

To D.M. Campbell

San Jose, Calif.

From D.L. Campbell

July 27th, 1851

Dear Father:

I am very glad to be able to inform you again that Brother and I are well. We received a letter from you on the 25th inst. dated May 25, 1851.

We have thrashed out some of our barley and sent one load yesterday to be shipped to San Francisco to sell, the price has been down but is rising now. It is now from 5 1-2 to 6 cents a pound. Our potatoes, what are standing look pretty well but the squirrels have made great havoc on every thing we have, but we now keep two hands on them all the time and if nothing prevents I think will save them from this on.

We got the master wheel of our machine broke two weeks ago which was throwed us back very much but we got another yesterday so we will get to thrashing this week.

My throat is much better than when I wrote last and gives me but little trouble now. The boys are all well, no sickness among the connections, everybody healthy in the valley.

Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Morey and all the friends, do the best you can.

Farewell

D.L. and J. Campbell

To D.M. Campbell

From D.L. Campbell

San Jose, Calif.

August 12th, 1851

Dear Father:

I am well. Brother James has written to Elizabeth and I will send a word; we received a letter a week since dated June 14th. It was a first rate letter, tells all the little things.

I am sorry to hear that you have had so much rain. I wish we could have divided. We have lost very much by the dry season. We will do but poorly in comparison to what we would have done; barley and wheat is not as high as it has been, barley is from 4 1/2 to 5 cents a pound in San Francisco, costs 3/4 of a cent to ship and sell.

I will now go to San Francisco. Uncle Charles has made other arrangements as usual, money is getting some little plentier so I am in hopes that I can make some other ways besides the farm.

Brother James is out thrashing now, we charge 16 cents a bushel. We have all our barley all thrashed but not cleaned. I wrote two weeks since so have but little to say. I will write often, postage is cheap.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. I cannot say yet when we will start home though we expect to start in the fore part of the winter, but if we can make money we may delay a month or two.

No. 13

San Francisco

Sept. 13, A.D. 1851

To: D.M. Campbell

From D.L. Campbell

Dear Father:

I am well at present. I left San Jose last Monday and came to San Francisco. Brother James was well and was thrashing. I think he will make some \$500 at that this year. Our wheat and barley turned out but poorly, the potatoe crop has been nearly an entire failure, but we have 8 or 10 acres that look as well as I have ever seen, we added that is the tops are flourishing and the potatoes were beginning to form when I left and I think we will do well on them though the farming business has been near a failure generally it would have likely been better for us in money matters to have done something else, but still we will make something and if I did not want to see you all so bad I would try it another year here but I am now clerking for Uncle Charles and as I can make more here in one month than I could at home in a year I think we had better stay until the middle of February anyhow.

If we can both get business to do James will work for wages After we get our crop in for the balance of the time we stay.

I have received no letters from you for five weeks but the mail has come in this last week and I hope that letters have arrived at San Jose. Uncle Charles is up there and will be down Monday and bring them if any.

My health is very good and I have gained 5 lbs in flesh this last week. I had been compelled to work so hard during the summer that I have got a little thin in order but I hope if provisions are cheap I will fatten, if they are dear I can sell mine for a large price, so you see I am in the trade anyway. I have written to letters to D.G. Whitney for that money on Mr. Nises note which he promised last spring but I received no answer but the other day I discovered him in the city and boned him, he says he will pay in a few weeks so you see

I have nearly got it.

I believe I have nothing more to write but hoping that we may all be contented and happy, I bid you all for the present

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

P.S. You might send some of your letters to this city and direct here to D.L. Campbell as I have to enquire for that address anyhow and D.L. and J.C. Makes such a long story to tell over.

I just got a letter from James containing one you dated July 13th. Glad to hear all is well.

The foregoing letter, dated in San Francisco September 13, 1851 was written on a San Francisco News-Letter form. This is some stationary half of which is printed in an infinitesimal type giving the news of the day and the other half blank for the letter.

San Francisco News Letter-Vol 1

No. 4

For the Steamers Carolina and Panama, Sept. 13 and 15, 1851.

