainous-cooking eveuingssleeping on the earth with a scanty supply of hlankets-in fect, deprived of eresy comfort of lifo and many of the necessaries- all withont a deepouding look or a murmuring word. They were
always ready and willing to do anything in their power that could facilitate their progress. It was no rare thing to see ladies young and old lifling at the wheels to assist their reduced teams in asacending the steep and rugged mountains. No false modesty was exhibited here. The more noble and elevated the mind, the moreshe felt it her duty to keep life and energy in her companions and the stronger wers her exertions. Here was n great place for the display of character. It was remarked by many, that the ladies ovinced more activily aud energy on the latter part of the soute, than most of the men-(ashameful truih, some may say.) A person who says that woman (in the time of peril,) possesses less activity, energy, cool calculation,or power of eudurance than man, is either ignorant, deccitful, or basely selfish. Our boys were all well when I heard from them last. They were in the mines, 250 miles from here, on Feather liver. There are many atories told here about the mines, as well as in the States; but the fact is, there is gold enough in this country, bat nut so easily obkained as many suppose. There are many more here now, than will over get rich.Perhaps it is owing to their instability. Thousands spend all they can earn at the gaming table, which are very numerous here. Some make a fortune in a short time, while many make nothing. On the morning of the 24th, a fire broke out on the lower side of Purtsmouth square, between Clay and Washington streets, which consumed 25 or 30 buildinge, at a loss of about one und a half millions of dollars. Business is very duli here this winter, that is, for this place. Remember me to all my friends. Tell them that 1 am "alive and kinking." I am quite thin in flesh, weighing ouly Z 113 pounds, thinly clad. Excuse all imperfections.

JAS. D. LYON.

LETTERS OF JAMES D. LYON

Appearing in<br>The Daily Advertiser<br>Detroit, Michigan<br>September 10, 1849, and February 22, 1850

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DAILY ADVERTISER,<br>DETROIT.<br>OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.<br>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1849.

TrWe wre indebled to an esteemed fricad for the privilege of publithing the following lettor from a California emigramt from this county: Tea Maze Daet of Fost Laramie, Juiy 4th, 1849.
Dras Sia: In truth, I can eay that pesce, prosperity, healih, and happiness, are present with ua, and sensibly felt by us all, on this, the 73d anniversary of the birth of our country's liberty-a day toosacred with Wolverines to be desecrated by travolling. We have a good camping place, and have had one of the best celebrations that I ever took any part in. By placing our wagous in two lines, 12 feet apart, and stretching the covers from one to the other, it formed a nice shade, ander which many a true heart beat quick wilh the pulsations of true patriotism. The company was formed in a procession by the Caplain, and marched a few rods from the caral, under our national flag. where we listened to a prayer, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and then to an able and appropriate oration from our worthy friend, W. T. Sexton, delivered in his usually elequent manner. We then relired to our hotel, formed of our wagons, where we partook of a very nice dinner-I say a nico dinner, and it was decidedly so. We had pies, cakes, puddings, meats, coffee, and several kinds of sauce, all well cooked, although done by rude man. Atter partaking of this rich ropast, we spent an hour in drinking toasts, many of which were very appropriate and interestung. The most perfect union and good foeling existed during the whole performance. Never did I see any number of men who enjoyed themselves bettor. Every heart seemed filled to overflowing with the true spirit of patriotism. This was to nee a novel sight-ninc-ty-liree men on their way to the peacerul shores of the Western Ocean, halting on this vast prairie to commemorate the Sabbath of our liberties, and doing it in such perfect order, and with such a show of civilization, in a savage country.

While 1 am writing this ovening, the boys are having a cotillion party on the sod, the oveuing being very pleasaut. When thoy got sired, they fill the air with their aweet voices, in singing some favorite cong. Taking it all in all, I hardly think that ninety-hree men ever had no much pure onjoynient in the rame time. Yout may thlink this almost impossible; but thigy were as happy as men could be convenienlls.

