THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARIEL.

$1,478,876 in Treasure.

THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE STILL IN POWER.

IMPORTANT REPORT ON OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.

Great Fires in Marysville, Placerville and Nevada City.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

MARKETS,

&c., &c., &c.

The steamship Ariel, Lieutenant S. T. Hunter, U. S. N., commanding, which sailed from Aspinwall August 4, at 9½ o'clock P. M., with the passengers, mails and treasure brought down by steamer Golden Age, arrived last night.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamship Golden Age, with passengers, United States mails and treasure, sailed from San Francisco, July 21, at 2.45 P. M.; 28th inst., 8.30 A. M., passed Nicaraguan steamer Cortes, bound up. Same day, at 5 o'clock, P. M., arrived at Acapulco, and sailed again same day for Panama, at 10 o'clock, P. M.; 2d inst, at 7 o'clock, P. M., passed steamer Jno. L. Stephens, bound up. Arrived at Panama August 4.

Treasure for New York	$1,471,360 95
" " England	448,666 07
" " Panama	31,500 00
Total	$1,951,527 02

The outward mails and passengers per Ariel were despatched from Panama per steamship John L. Stephens, on the 1st inst., at 6 o'clock P. M. Passengers all in good health and spirits. The mails, passengers and freight were transported from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 3½ hours.

All is quiet and peaceable on the Isthmus, and no indication of further trouble.

The United States sloop St. Mary's is still remaining off Panama, and the United States ship Saratoga is at anchor off Aspinwall. Officers and crews of both ships in excellent health.

The following is the specie list of the Ariel:—

Bank of America	$44,000	Order	$47 205
Booth & Edgar	1,620	James & Patrick	78,000
Butcher & Bro	10,000	Reed & Wade	3,500
C. H Cummings	6,000	Wm. Schigman & Co.	26,000
W. T. Coleman & Co.	6,908	J. Stratss, Bro. & Co.	15,106
Drexel & Co.	355,000	Schalle & Bros	12,500
Duncan, Sher'n & Co.	126,370	J. Stanwood	2,000
Z. Ernstein & Bro.	3,000	E. A. Steen & Co.	8,274
Freeman & Co.	11,000	G. W. Schenkburgh.	10,000
Wm. Hoge & Co.	103,500	Henry Stryhing	3,200
Wm. H. Hall	8,500	Wolfe Bros. & Unz.	16,000
Wm. Heller & Co.	11,500	Israel E. Wolfe	6,000
T. J. Hand & Co.	10,000	Wellington & Abbott	7,000
Hamburger & Bros.	7,000	J. B. Weir	4,015
E. Kelly & Co.	63,700	T. Wattsons & Sons.	10,000
John E. Lodge	17,000	G. H. Hines & Co.	14,261
Metropolitan Bank	180,000	Wells, Fargo & Co.	228,200
Newhouse & Spatz	10,000		

Amount from San Francisco	$1,471,360
FROM ASPINWALL.	
S Hausburgh	2,000
Mosquera & Co.	400
D. T. Larman & Co.	116
Total	$1,473,876

Summary of Fortnight's News.

[From the Alta California, July 21.]

California is still convulsed by an active, peculiar an powerful public opinion. About the middle of May th panorama of our troubles began to unroll and expose the startling scenes of our present history, and though the belief is to be indulged that all which is dark and alarming has passed from view, entire peace, entire quietness and permanent removal of difficulties have not been reached.

Since the sailing of the first July steamer there has been greater calmness in public feeling than heretofore since hostilities were commenced between ackdowledged right and evident wrong. This, is, without doubt, the consequence of a cessation of violent criminal acts.

The people throughout the State have fully discussed, inquired into, and maturely decided upon, the manifestations of the wishes pf the Pacific metropolis, and have extended their sympathy and endorsed the proceedings.

All accounts from the mines are as favorable as ever, and the continued prosperity of these regions need not hereafter be questioned.

The grain crops are everywhere abundant—far beyond expectation.

On the 5th of July, a most lamentable misfortune befel the town of Placerville. A fire broke out, and destroyed one hundred and eighty-six buildins, which, together with other property, were valued at about $500,000. The town was nearly all burned, and Mr. Benham perished in the flames, while several others were injured. Collections for the sufferers are being taken up in various places.

On the 8th, the village of Georgetown, Placer county, was consumed by fire, and the loss is estimated at $100,000. Seventy buildings were destroyed.

On the 12th, the town of Fair Play, El Dorado county, was burned, involving a loss of about $70,000.

On the 16th, a disastrous fire took place at Marysville, and consumed a large number of buildings, valued at $100,000.