Published on the day preceding the departure of each Mail steamer by Francis A. Bonnard at the Sunday Dispatch office, Montgomery street, corner of Commercial street.

Saturday Aug 30.

The last number of this sheet brought the news up to the 29th inst. The domestic news today is of very little importance.

At about 2 o'clock this morning the fine steamer, Pacific, of Vanderbilt's Independent line, entered our harbor in 15 days and three hours sailing time from Panama, the quickest trip on record. She brings 16 days later intelligence and 110 passengers, among who is our late representative, the Hon. George Washington Wright. Her news relative to the movement in Cuba has excited considerable interest in the

community and we look anxiously for the next advices.

Last evening there was a large mass meeting in front of the Oriental Hotel of those citizens who have shaken off the shackles of party in the present crisis and who desire to stand by the Independent ticket. This ticket purports to contain the names of some of the best men from among the Whig and Democratic nominees and to reject those which were deemed by some bad-supplying their place with others of known capability. The probability is, as we said before, that the Independent ticket will be the means of electing those regular Whig and Democratic candidates whose names are also on it. At the meeting the Independent ticket was ratified.

Sunday August 31st;

This morning we have to record the quickest trip that has yet been made around the Horn. The Flying Cloud has just anchored in our harbor in 189 days from New York. This beats the famed trip of the Surprise by seven days. There were several heavy bets made that the Surprise's passage would not be beaten, but we imagine there are none rash enough to venture on a vessel beating the trip of the Flying Cloud.

We are happy to learn by the Pacific that many of the leading papers in the transmountain states are favorably disposed towards the action of our Vigilance committee. It would make but little difference if they were not, still it is a pleasure to have the good will of all.

There has been a tremendous storm at Valparaiso, in which the American schooner Betty Bliss, the British steamer Peru and the steamship Ecuador were wrecked.

Monday, September 1st:

As the election day approaches the political cauldron boils more fiercely. Nightly the Whigs and Democrats are out with

music, long processions, banners and transparencies.

The effect of the Independent ticket is evidently favorable to the Democrats, as without its aid they would scarcely elect a man.

The Whig journals are, therefore, assailing the Independent party with all their might.

Today news has arrived from the South. The question of the division of the State is still mooted. The Los Angeles Star says:

"In this county all the candidates for the legislature have pledged themselves to use their efforts to obtain a division of the State and we are informed that this is also made a test in the neighboring counties.

Tuesday, Sept. 2nd:

The sad news has reached us of a large conflagration at Marysville. It took place last Sunday morning at a little after 12 o'clock midnight. The fire originated in a Chinese washhouse and spread rapidly in all directions until threentire blocks were destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$500,000. The limits of the burnt district are thus perspicuously laid down by the Marysville Herald:

"The South side of Second street, from D to E streets; the East side of E street from Second street to the Plaza; the North and East sides of the Plaza; the Levee from the Plaza to D street; the West side of D street from the Levee to Second street; both sides of First street from D street to the Plaza and both sides of High street from First to Second streets were entirely destroyed."

We learn that notwithstanding the fire there was a large stock of goods left in the city and that the merchants were too keen to drive traders off to Sacramento by charging exceedingly high prices.

Saptain Woodward, who has recently arrived in charge of the G.S. Lake Mail, reports many Indian difficulties on the plains.

This evening the Whigs have had a very long and a very brilliant procession.

The Democrats have also been on the alert.

The Independents held an immense meeting on the Plaza at which the Hon. Mr. Holmes, late of South Carolina, made one of the most eloquent speeches we ever heard. The enthusiasm is great. Each party feeling equally sanguine.

Wednesday, Sept. 3rd.

Quite a number of complaints have been made recently by Dr. Rabe and other passengers by the Nicaragua route of the disagreeable occurrences delays that happened to them on their trip. The agent of the line on the contrary and the friends of Vanderbilt gave a very different account. There were undoubtedly delays and disagreeable events happening which are inseparable from the beginning of such an enterprise as the Independent Nicaragua Line; but we are inclined to think that these can in a short time be avoided. They certainly bid fair to make the quickest trips. The new line should become exceedingly popular.