Wo are atill making an average of 20 miles por day, and our oxell are in good condition, excopt a few tender feet, which we dress in moccacius made of buffilo hide. We frequently mont ditheartened emigrants, oven at thic poinh, who suy they havo cortainly found the "Flephanto" and are returaings but we have heard this so mayy times, that wo begin to discredit them ontiroly. Oar course is aty "onvard and ypward," ever hoping that wo may soon commence descending loward the gold. en ralles.

Mr. P., allow me to describo, in an imperfect mannor, some of the sports and disasters of the 20th of June, 1849-a day that with us will be evor remembered. On account of a hoavy rain during the ,revious night, wo remained in camp until $70^{\circ}$ clock-one hour later than usual. We proceeded slowly onward for a few miles, when we discovered some buffalo between us and the river, about a mile distqut; after which, somo horsemen immediately atar d with the intoution of driving them to the train. In this, they succeedod admirably. As soon as the buffalo began to advance teward the train, the men, (or about fifyy) well armed, claticned themselves at different points where they could best secrete themselves, (the ground being rolling,) all anxionsly awaiting the arrival of their "woolied" friends. Driven by the horsemen, they advanced wilh apparent fearlussnees, until they were hailed by the Rangers, who sent them some lead: aftor which, they began to dodge and run from one point to another, but were entirely unsuccessfou in escaping the well-directod fire of our expert riffemen. Terrifiod at this scene, and maddened by pain, they finally startod thro' an opening in the blufs; but, before they reached them, three large ones were brought down, and others severely wounded. From these, we soou procured all the meat wo wished, and marched ouward. The one that 1 helped to dress was judged to be well advanced in his "reens," and to weigh 1400 pounds. He received more than 20 balls, several of which passed through his vitalsone grazing his heart; sevoral more penetrated his skull. The moat is sweet and quito tondercome of which wo have yet, and can keep it until we return, if we wish, although we have used no salt on it, but cut in amall atrips,and dried it on the sides of our wagon. We have been well supplied with fresh meat since we left Fort Kearney, having killed sevoral buffalo and many antelopes.

But to return to the day. The excitement was great, filling every one with life and merriment.I thought of Peter, and what he used to tell us.Just as we were proparing to move, (after dining on buffalo steak,) we saw a cloud arising in the West, which gave the appearance of a terrible storm, and it was not in the least decoptive; for we had not proceeded far, when we heard a tremendous roaring, and soon the hail began to fall. At this time. I was driving our team in the rear of the train. I made all possible haste in getting loose from the wagon, which I did just in time to save it. What a scoue hore presented iself !Sexton, Winchester, McFarlan, and myselr, were under our wagon, where we could view the whole acene in asfety. The whole aerial world ceemed filled with the most vivid lightuing. The thunder was shaking "Terra Firma" to its centre.The hail was falling in a manner, and of a size, almost urheard of. Twenty wagons, with three and four pairs of oxen to each, were wheeling short around in the road, and ranning to the lee across the prairie, at the top of their speed, frequently intersecting each olher. The leams that wero unhitched, loose cátle and horees, were intermin-gled-all arying to escape the polting of the atorm. The alorm lasted about 20 minutes. in which time the ground was complotely covered with hai,from the size of a robiti's eg'g to that of a goore, (ir vory nearly.) and those,driven by a fierce wind, made rather a asvere storm. Alier the atorm had ceasod, the first thing was to gather the thinge togethor agein. The teams were scatered nicely, some