On Sunday, the 6th, the town of Santa Barbara became greatly excited, in consequence of the appearance, in the place and vicinity, of Edward McGowan, the bad character indicted as an accomplice of Casey in the murder of Mr. King, and who has eluded the Vigilance police.

Excitement prevails now at Yreka, Siskiyou county, bordering on Oregon, in regard to the shooting of a miner, named J. Blunt, by Deputy Sheriff Millhouse, who was attempting to arrest him for creating disturbance on the Fourth of July.

On the 16th, James Downing, a tailor, of Nevada, was shot by his brother-in-law, James Walsh, and it is thought his wound is fatal.

On the same day, and at the same place, an affray occurred between a party of miners. Several shots were fired, and E. A. Head, and a man named Walker, were badly wounded.

A controversy is now taking place between certain parties and the Governor, relative to an arrangement with the Committee of Vigilance, that they may deliver up Judge Terry, and cease to exercise authority. Nothing has been done to this effect.

The reception of the late Presidential nominations has not been particularly enthusiastic. A few ratification meetings had been held inland, and most of the journals have chosen their positions for the canvass, and a few leaders are trying to form campaign clubs.

David S. Terry, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, is yet in confinement in the rooms of the Committee of Vigilance.

S. A. Hopkins, the victim of Terry's propensity to stab others with knives, after nearly recovering from his wound, was attacked with a dangerous disease, and for several days his life was despaired of, but he is now convalescing.

What is to be the fate of the imprisoned Judge all are trying to conjecture.

James Gallagher, Casey's executor, has been arrested, but set at liberty, on conditions agreed to by the Committee. Several others were allowed the same privilege.

"Chris. Lilly," the ex-New York pugilist, and against whom there is an indictment for murder in New York State, was arrested on the 8th, and admitted to bail, that he might settle his business previous to going into exile.

The exportation of offensive persons attracts great crowds to the dock on steamer days.

Anthony D. Gardner attempted to shoot himself on Monday, the 7th instant, but he failed to do it.

James McDonald, captain of police, and very much respected, died suddenly on the morning of the 5th. He was born at Cincinnati, and had been in this city since 1849.

On the night of the 5th, two Chinamen were brutally murdered at the Lagoon, near the city.

Chas. E. Rand was arrested on the 7th, charged with piracy, in assisting John L. Durkee and others, to disarm a party carrying off State arms down the bay. He gave $25,000 bail, the same amount required of Durkee, arrested previous to the departure of the last steamer.

Capt. A. A. Ritchie, a prominent merchant of this city, was thrown from his carriage, at Napa Springs, on the 9th, and instantly killed. He was of the firm of Ritchie, Osgood & Co.

The report that McGowan, accessory to the murder of Mr. King, had been seen, created much sensation throughout the city, and a vessel was manned and started for Santa Barbara to bring him, if captured.

On Saturday, the 12th ult., Henry Darling was stabbed by Mrs. Jordan, but her weapon being small shears, she did not hurt him as much as she may have intended.

Mortimer Fulton, chief engineer of the steamship Golden Age, was instantly killed by the machinery on her upward trip. He was a native of Louisiana, has a wife and two children at Benicia, in this State, and was a graduate of the celebrated "Novelty Engine Works."

A brief and ineffectual cowhiding enterprise was engaged in on the 15th, between two confectioners. The whip did not work well, and folded fingers finished the combat.

Hasan, a Lascar boatswain on board the ship Tartar, was arrested a short time ago for assaulting the captain. He was sentenced to thirty days imprisonment, but allowed to go on board his ship when she departed.

Miss Gwin, daughter of ex-senator Gwin, while on a visit to Napa Springs was thrown from her horse and severely injured.

It has been reported to us that Gen. Wool, now at Napa springs, is dangerously ill.

Our city and county officers have been of late in a twisted and indeliable condition, owing to the new bonds required under the Consolidation Bill, and the pressure against inefficiency and official error. Several of the incumbents could not obtain bonds. The Board of Supervisors and Court of Sessions selected others in their places, but they refused to vacate. Petitions were put in circulation near two weeks since, requesting the county and city officers to resign. The petitions were signed by about six thousand citizens of all parties. On the evening of the 12th, an immense concours assembled, speeches were made, the petitions sanctioned, and a committee instructed to formally invite the immediate resignation of all the officers. On the 15th, another great meeting was held, at which the committee appointed at the previous metting reported that the officers had determined not to surrender their places. A few agreed to do so, providing their "companions in misery" would do likewise.

At this meeting considerable disturbance was created, and thirteen noisy fellows were arrested by the Vigilance police. Some of them were afterwards discharged, but others are reserved for exportation on old charges.