Today the grand struggle comes of which is to decide whether we send two Whigs or two Democrats to the House of Representatives; whether we supply the place of the Hon. Mr. Fremont with a

Whig or Democrat and under whose guidance the State is to be for the next year.

Split tickets are all over the city by the thousands, and so skilfully are the regular tickets counterfeited and so inextricable is the confusion of names, Whigs, Democrats and Independents on the tickets, that the counting of the votes after election must occupy several days.

This morning we learn that the Pacific Star, the Democratic

sheet of our city has expired. We felt that one or two of the papers must go soon; there are too many here now, and the only hope we have is that the city will grow up to the newspaper supply.

The papers this morning speak in high terms of Mr. Holme's speech last evening.

To: Edward Campbell

San Francisco

Clayton, Ill.

Sept. 28th A.D. 1851

From D.L. Campbell

Dear Brother:

I received a letter from you dated on the 20th and 28th of July . It gives me great satisfaction to hear from you that you are well. Brother James sent it down three days since , he wrote that he is well, he is still thrashing . He charges 16 cents a bushel for thrashing. We have not sold all our barley, not any of our wheat. We expect to have our wheat ground. It will then bring about \$8 a hundred.

Barley is now worth 5 to 5 1-2 cents a pound , but I think it will be higher. Potatoes are worth from 4 to 6 1-2 cents a pound. We have eight acres that will be ready for market about the first of November, although our crop has partially failed I see barley, potatoes and onions raised here that exceeds any thing I ever saw in Illinois.

Since I have been in Uncle Charles' store here I have seen 20,000 pounds of onions in one lot that would average 3/4 of a pound, some weighing two and one half pounds and the finest potatoes I have ever seen anywhere are raised in this country as in San Jose Valley.

I have heard of but one death from fever since I came in fact I have known of no sickness at all among persons who have lived here one year. This is not so warm as in the States on account of the sea breeze in the night. It blows from the land and is cool so that blankets are always comfortable: splendid place to sleep. In the day a strong breeze sets in from the Bay of San Francisco and so it is very pleasant.

Apples does not do well in San Jose valley, but pears and grapes are fine, peaches do tolerable , a water melon here as big as

your head is worth \$1.50 and plenty raised too, butter from 75 cents to a dollar a pound, but from 8 to 12 1-2 cents a pound, chickens 2 dollars apiece, hen eggs 12 1-2 cents apiece, these are San Jose prices, eggs here sell for 25 cents.

Things I have seen

Viz: A good gingham dress, 9 yards, bought for 3 1-2 dozen eggs in San Jose, 10 lbs sugar for a pound of butter, a woolen shawl for six eggs, but you may say to Mother and Sister that this will not perhaps always be so but these things will always be a good price. I am of the impression that there is on an average as much gold taken out this year as ever, but people have worked more diligent. I calculate that the working men take out from 3 to 6 dollars a day, but hundred don't work where ten does, and many who work spend it foolishly. There is considerable doing now at Quartz mining, but it takes capital.

I am almost sorry I did not give up the crop and go to the mines last spring, but it may be I will do as well. I don't know when we will go home, I want to see you all very much, but it does not feel as though I was doing the best for myself to leave 3 to 4 dollars a day and go there and take 50 cents. That is the rub. I feel rather uncomfortable as I am, and find many things here I don't like and think that if you were all here with our friends I would feel better.

One great trouble here is ~~new~~ ~~old~~ as soon as a man gets to California he feels like he was a new man and must do a new thing, so the first effort he generally shows that he is a fool, but all the time making out like he is very wise and knows everything, and you know that there is no dependence to put in such animals. A gold chain is the pride of people, gamblers have them and dress fine and others that would be honest feel like they must be of the first cut, so they must be fine, even if they have to steal it, so when all comes to all there are not many honest men left, this is men in the cities and valleys I am

speaking of.

I wrote to Father to send my letters here but he may continue to send to San Jose as I don't know how long I will stay here, and they can be sent down here from there. I cannot say when we will start home untill we get our crop in, then if we can' t add to it tolerable fast and sure we will start pretty soon, but if we can make considerable we may stay till spring.