broken, and one load, box and all, was lof near the atarting point. Some of the drivere who could not get their teams unhiched, hung to them daring the whole atorm, and the most of the men were out in come of $i$, the wagons being mostly gone, so that they were obliged to run some dretance to find sholior. Some coverad tbeir heads with pails, ketles, and some with their conts; othoreclung to the coupling poles of the wagons, as they were moving rapidly over the prairie. All the wagou-covers that were eithor painted or oilod, looked as if they had been used during the Mexican war as a breastwork, or had recoived a shower of brickbats: and the men one would have thought had received a shower of Indian arrown. to have seen the blood streaming from their heads as they gathered themselves together after the atorm. The heads of many were badly cut; but none of them had any fracture of the skull. Haskell, while attempting to keop his team, was knocked down by a stone; after which, his catilo passed over him, bruising him some, but not so as to entirely disable him. He could still do more than some "basswood men." He came to our wagon immediately after the storm, where we washed and bathed his head with camphor. The catlle were many of them cut through on the hips and back by the hail, and some of the ponies were hardly able to travel the next day, on account of their bruises. This was decidedly severe-a touch of the terrific-something of the "Elephant." The tongues were lashed, the wayon reloaded, overything arranged, and wo were ou our march again in less than two hours. We had scen many severe storms on the prairie before; but they were infants compared with this. Some of the men, who went back about two miles for their ponies, found hail-stones there (one hour after, he storm) that were three inches in diameter. This is rather a hard etory to believe; but it is loss than roality.

On the south fork of the Platto River, 36 miles from its mouth, near the ford described by Fremont, we oxperienced this disastrous scene. We forded it abont 50 miles above, at the upper fording place. The river here is about one milo wide, and of an average depth of $2 \frac{\text { feet, with two }}{}$ channels, an uneven and quicksand bottom.By raising our wagon boxes 6 inches and doubling teams we crossed without receiving the least damage. From here we passed over rather a hilIy road 18 miles to the North Fork, which we have fellowed the most of the way to this place. Seven miles from Ash Hollow, on the North, we saw Castle Rock, 50 milos above this is Court House Rock, 12 miles Farther is Chimney Rock, 19 miles from this are Scots Bluffs. Hero some of the men on horseback had some rare sport chasing and shooting Buffalo. One aftor they had wounded him sveraly turned about and "fought them manfully" with his horns, he threw one of their horses nearly a rod, and his rider as much farther. The horse was then quite severely wounded, and the rider frightened much worse.I would try and descrive soms of these rocky bluffs to you, but friend Sexton has done it to J. J. Wright, and I presume you will seo his leter, you will find it quite interesting. From Ash Hollow we have found mauy cold springe, and in thoir vicinity we found nearly double the usual number of graves, and on the head stones of many wo saw that dread word Cholers. We uso the river water in proforence to any other, it being much more heallhy for uy now. Kind Providence noemp

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(afall the traders tell us) more rain than has fell in any three years of their remembrance, produciugavery good feed whero it has beon scarce befors. Noar Scotts Bluffs there is a Blacksmith shop and store, owned by a Frenchman who says he has been there trading with the Indians for 14 years. He shoes horses for one dollar a shoe and setts the tire on a wagon for \$8; all other work in proportion. He sells flour at eight and Bacon at $\$ 10$ per hundred. We, however, had no occasion to pay him any such prices, being furnished with all the necessaries which he had for sale It is astonishing to see how some companies live in this unfettered land. I will tell you how one man, who was packing through on mules, told us he lived. In the morning before packing his mules he cut off a chunk of bacon, hung it on his saddlo and filled hie pockols with crackers mounted his mule and eat his bacou aud crack'rs as he travelled aleng the road; at uight he unpacked his mule and took out a now supply of the same, and so on. living (or staying) day after day on raw bacon. crackers and water. We have not had the pleasure of seeing any Indians since we left the
Kansas. I have often been in company of a friend
several miles from the camp and without arms, wo are in no more danger than in our own State. We are still meeting the disheartoned and returning omigrauts. Boyond Fort Laramie, over the Black Hills, we are fold that the "Elephant" is in waiting, ready to receive us and greet us with a hearly wolcome. This will be very pleasant to us, but if he shows fight or attempts to stop us on our progress to the golden land, we shall attack him with aword and spear. I am stopped suddenly. Give my respects to all enquiring friends, and abore all things write to me in Califoruia, and oblige your humble friendd, JAMES D. LYON.