The various regiments of the Committee of Vigilance are frequently out on parade, and are the recipients of beautiful flags and banners from the sisterhood of the city.

The city is quiet and healthy.

Important Report from the Vigilance Committee.

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.

[From the Alta California, July 21.]

The following report has been placed in our hands by the Executive Committee, and we lay it before our readers as a very important document at the present time. It is the report of a sub-committee, who were entrusted with the duties which they have faithfully accomplished:—

The magnitude of the task assigned, the variety and extent of the subject matter proposed for their investigation, as well as the shortness of time allowed them, have rendered it impossible to make so thorough an examination as could be desired.

Under these circumstances they have deemed it best to point out such palpable and flagrant abuses or violations of law as have come under notice, with some defects in the laws themselves, and to make a few suggestions with a view of remedying the evils complained of.

In the first place, they have examined the financial system of the country, which has been managed by a Board of Supervisors, County Auditor, and County Treasurer.

The act of 29th April, 1851, creating a Board of Supervisors for the county of San Francisco, authorizes the Board to audit the accounts of all officers having the management, collection, or distribution of any moneys belonging to the county; and to examine, settle and allow all accounts chargeable against the county. Either by accident or design, there is no express restriction upon the power of the Board to incur indebtedness, although every other country in the State is strictly prohibited from creating any debts whatever.

The natural consequence is, that we have lived far beyond our annual income; extravagance has been the order of the day. The county is now burdened with a debt of at least half a million dollars, drawing legal interest until paid. Warrants have depreciated to less than half their value, and the holders have sustained loss in consequence; even though in many instances the law has been violated, in their favor, by issuing warrants for a sum sufficient to enable the creditor to discount them for the actual cash value of his claim.

All this is chargeable to the Board of Supervisors, who, through carelessness, recklessness or dishonest motives, have sacrificed tax payers on the one hand, and creditors of the county on the other; in short, every one but themselves.

To enumerate the actual and constructive frauds committed under such a system, would be an interminable labor, but an examination of the records will show that for this enormous expenditure the county has received little or no consideration, and that a great portion of the debt is either fraudulent or illegal.

The county has been grossly and continually swindled. Bills for carriage hire of Grand Juries; fees of Coroner and Sheriff; charges for stationery, travelling expenses of members of the Board of Supervisors; fees in criminal cases; appropriations and expenditures for county roads, bridges, and jobs done without authority of law, at the instance of individual members of the Board; printing bills, expenses of elections, furniture, and other charges—some of which have been gratuitously and illegally allowed—have been presented for double or treble the amounts due, have been approved without examination, and paid; in many cases, by issuing warrants for twice the amount, to enable the holder to realize cash value. It is to be hoped that before the county debt is paid or funded, a thorough examination will be made, and fraudulent or exaggerated claims wholly rejected properly reduced.

A committee was appointed for this purpose by the late Board of Supervisors, but the investigation was stifled, and no report made. The following are cited as illustrations of the system of reckless expenditure above referred to:—

1st. The purchase of the hospital building, and repairs of the same, amounting to about $30,000, which is a dead loss to the county, as the building has never been used, and is utterly unfit for the purpose.

2d. The attempted purchase of the small building in the rear of the City Hall, for $25,000.

3d. The appropriation of $10,000 for a county map on the 1st day of July, 1855, and the delivery of warrants for that amount on the 5th day of July, 1855, to Supervisor Musgrove, before the commencement of the work, which has never yet been completed.

4th. The appropriation of $450, and delivery of warrants for said sum so Supervisor Musgrove, about the same date, for purchasing hose to wash the Plaza, which has never yet been furnished. Fortunately the Consolidation bill remedies some of these abuses by prohibiting the creation of any future indebtedness, by fixing and reducing certain expenses, and by introducing the contract system.

It has been a matter of just complaint that the County Auditor has been in the habit of issuing warrants without authority of the Board of Supervisors, in apparent violation of the law above referred to, but the fault appears to be in the law itself, (sec. 30, p. 345 Gen. Stat.) which authorizes the County Auditor to pay all claims against the county which are not directed by law to be settled by some other person or tribunal, and also all just demands against the county, the amount of which is fixed by law.

The Consolidation bill seems to be still more defective in this respect, by authorizing the Auditor to allow and pay numerous demands against the county, all of which should be presented to the Board of Supervisors, if only to give them publicity.

The practice as to payment of claims against the county has been as follows:—When a bill was passed by the Board of Supervisors, a certificate showing the amount and nature of the same, and its allowance, was signed by the Clerk, countersigned by the Chairman of the Board, and presented to the County Auditor, who thereupon drew a warrant on the County Treasurer, and after registering the same in a book, gave it to the creditor.