Be of good courage , do just and right to all men, knowing that our time here is but short and act accordingly.

Farewell to all

D.L. Campbell

Private

D.M. Campbell

From D.L. Campbell

No. 14
San Jose, Calif.
Oct 1, A.D. 1851

Dear Father:

In my letter to Brokher I have written about California etc. Edward stated in his letter to me that the owner of the Southwest of twenty one will not agree to confirm the sale, I am very sorry he thinks the other place will be comatable)? by and by. If I could go home now we could consult together, and after weighing the colateral circumstances, then could find that a removal to California would add to our profit and advantage we could then come next summer, but I do not believe hat I could come next year. As things now are I must have my money first.

If a man was settled here and had a good number of friends of the right kind he might do very well, in fact the worst difficulty now is to get land of a good title and in a good location. I have been nowhere but in San Jose valley and know but little of other valleys. I have heard of many other places that I suppose are nearly as good that could be easily come at if we were here. I could fi d small valleys in the mines where a person could make money but it would be rather a rough life to live. People here are not like they are in the states.

I believe Uncle William is honest, he has a wretched wife which tends to keep him under the weather. Uncle Charles has been very kind to me apparantly and he thinks he has done wonderful well for me but I could not stand his pride and arrogance. He supposes that hoo the world is devided off in classes and those who won't work, dress fine and make a good show are the first class. He thinks that his family are too good to work and too pretty and smart to be classed with working people. I generally say what I please to them. I tell them that if I knew as little as they do and had to depend on a negro to live I would go on the county at once.

They have always appeared kind to me and the family are wonderful anxious to have us move out.

Cousin Benjamin is a very cleaver, honest good fellow I think; he is going to Missouri this fall and may come to see you. If he does live fine, don't be uneasy, Mother can get a better meal in half an hour than they ever seen in California. Cousin David farmed with us this year. He is a lazy, proud, ignorant good for nothing dishonest scounderal, and we have no doubt lost a thousand dollars by him this year. People here all have large views of their own importance and think because they have come to California every person ought to reverence them.

You must do the best you can, go ahead with all your might and when we return we can then settle on what to do. Brother writes that he will get some calves this fall. The first of July I sent you \$200 on Page & Bacon of St Louis and hope you have it before now. You must write when you get it. If you should not get it, let me know so that I can arrange with there Bank here to get the money.

My throat has hurt me but little since I came here and I hope it will now get better. I do not know how long I will stay here, possibly untill I start home.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell.

To: D.M. Campbell

From D.L. Campbell

No. 15

San Jose, California

October 27, A.D. 1851

Dear Father:

Brother and I are well. I received your two letters a few days since, one dated in the latter part of August, the other the 5th of September. It grieves me to hear that the cholera has been so fatal in the neighborhood, but I feel in hopes you have escaped. There has been no cholera or fever here this year.

Every person is healthy. It is the most healthy country I have ever known. My last letter was written to you and Edward, No. 14 September 30th from San Francisco. I then expected to stay there for some time but like all other things in California a few days make a great change.

Uncle Charles and William and Cousin David have been merchandising in San Jose for two years and credited out a great deal and as long as they continue business they could not collect. Uncle Charles has opened a Commission San Francisco and could not attend this. They proposed as none of the others could manage it to let me in a full partner with Uncle William and let the others go out and collect the old debts.

Uncle William furnishes a large two story house for the store. Uncle Charles boards me to stay with his family, they being here yet, and I get one half I make, that is brother and I have half of the next to the largest store in San Jose the capitol of California.

Brother has made about \$900 on the thrasing machine and he gets half. \$900 is to go on the store as our own until we wish to start home and we will draw out our half. Uncle William is to take back all the goods between this and spring when we wish to go back. Uncle Charles being in San Francisco will buy all the goods I want and send them to me as I write for them. I have been receiving my new stock for a few days past and in a week more I will have it complete. I sell for cash down and no credit. I think I will do very well and if I could stay here I could get such a

holt that I could do well certain.