# Detroit, Michigan <br> February 22, 1850 <br> Copy Provided by the University of Michigan <br> Burton Historical Collection 

DAILY ADVERTISBR.<br>DETROIT.<br>official papgr of the city.<br>\section*{FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1850.}<br>V. 3, PAyM㩆?, the American Nowspaper gent, is Ayent for this paper, and authorized to talie ADVERTISGMBNTS nu SUBSCRIPTIONS at the pame ratra as requirel by us. His ofices are at BOSTUN, 8 Congress atreet:<br>NCW YORK, Tribgne Building:<br>PHILADELPHIA. N. W. cor. Third and Chesnat or<br>BALTMMORE, S. W. cor. North and Fayette

Cur Callfornla Gorrespondence.
mon $\perp$ Gesthemas of thrmovik, waynt county.
Occiland Jontroy to Californin-Un the Wrowg Track-Latoson's Cut-off a Hinbug-Dead and Dying Oxen-Suficring an the Desert-A Mrn Drinking Blood io Guench Thirst-Boiling Fiot Syrings-Tcams Abandoned-Raw Dog Meat Roputiated-Fansting on CrowsThe Strayghtress of Pine Trees-Secing the Elephant-A Damp Bet-Leter- Wiiting-Men Dying by the Road-Sido-The True Character of Woman-Alundance of Gold-Gumbling.

Say Fanscisco, Dec. 24, 1850.
Dear Sir: I take the liberly of addressing o fow lines to you, in regatd to some of the dificiculties, privations, and miseries, to which emigrants ore oxposed in coming across the country; and, aloo, some few things in regard to this, "the land of gifitering dreams." I will endeavor to write nothing but the naked truth; and, if any of my friends think of comingo please tell them what they will probably oncounter; and, if they have any regard for their own comfort, I think they will remain under the care of their parents and friends, unlese they come merely for the sake of seeing the country between hore and the States. The country is indeed worth seeing, and will well pay a man for his time and trouble, if he has any relith for the beautios of wild scenery. If mere wealh it what they are after, it will hardly pay the cose.
From the time we left Port Laramie, we were travalling over the most uneven, rocky, and mounthinous countriss, that teams ever were driven ovet, except some fow river-bottoms and deserts. I will here mention that I have lost my journal, and am unable to give correct distancos.

From Fort Laramio, we had about one week's travol, with but litule or no feed for our teamssondo rough and hilly-water scarce-catto getting lame, their feet being worn through-men worn out from night drives-and yot our journey Just begun, comparatively.
While croning the Black Hills, we made a drive of 18 miles on the darkost night I ever experionced. We were obliged to do it on account of the ceareity of feed and water. It was with the greatert difificuly that wo kept the road. The foremost team whs proceded by a light, and the somathder followed from the souvd of the wagon. To coild not ree even the leughth of the team we ware diving, and the road wae se rough and anowen, that three or four mon wore required (in many plecen) to koep the wagona from upsetting. In mapy places, wo were obliged to lock three whesth end then let our oxen alide on all fouse.

Before reaching the Sweet Water River, we camo to some large altrali aprings and lakes. . In many places, the earth is covered with a cruat of sabratue of good quality, from one-half to an inch to thicknems, cabsed by the evaporation of water from the springs. Hundrede of oxen wore killed along here by being permitted to drink from these eprigs.

Wo made the South Pass Ang. Ath, and had two atampedes, which resulted in the breaking of our wagon-topgue, and one horll from our nearwheel ox-more sport than damage, by half.
Afer crousing the summit, we had above 80 milas' travel, with little or no feed, and only two watoring placen, (the Littlo and Big Sendy.)