The County Treasurer, if in funds, paid the warrant forthwith; otherwise it drew legal interest till paid. The original bills remained in the hands of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Latterly they have been kept with more care. Formerly they were open to the public, and have been, in many instances, lost or abstracted; thus destroying, perhaps, the only evidence of the fraud or illegality of claims. This defect seems to be remedied by the provions of the Consolidation Bill.

Another great abuse has existed in the system of appointing clerks and deputies, with large salaries, at the expense of the county, without any necessity for their services, and contrary to law, for the purpose of rewarding political friends.

For example: The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, who received for his services in that capacity two hundred dollars per month, has also acted as Clerk of the Board of Equalization, and for this service, while is merely nominal, he has received the further sum of two hundred dollars per month throughout the year.

The County Auditor, whose duties as such are trifling, and who receives a salary of $1,600 per annum is allowed a clerk at the expense of the county, without authority of law.

The County Treasurer, whose receipts are large, and whose necessary expenses are borne by the county, is allowed by the Board of Supervisors, three deputies or clerks at $250 each per month, without authority of law.

Casey and Mulligan occupied these positions for a year or more under Green, late County Treasurer, drawing their pay without rendering any real services.

The present Treasurer has rented an office outside the City Hall, in a building of Palmer, Cook and Co., adjoining their bank. The law provides that he shall have an office in the Court House, with stationery and furniture at the expense of the county. The county should not be held liable for his office rent as at present.

The Consolidation bill prohibits the employment of clerks or deputies for these offices, except at their own expense, and cuts off other incidental expenses, which have heretofore greatly increased the expense of our government.

In addition to what has been above stated, there are two serious charges which seem to require further and thorough investigation, viz.:—

1st. That warrants were drawn and paid to Grant, late County Auditor, and Green, late County Taeasurer, for pay of County Treasurer's deputies, for $9,000 over and above the amount allowed by the Board of Supervisors, in violation of law, as previously shown.

2d. That there is a discrepancy of $22,000 between the books of the County Auditor and the County Treasurer. This amount is understood to be due to the State from the County Treasurer, and to be claimed by the State Treasurer, though it is not known that legal proceedings have been instituted.

THE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE.

This is one of the most important and lucrative offices in the county, and ought to be managed with the utmost care and system under the personal superintendence of the Recorder himself, as the least neglect may occasion serious loss and injury to property holders.

Instead of this the office seems to have been conducted mainly with the view of realizing as much money as possible, and of rewarding political friends with clerkships.

The following facts have been ascertained, and are submitted:—

1st. That prior to the 1st of October, 1855, all the indexes are defective in many respects.

2d. That in many instances the records are not correct copies of the original instruments.

3d. That the clerks employed in the office were young men of no business capacity, many of whom could not write a legible hand.

4th. The statute requires that the record shall be officially signed by the Recorder, which is frequently omitted through neglect.

5th. The clerks are in the habit of comparing their work in the afternoon, at a time when they are anxious to leave the office, and do not devote the time or care necessary for a correct record, often if not uniformly omitting the acknowledgments or proofs of execution, which form an essential part of the instrument.

6th. That there are many records or copies, purporting to be copies of books, made by the last incumbent, and placed in the office, which have never been compared, or, if compared, are incorrect and imperfect, containing numerous errors, both as to description and parties, calculated to mislead, and which do mislead persons in examing titles, beside subjecting real estate owners to great expense and trouble. The old books are fast going to decay, hence it is imperatively necessary that there should be immediate action and new copies made.

In addition to the heavy fees paid by individuals, the office has been a source of heavy expense to the county, and while money has been lavishly expended, little benefit has resulted.

For example, Mr. Grant received the sum of $22,000 for copying certain books, which, it now appears, were never compared, and are full of errors.

The sum of $8,000 was appropriated by the late Board of Supervisors, on the 21st April last, for the purchase of the indexes of all papers recorded during the term of Mr. Grant, who claimed them as his private property, when responsible parties offered to furnish similar and more perfect indexes for $3,500. Fortunately for tax payers, the act of the Board was null and void, as the Consolidation bill had taken effect two days before.

It appears, also, by the receipt of Mr. Grant, dated 3d October, 1853, that certain indexes were delivered to him by his predecessor, and among others are the following, viz.:— 25 indexes of deeds, Nos. 3 to 30.
6 " of mortgages, Nos. 5 to 12.
1 " of papers on file

Of the deeds, Nos. 11 to 30 are missing; of the mortgages, Nos. 5, 6, and 8 to 12; and the index of papers on file.