I do not know yet when we will start home but I now think we will go in February unless we are making money pretty fast in which case we would be guided some by your letters, but we must go in the spring if possible.

I am very anxious to see you all. You may rest assured that we will do the best we can.

Our crop will do but little, yet some men who happened to get the right kind of land for the season will make fortunes. I must acknowledge that I know I have partially failed in my object in coming here.

I begin to wish that you were all here, the climate is so delightful, never too hot or too cold, but it may be very wet, but I can see how it will be this winter. It is fine for raising all kinds of grain except corn. For potatoes, onions, beats, etc. it can't be beat. It is not uncommon for 60 beets to be three feet around. It is a fact that the greatest inducement is the health of the country. I scarcely ever hear of a case of sickness and when I hear of so much sickness in Illinois it rather shakes my faith in it.

There is yet considerable difficulty in procuring land where there is no conflicting claim but that will be settled in a year or two.

When there is a good title land ranges from \$10 to \$50 an acre, but if I was going to settle here with the whole family I think a part should go to the mountains near the main valley and find a small valley sufficient for a garden, etc. and raise cattle and hogs while the rest would stay in the valley, get a piece of good land and raise barley, wheat and potatoes.

In that way a few families could work to each others hand so that it would not require much means and I think could live comfortably and make money if they wished.

This country is filled with a bad population worse than it should be, but they are generally very wicked and that professedly just that they profess to be, but in Illinois they are worse and yet pretend to be

religious and so far as I am concerned I think the society much the best here. When a man steals your cow or horse here or is guilty of any other vile action everyone speaks out, there is no apologies. He goes at it openly like a bold rascal and then flees for protection among rascals as they do there, but they don't try to get into the church. The society here is new but I think as good as in Illinois.

I will be at home soon and then we can tell you all about it and until then be easy and I hope when I come we can settle it some way satisfactory. Write often.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

come home was taking the advantage for the sake of number, I think was not treated with that respect that I deserved tho I am glad the girls has got religion.

The Cumberland in this country is very much exposed to the Methodist on the account of good workes in their discipline. They call it duty in praise of workes.

I suppose they call it duty when they talked to my children, if so I would like to know if they pute too silables to theare duty as the first silable will commence with the letter L. I have Methodist preaching hear every other Sunday. Thare is all kindes of denominaations in this country, they all appear like they are a gooing godd but the Catholicks and Campbellliets. I heard the chollerra was verry bad in the Staites last summer, it has never been in this country.

We are all well, we are living a long waia a parte and the probabilitaty is that we never will see each other in this life, if not let us try and live in that so we will be numbered with the riches on the morning of the resurrection. I am your brother until death.

James Campbell

N.B. When I read over this I could not think what you could call it as
is is the first that I have rote to you and it treates on so many
different subjects that you will have to call it the generl epistle of
James.

J.C.

From James C. Campbell
 To David M. Campbell his brother
 Clayton, Adams County, Ill.

Salem, Marion county,
 Oregon Territory
 November 8th, 1851

Dearbrother and sisters:

As I promised to write to you when we parted in Kentucky as twenty years and upwards has past since I think it is time I should fill my promise.

I did not go to see Mother qfter you and me left when I got away I thought it best as I lacked fortitude. When I went to Salem I bought a wagon, four yoke of oxen and two milch cows to give milk on the rode. We left Independence the twenty fifty day of Aprile, got to Fort Laramy the fifth of June, to the Independence Rock the 16th, to the Pacifick spring across the summit of the mountains the 21st, to Forte Hall the 5th, of July, got home the 25th of August with all that I started with.

I drove my one team all the way, unyoked them at home in as good plite as they ware when I started. I drove across the plains with the one hickry whip stock, now you can tell the reason that my team come in good order.

It was the first team I had ever sean aross the plaines in good order.

Nancy rode in the wagon. I had to lone fillers to the com any to drive cattle after I passed Fort Hall. As I had plenty I could mixe up flower and wat so she co ld drink it. The grass was scarce tho I fed her on slop the balance c the rode. By that means she come in good order.

The emigrants on the planes enjoyed good helth this year.