Trom the Big Sandy to Green River-49 miles -the road was vory rough, and no water. This drive is called the dead cattle shoot, very appro-priatoly-for the road was guito well lined with dead cattle, horses, and mules. This is on Subhit's ent-ofi: Here we began to see wagons desorted; and, at the crossing of Green River, it was estimated that there was one hundred wagons burned, and their loadings destroyed.
At the north bend of Bear River, 8 miles west of thone beantiml soda springs, instead of going the Fort Hall road, we took the emigraute cat-ofif, Jeaving the Fort about 40 miles to the north.-
 tain road. As a specimen, wo descended one Bill, where we wore obliged to lock three wheels of the wagons for one loug mile; and the possage dowa the mountain is very rocky, and just wide anough to admit a wagou to pass-the teamster bolug olliged to walk, or rather slide down, on the atide of the slope. It was not unfrequently that we ravolled all day, and until, 10 or 12 o'clock at night, withont finding any water. Desertod wagous and dead cattle are like mile-stoues.
While we were travelling on St. Mary's River. we travelled nights and rested days, on account of the heat and dust. Before reaching the Humeboldt Valley, we had the most extreme heat during the day; and,during the night, it would frecze ice one inch thick, in our buckets. Here, too, wo found the deadly scorpion. Some of them were of common size; but they were mosily small.
About 70 miles from the sink of St. Mary's (or Humboldt) River, we wero induced to leavo the old trail, and take the northern route, kuown as Lawzon's cut-ofi. Some designing rascal and inhuman wretch had put up notices along the road, and at the forks, advising omigrants to take the northera road-stating that there was another road loading directly to the mines, and running botween Lawson's and Trackey's roates, called the Cherokee cut-of:. In this, there was said to bo more water, better feed, and much less of desott, and, greater than all, ouly 92 miles to the opper mines on Peathor Rivor. The Cherokee route, we soun found, was tike -Normion miraces' and thoop amakes;' it existed 'ouht in mames.'When wo lett the River, we expected a short desert, and prepared ourselves accordingly. At the cloce of the firts day, we found a amull spring on the atie of a bigh and steep monutain, one mile from the road. We slopped, fed some hey, (there baing no (cead) and commeuced, at 90 oclock $P$. M, to toke our teame on the mountain for water. Xifver was there a aet of men that worked more fichrilly than wo, and il was $480^{\circ}$ olock A. M. broun we could ret mater for all our teama- -

We then atarted immediately, and reached water eyain at 4 o'clock P. M. Here we found dead catlle without number. After resting a short time, and giving our oxen a litle water, (which was very poor., we atarted again, expecting to find a croek in 8 miles. Wo were very tired, and our toume ceemed nearly oxhanated, havivg had no reat for 2 days, and but little food or water, and the weather axceedingly hot, and the roads very duaty. From licre, wo travelled till 4 o'clock. over the mont barren and desolate country I ever caw. Soeing no aigus of water, we halted four houre to give our teams rest, and rest some oursolvos. For my part, I was a very tulle weary about the ankles, having beon constantly on my feet for upwards of 40 hours, and travelling over the mountains, whore the dast and sand were ankle deop. At eight o'clock A. M., we arrived at Bleck Rock Spring, about 25 miles from our last watering