Whether these have been lost or abstracted is not known; but they are not to be found in the office, and were never delivered to the present incumbent.

Your Committee would suggest that a commission should be appointed by the Legislature, or the Board of Supervisors, at an early day, to investigate and report fully as to the condition of this office, and to suggest such improvements and remedies for the existing abuses as they may deem proper. This was lately done in the city of New York; and the facts brought to light, showing the insecurity of titles, and the imperfections and mismanagement of the present system, was truly startling.

The idea of printing the land records was there suggested as a remedy, and your Committee are firmly convinced that, sooner or later, this plan ought to be adopted. The index might be printed at first, and ultimately the entire land records of the county. It would simplify the whole machinery of the office, increase the accuracy of the records, and the facility of reading and examining titles; while *fac simile* copies could be struck off and preserved to replace the worn out originals. Clerk hire and other incidental expenses would be reduced, and the office would no longer be an asylum for shoulder strikers and fellows barely able to write their own names.

The fees of the County Recorder's office have been enormous and are still large. He should receive a fair salary and his actual expenses, in lieu of his present compensation.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

The importance of this office is not often appreciated, even by intelligent men.

The powers and duties of the Sheriff are most extensive and various, his influence and patronage are great, his labors and responsibilities severe, while he is often exposed to the strongest temptations, and in times of emergency everything depends on his firmness and decision. It is an office to which neither demagogues, time serving politicians, nor men of inferior position, conceited but ignorant, should aspire; yet which the best men in the country will find it hard to fill.

Unfortunately, the late and former Sheriff are men wholly unfitted for the position, either by nature, education or associations; and their deputies, with few exceptions, have been of the lowest character.

The Sheriff's fees and emoluments in this county have been enormous, and probably without a parallel in the United States. Besides his fees as Sheriff, he has also received percentage and commissions as Tax Collector, to a large amount, and has been paid a liberal allowance for the clothing and feeding of prisoners. The Consolidation bill makes a change in this respect. The Sheriff is no longer Tax Collector, and the contract system is very properly applied to the expenses of feeding and clothing prisoners.

The principal abuses connected with this office are as follows, viz:

1. Recklessness, inattention and want of system have prevailed to a great extent in the business of the office.

2d. Many complaints have been made in regard to the summoning of juries. Certain men seem to have been selected to serve regularly as professional jurors, and it is charged, and no doubt truly, that juries have been packed at various times in important cases.

3d. Exorbitant bills and charges have been presented to the Board of Supervisors, and paid without examination; in some cases for more than double the amount legally or justly due. This has been the case with the fees charged in criminal cases, particularly for keeping and guarding prisoners. The sum of $950 per month has also been regularly charged and paid for the attendance of deputies in the reveral courts. In fact, both of these charges are unauthorized and illegal.

The law makes no provision for the compensation of deputies, who are paid by the Sheriff himself; yet, in violation of law, he thus remunerates himself by drawing pay from the county for their services. This office should be salaried with the rest, and an allowance made for necessary expenses.

It is proper, also, to state, that the records and miscellaneous papers of this office are in a state of almost hopeless confusion, and that the books and papers of ex-Sheriff Hayes, Johnson and Gorham are in their possession respectively, instead of being delivered to and in possession of the present Sheriff, which is a matter of great importance.

COUNTY CLERK—CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

The County Clerk is ex officio Clerk of the Fourth and Twelfth District Courts, the County and Probate Courts, and Court of Sessions, and receives fees from each office.

The Clerk of the Superior Court receives fees from that office alone.

It is not known that any complaints have been made in regard to these offices, with the exception of the frequent loss of papers from the office of the Clerk of the Fourth District Court; yet there is one abuse connected with them, so enormous and so injurious in its results, that to pass it over in silence would be an act of treachery and bad faith.

This is the system of extortion practized by the collection of money in the shape of fees to an amount which is absolutely startling, and which, while it robs men of their means and indirectly of their rights, furnishes the material for hiring bullies, buying, bribing and corrupting officers and voters, of stuffing ballot boxes and for perpetrating innumerable acts of fraud and villany. The revenues of these offices are parcelled out beforehand amongst some half a dozen politicians, who, if successful, live in the enjoyment of large incomes.

In the Superior Court during the year from 1st June, 1855, to 1st June, 1856, 1,309 suits were commenced. In the Fourth and Twelfth District Courts during the same period, 1,564 suits were commenced, the former being about 110 and the latter about 125 suits per month.