There was some thirty or forty emagrants kiled by the Indians with some white mean at theare head. A good many emagrants got robed, some lost all. There has been a grait deal of property lost by the robbers this year. I have just heard of some of the robbers being detected in the Chesta gold mines in California. Theare was two men, one was a doctor, his name I donte no. The other was Charles Smith, he gowes by the naim of Whiselen Charley. Theas two kept horses for the miners at Chesta. The horses was stolen, tho laid on the Indians. Whiselen Charley disapeared, left the doctor to tend

the stock. The miners thru suspision took the doctor and skeard him tel he d
 devulged the secret and toled whare some of the horses was. They maid him
 gow and they found them in different places in California. He stated thar was a
 run from their to the Dales, that on the Columbia river, then to Grand
 Rounds to Forte Hall, then to Salt Lake. He give the naims of his
 clan, three was in the mines or in Chesta City, one is by the name of
 Winslo, gambler of Oregon. They took them and put them in irons until
 they could get the balance. Whiselan Charly and two others
 with three Indeons in company was gon to the Dales with two hundred head of
 horses. The miners concluded to follow them. They elected their Alcald and
 sheriff and started with forty men for jurors.

Theare jurisdiction was enny plaise in the United States territory. When the
 go to the Dales Charley and his company was gone with the horses.
 They started for this vally, they camped at the foot of the Cascade
 Mountain. Their Indeons thought it would be more profitable to have
 fewer pardners in the drove. They k lled Charly and the other two
 before they crost the mountain. They took them back to whare they committed
 the murder, theare they found four thousand dollars round Whislen
 Charly waist. They then started to take a company that winter in at
 the Grand Bounds. They have a large drove of horses. They intend to
 gow to the Staits in the spring. This company intends to ketch and hang
 the last man of the clano clan in their jurrseccion, if so the
 emagrants will fair better a nother year.

This valley is settled up since I left last year. A grait manny come
 from California sence the donation bill past and the emmagrants this year
 I se is settling on land that I wouldnt have. There is a fine country
 at the Pugit Sounds but littel setteled yet. I have never sean it sho it
 is represented as a good part of Oregon, the best ship harbor on the contnant
 is their. The timber their the world cannot beat. It groes much longer their th
 it does in this vally. It is said that the yellow seder at the Sounds is

frequently to the first lim two hundred feete and is a good timber to split.

Theare is a good deale of praria in that section of the country, a fine plais to raise stock and grain. The soile is gravely the some contends that its better for small grain than this valley. If so it will do well.

I would like for you to come to this country provided you can get a place to soote you. If not I do not want you to come, this is a easy place to live than that. This time hear the grass is perfectly green, I donte feede enny stock, they keep fat all winter on grass. Stock has fattening some since I sean you. Filles is worth a hundred and fifty dollars, cow and calf fifty, a yoke of oxen one hundred dollars, shepe five dollars, beef on foote per hundred six dollars, porke meate twelve dollars, chickens seventy five sents a pease, eggs per dozen seventy five sents, butter a pound fifty sents, cheese fifty, wheat and oates per bushel each one d llar, thar on the rise. Dry goods is as cheepe hear as they are in Missouri.

Mancys heath improved all the way across the plaines, she is stout now than she has been for several years. She is mately pleased with her home and the country. She takes a gradeel of paines with my children as much so as if the was her one. The children think of much of Nancy as the did there one mother, so I think we will engoy life a gain.

I received a letter from brother Charles a few days agow. He wrote from San Francisco and did not name enny of the kin. He was well, that is all the letter I have received from California. ~~0000000000000000~~ Since ~~0000000000~~ I got home. I wrote to you, tho, they may be at home by this time.

Last summer befoure I got home Jain and Elizabeth profest religion at a Cumberlen Presbeterion meeting and they got the girls to joine them, which I do not blam the girls for I know that young people is apt ~~at 00000000~~ to act at such a time from the impulse of the momente as them preachers was well aquented with me and knowed that I was on the rode and a member of the Methodist Church and acted as father and brother for them little girles for them to pursuaid and tel them that their father would goin when he