place. Noarly the whole distance is a doad, level, barren desert, with a soil similar to leachod asbes. In several places, there had been boles dug; but the water was quite salt. On the laat 16 miles of this desert; there were nearly 100 wagons; and osen, horses, and mules, were thick enough to have formed a complete line the whole distance. The road was completely lined on both sides, and the stench arising from them was almostsuffocating. The sight was indeed horrid. In several places, we saw from 6 to 12 ozen in a gang, seme of which could stand upon their feot; but most of them were so faint and weak, that they could only raise their heads, and make an attempt to low, as they looked at us wery imploringly. As wo passed along, wo could hear the groans and moanings of the dying oxen, which had beon left to perigh irom thirst and marvation. Such sights are indeed horrid for any person to look upon, who has any feoling of sympathy for the brute. Many persons who startod on the last 25 miles in the fore part of the day, sufiered very much from thist. The water at the last place being very poor, and all oxpecting to find water in arhert distance, no one brought but a small quantity, and many not any. Thus they were situated-teams reduced from fatigue and privation-weathor extromely hotthe air full of daat. Some were obliged to remain on this desert for more than 36 hours, on sceount of thair teama, and avfiored vory much.In one case, a Dutchman, with his wife, wae loft on the desert for three daye before they could got a chance to escapo. They bought some water once at the rate of 50 cents por quart, which kept them from perishing. One man, in crossing, was obliged to tap the veius of oxen by the road-nide, and drink their blood; and then he came near perishing before he could roach Black Cock Spring. This apring is far from being refreshing, as it is boiling bot, and highly chargod wilh alkali. The water, afer running some distance, bicame cool enough for our teame to drink. Still, it was very hurffol, on account of the alknli. Mauy lost their entire teams. For neurly 110 miles from this plnce, we found but very litle except warm, alkeline water, and no feed except dry or doal grase.
Wo cronsed the Sierra Nevada Mountaina Oct. 12th, 3 miles sumth of the Oregon line. Here we were obliged to double teams for nearly two miles. The ascent is very sleop and dificult.-
We were from sumise until dark getting over the
mounlain with 2 wagons. When wo had sareIy passed the dividing ridge, I concluded that I had driven oxen long ouough. My licad was pained from halloving-my lungs were sore, and my patience was nearly threadbare. Here we met the first relief train sent out by Government, and ubta ined correct information in regard to the distance and condition of the road to the valley. Wo gave our team and wagon to a kind gentleman and lady - (Sexton and myself had bought out the other boys)-look a pack of 40 lbs . upon our backs, and started for the diggings, the nearest of which were 400 miles distant. We made quite a quick trip, and arrived safely in the valley, wilhout meeting with serions dificulties.We were semetimes rather cuol, sleeping on the mountains with nothing but a single blanketthe nights being quite cool, and our clothing offen wet with perspiration; and oar food was not of the lest kind; but still we didnot eat any "raw dog." Now and then, a good fat crow was killer, and roasted on the coals; but we would generally get beef. We might have had venison and bear enough; but we hated to spend time in humting.