The fee bill established in 1850 was considered high, and an effort was made to reduce it, but by the action and influence of interested parties the act of 1851 rather increased than diminished these fees. The then charges were based upon the state of affairs which existed at the time; then money was plenty, labor expensive, and the number of suits less than at present.

As times changed, however, the burthen then became intolerable, and even Gov. Bigler, in his message to the Legislature, delivered Jan. 1, 1855, characterizes these fees as "so exorbitant as to amount in some cases to an absolute denial of justice"—and in spite of all opposition a democratic Governor and Legislature reduced the fees of these offices, who were members of their own party, about seventy-five per cent. The average rate of fees in each suit was then $80. Through the influence of Thos. Hayes, County Clerk of San Francisco, with our delegation, the fees were again increased last winter, and the present average rate is about $50. If we allow $40 as the average rate of fees in each suit, exclusive of $4, Court fees—it follows that the income of the Clerk of the Superior Court during the past year has been 55,960; while the County Clerk has received from the Fourth and Twelfth District Courts alone, in addition to his other emoluments, the princely sum of $60,160. The only expense to be deducted is for the hire of four clerks in the Superior Court, and five clerks or deputies in the Fourth and Twelfth, say $10,000 from each of the above gross sums.

Whether these officers deserve such pay, and whether the people ought to be taxed for their benefit, are questions to be considered by every good citizen. In the city of New York the clerks' fees in an ordinary suit amount to the insignificant sum of two dollars.

COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.

County matters have been quietly managed and kept in the dark for the last five years, and few citizens have had the time or patience to investigate them, and those in office appear to have made the most of their opportunities.

The law authorizes the Assessor to appoint deputies to aid him, and for his own or their neglect a deduction may be made from his account of services, and he may be indicted and fined $500.

Each Assessor and deputy shall render a weekly account of his services actually performed, under oath, to the Court of Sessions or Board of Supervisors. His compensation is to be regulated by the Board of Supervisors. The law formerly fixed it at not less than $8 or more than $16 for each Assessor or deputy, for every day the Court of Sessions or Board of Supervisors should be satisfied they were employed in actual discharge of the duties required by law. In 1851, the Board of Supervisors allowed $12 day (see order 15) for Assessor, or $9 for deputies. In 1852, they allowed $12 to the Assessor and $8 for deputies (order No. 35), which, in November of the same year, was increased to $16 and $12 for Assessor and deputies (order 47), and this pay they continued to receive in 1853 (see order 60).

In June, 1855, the pay was reduced to $10 per day for the time actually spent in the duties required by law (order 199), in accordance with a statute to that effect. (L. 1855, p. 121.)

The law of 1854 limits the time in which the assessor shall complete his general assessment to the interval between the first Monday in March and first Monday of August, in each year.

Now, how has the law been complied with, and what, if any, extra compensation has the assessor and deputies received?

Monthly accounts have been rendered instead of weekly, as required by law. The assessor is allowed by law five deputies and five months in each year, from March 1 to August 1, to complete his assessment.

From 29th September, 1854, to 1st of January, 1856, therefore, the law allowed five deputies, five months each, in all, twenty five months' pay, instead of which we find warrants issued between said dates, as follows:—

Warrants in favor of

Sharp	2 months		$856
D. S. Dyckman	1½	"	4,041
E. M. Hayes	1	"	27
Fowler	4	"	832
G. W. Ryder	1	"	416
John Barkelew	14	"	4,488
J. H. Shephard	12	"	3,104
J. H. Kellar	11	"	3,092
C. Ferguson	10	"	3,122
N. Rogers	7	"	1,590
J. A. Cauley	3	"	820
	76	"	$23,306

Showing an excess of 51 months' pay to deputies, amounting to the sum of $15,000, or thereabouts, more than that allowed by law. These warrants are now outstanding. They have been in many cases drawn in violation of the law, viz: for services rendered in months other than those specified by law, and for bills not sworn to by parties claiming pay for said services.

Some bills are sworn to, some are merely certified as correct by the Assessor. Some are neither certified nor sworn to, and others are not even receipted. In some instances warrants have been issued in favor of persons who were also drawing pay in other county offices, and to reward deputies who have been so exceedingly industrious as to work thirty or thirty-one days in the month.

Take the office of County Assessor, as a whole, and it will be found that gross neglect and disregard of law, and an unscrupulous disposition to fleece the county, have obtained throughout.

Besides the excess paid to deputies, the County Assessor himself has drawn pay for every day in the year, though he has done little or no work, and has never properly attended to his duties. He has also been paid as Superintent of County Schools, and for a copy of the assessment made by his deputies at the expense of the county, he received from the city, in 1854, the sum of $10,000. The present incumbent is now under indictment for grand larceny in appropriating certain county scrip, and has been sued by the county as a defaulter in not paying over, or accounting for moneys collected as poll tax.

The Consolidation bill cuts down the pay of the Assessor, including clerk hire and all other expenses of the office, to $6,000.

CORONER'S OFFICE.

There are some abuses connected with this office which require to be done away with.

In the first place, the Coroner is paid by fees, instead of a salary.

In the second place, constructive fees and illegal charges are made, and have been constantly charged, allowed and paid, so that each inquest has cost the county about $70. For post mortem examinations, $25 to $50 has been regularly charged and paid by the Board of Supervisors, in disregard of one of their own orders limiting it to $16. In many cases, without any necessity whatever, this charge has been made, as it is believed, for the sake of the fees and patronage.

Thirdly, it is alleged and has been proved that false inquests and pretended burials have taken place, with a view to secure the legal fees and perquisites, and that such cases have been frequent is more than probable, from the fact that inquests average one a day through the year. It is a notable fact that, since the organization of the Vigilance Committee, the number of inquests, as well as sudden deaths, has wonderfully diminished. The late Coroner claimed and sent in an exorbitant bill against the county, for rent of office and dead house, though the law did not authorise any such charge. Stationery is allowed to the present Coroner, in violation of the law.

The Coroner receives from the county about $25,000 a year, merely for the expenses of inquests and burials; witness and jury fees, taking down testimono at the rate of forty cents per folio (which is an illegal charge); and for his own fees, which are as follows:—$10 for each inquest, 25 cents for each mile necessarily travelled to hold an inquest, $2 for attending each burial, and the necessary expenses of interment, if the property of deceased be insufficient to pay the same.

It is the duty of the coroner to deliver to the county treasurer, or the legal representatives of the deceased, any money or other property found on the deceased after deducting the legal fees and expenses; and the law requires the coroner to account under oath, as to these monies and effects before his claims against the county are audited or allowed. This provision of law is not regarded at all; and the coroner must be presumed to be considerably benefitted by this neglect.

The bond of the coroner is only $5,000, which is certainly insufficient.

THE COURT OF SESSIONS.

Under this head the official conduct of the County Judge, the Justices of the Peace, who act as his associates, and of the District Attorney, may be properly considered.

And it is enough to say that they seem to have followed in the footsteps of the present Recorder, and to have had all along a perfect understanding and personal intimacy with the clique of wire-pullers, shoulder strikers, and public robbers who have ruled us for years.

That they have been unfaithful to their high trusts is apparent to every man. Delay and masterly inactivity have been the order of the day. The mantle of oblivion has been drawn over many a heinous crime, and the magic words, *nolle prosequi*, have let loose again upon the community many a hound unwhipt of justice.

The trials of Charles P. Duane, Billy Mulligan and John Lawler are cited, out of many others, as proofs of the farcical and wretched mockery which has been practised over and over again, and dignified with the name of justice. The records are teeming with such cases.

In the Court of Sessions, February 18, 1851, the case of The People of the State of California vs. William Mulligan—for threats against life—was before the court. It was ordered that it stand over.

In the same court, November 28, 1851, the case of The People vs. William Mulligan was presented by Grand Inquest, for an assault with an intent to kill.

January 19, 1852, this case came up. It was ordered that the case stand over for the term.

In the same Court, June 29, 1851, The People vs. Chas. Duane, charged with an assault with intent to kill. In this case a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

In the same Court, July 21, 1851, The People vs. Chas. Duane, indictment for assault with intent to commit murder. Prisoner allowed until next day to plead. Bail fixed at $20,000.

July 25, 1851—Upon trial, prisoner found guilty, but recommended to the mercy of the Court.

July 31.—Prisoner sentenced to one year in the State prison. Notice of appeal given.

August 12, 1851.—The order admitting him to bail was vacated.

The People of the State of California vs. Wm. Cummings—July 10, 1851, indicted for arson; a true bill.

Same vs. Same, July 11, 1851; ordered that this cause be transferred to the District Court for trial, according to law.

Same vs. Same, Sept. 8, 1851; grand larceny; *nolle prosequi* entered.

The People of the State of California vs. Ira Cole, July 21, 1851; charge for assault with intent to commit murder. Ordered that prisoner give bail in the sum of $2,000, for his appearance on the 22d, at 4 P. M.

Same vs. Same, July 23, 1851; ordered that the recognizance be exonerated and defendant discharged.

The People of the State of California vs. William Cummings and Robert F. Ridley, July 31, 1851; indicted for swindling. Admitted to bail each in the sum of $1,000.