Bread we could not beg, buy, nor steal, on account of its scarcity, and for my part I did not wish to as long as there were women and children desritute. At one time we were in the mountains for three days, where we saw no sigus of a white man. This we did to shorton the distance, and probabiy gained about one day's travel.( 36 miles, ) beside secing some of natures richest scenery and rarest beauties. On some of the most elevated peaks over which we travelled we faund white pines 7 feet thick, 250 feet high, and as straight as the palh of a christian. Pine, spruce, cedar and balsam, are here in great abundance and of an eaormous size. The Rangers leff all their wagons in the mountains between the dividing ridge and the valley. More than 200 teams perished in the mountains, leaving all their loading a prey for the rude savages who had stolen large numbers of animals from the emigrants, besides killing ten or twelve men. The omigration have all reached the valley. The women and children were brought in by the relief trains sent out by the goverament, but dhey exen, were put on short rations for several days. The men packed in, some of them travelling in snow from 2 to 3 feel deep. This was seeing "the Blephant" in earnest. There is no joking about that I assure you;and what was worse, the most of them, like myself,arrived in the vallog wilhout money- 100 miles from the mines-and board $\$ 5$ per day. No labor could be had dhort of the mines, not even for your board. I went immediately to the mines on Foather siver, where I found provisions very dear. Flour, meal, pork and beans being $\$ 1$ to $\$ 150$ per pound potatoes, butter and cheese, $\$ 150$ when we arrived, but was soon $\$ 200$ and $\$ 250$. One thing was in our favor-the traders will trast miners to ulmont auy amount; so Sexton Beatloy and mysolf bought provirions and mining tonls, and soun paid for them. Then the rainy sesson eet in, and of 16
 yoo moon find is out. thave ween Featherviver rine 20 feet in 6 hoars-covering the tichest dig. tinz-driving miners from theirtenc, and carring
off hundreds of cradles, (by the way, ours walked off down arreant oue night.) I concluded that I was exposiug my health too mnch, and that without any prospect of geuling much gold, consequenils, I came to this cily, where 1 intend to spend tho wiuter. On my way trom the mines to Sacrainento City, I was canght out in a storm, and after Iravelling until 10 o'clock P. M., I taid myself down on a point that was not overflown and soon sell asleep, allhough it was raining very hard.When daylight dawned 1 found that I was quite damp, the water being more than an iuch deop where I was sleeping. At first I had a mind to transform mysell into a fish and swim to the city; but the water was too shallow in many places!Or the 20 miles that I had yet to travel, I waded in water from 2 to 18 inches deep nearly half the time, besides swimming several sloughs. This was iudeed rather more than I had bargained for or been accustomed to-but suffered no great inconvenience from it. By many, this is called an unhealthy climate, but 1 think it the reverse, I know thint one-half the exposure that I suffered hore, would laid nee low in the grave had 1 beon in Michigan. How long could a mau live in the States to be wet from day to day,and sleeping on the wet earth night after night, and that with his wet clothes on, without any protection except a blanket? All this $I$ have undergoue, and 1 was nerer more healhy in my life than at presout. I have hardly seen an ill hour since I left the Rocky Mountains. There is some consideraHe sickness here to be sure, and the ouly thing to be woudered at is, that they don't half die.
I hive many extracts from letters said to have been writen in California, (in the New York and Boston papers, which are not wholly true. Some 1 thiul, are writen by business men here, in order to induce more people to come here that they may flece thom, as they will nrost assuredly doThere are too many here now for their own good. Thousands would have been home before this, had they money enough to pay their passage; but that is not my casc. I am quite content, gold being not my only object here. The amount of suffering on the latter part of the route was alnost incalculable. No one except those who saw or oxperienced $i$, can have any idea of its oxtout.Sights, the thoughts of which, would make the hood chill in ausy humun breast. After I left the train. I saw men sitting or lying by the road side, sick with fevers or crippled by scurvy, begging of the passers by, to leud them some assistance; but no one could do it. The winter was so near, that it was sure death to tarry, and the teams were all giving out, so that the thought of hauling them in the wagous was absurd. Nothing could be done, consequemly they were left to a slow lingering death in the wilderness. This was, certainly, an uwful state of thinge-and beyoud repair. The roomen claimed the first attention, and all the assistance that could, under the circumstunces, be given. Many of thom suffered mors than I ever anpposed any female conild endure. The days were extremoly hot, and thoy travolling day after day, week after week-over roads very dusty, rough, and mounainous-coohting eveningswleeping on the earth with a scanty supply of blankete-in fact, deprived of every comfort of lifo and many of the necessaries- all withont a deapouding look or a murmuring word. They ware
nlways ready and willing to do anything in thers power that could racilitate their progress. It was no rare thing to see ladies young and old lifling at the wheels to assist their reduced teams in aso scending the steep and rogged mountains. No false modesty was exhibited here. The more noHe and elevated the mind, the more she folt it hor duts to kerp life and energy in her companions. and the stronger were her exertions. Here was a great place for the display of character. It was remarked by wany, that the ladies ovinced more notivily and energy on the latter part of the route, than most of the men-(a shamefal trulh, some may say.) A person who says that zooman (in the time of peril,) possesses less activity, energy, cool calculation, or power of eudurance than man, is either ignorant, deceitrol, or basoly selfish. Our boys wore all well when I hoard from them last. Thes were in the minos, 250 miles from here, on Feather liver. There are many atories told here about the mines, as woll as in the Steter; but the fect is, there is gold enough in this counatry, but nut so easily obwined as many suppose. There aro many more hore now, than will ever get rich.Perhaps it is owing to their instability. Thousauds spend all they can carn at the gaming tablo, which are very mumerous here. Some make a fortune in a short time, while many make nothing. On the morning of the 24th, a fire broke out on the lower side of Portsmouth square, between Clay and Washington streets, which consuned 25 or 30 buildings, at a loss of about one and a half millions of dollars. Business is very duil here this winter, that is, for this place. Remember me to all my triends. Tell them that lam "alive and kinking." I am quite thin is flesh, weighing only ¿ul pounds, thinly clad. * Excuse all imperfections.

JAS. D. LYON.