Same vs. Same, August 4, 1851; ordered that the indictment be quashed, and the case be referred back to Grand Jury.

Same vs. Same, Aug. 14, 1854; indictment for grand larceny. True bill.

Same vs. Same, August 21, 1851; admitted to bail, sum of $2,000 each.

People of California vs. William H. Graham, July 30, 1851; assault with intent to kill. Counsel moves to enter a *nolle prosequi*. Motion denied.

Same vs. Same, August 9, 1851; assault with a deadly weapon; on trial, jury found him not guilty.

Same vs. Same, August 9, 1851; fighting a duel; *nolle prosequi* entered.

People of the State of California vs. Robert F. Ridley, August 2, 1851; a true bill of impeachment.

Same vs. Same, August 27, 1851; grand larceny; on trial, jury found him not guilty.

People of the State of California vs. Wm. Cummings, October 28, 1851; indictment for obtaining money under false pretences.

Same vs. Same, Nov. 21, 1851; on trial pleaded not guilty; gave bail in the sum of $1,500.

Same vs. Same, February 18, 1852; ordered that defendant be discharged, and his recognizance exonerated.

The People of the State vs. William Mulligan, Nov. 28, 1851; indictment for assault with intent to bill. A true bill.

Same vs. same, January, 19, 1852; ordered the case stand over for the term.

The People of the State of California vs. James Hughes, March 25, 1852, indictment for assault in the intent to commit bodily injury; a true bill; ordered that he be admitted to bail in the sum of $10,000.

Same vs. same, June 24th, 1852; set for trial Monday 28th.

Same vs. same, June 28th, 1852, on trial by jury; not guilty.

The People of the State of California vs. John Turner; July 30, 1853; two indictments; assault with intent to kill.

Same vs. same, August 1, 1853; the prisoner being arraigned, plead not guilty.

Same vs. same, August 4, 1853; on trial by jury found guilty of assault, and recommended, &c., to the mercy of Court.

Same vs. same, August 5, 1853; sentence one day in county jail.

Same vs. John Turner and James Gleason; Nov. 28, 1854; mayhem; on trial, jury found them guilty. Dec. 2, 1854; one year in the State prison.

People vs. James Turner, William Carr, Martin Gallagher, John Hamilton and William Lewis; Feb. 21, 1855; two indictments for assault and battery.

Same vs. Same, May 13, 1854; set for trial June 5, 1854.

Same vs. Same, June 9; on trial; jury could not agree—were discharged.

People vs. William Cushing, Sept. 11, 1855; assault with deadly weapon.

Same vs. Same, Oct. 25, 1855; on being arraigned, service of copy of indictment, and answers to the name of Robert; pleads not guilty.

Same vs. Robert Cushing, Oct. 31, 1855; on trial by jury; continued to Nov. 1, 1855; continued Nov. 2.

Same vs. Same, Nov. 2, 1855; jury find defendant guilty as charged in the indictment.

Prisoner ordered in custody of the Sheriff, bail being refused.

People vs. Robert Cushing, Nov. 7, 1855; sentence continued to Nov. 9, 1855.

Same vs. same, Nov. 10, 1855; ordered said defendant to pay a fine of $1,000, and that he stands committed until paid.

On motion of the counsel he was admitted to bail in the sum of two thousand dollars, and discharged from the custody of the Sheriff.

The people of the State vs. James Hennessy, Sept. 11, 1855; assault with deadly weapon.

Same vs. same, Oct. 30, 1855; ask time to plead to indictment to Oct. 31.

[illegible] for assault with a deadly [illegible]

November 30, 1855, filed bond for $5,000.

November 30, demurrer being over ruled, his counsel excepted.

December 4, cause continued to the next meeting of court.

People vs. Daniel Aldrich, October 31, 1855; indictment assault and battery.

January 29, 1856, pleads not guilty.

February 2, 1856, the defendant withdrew the plea of not guilty, and plead guilty to an assault and battery.

February 2, 1856, Court ordered that he pay a fine of $250, and stand committed until paid.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The importance and even absolute necessity of abolishing the present system of fees in office, and a substitution of moderate salaries to include expenses, must be apparent to every reflecting man.

The fee system seems to have been the parent of evils in our community, and second to none except the corruption of the Supreme Court. Both together have encouraged fraud and crime of every kind.

We cannot conclude this report without urging the permanent importance of securing the sacred right of our elective franchise.

The letter and spirit of the law alike require that the whole proceeding should be public.

Let us, then, have spacious halls for voting, open to the public by night and by day, till the result is declared, and ballot boxes that cannot be stuffed, even transparent, if necessary, elevated in full view, and guarded by a citizen police, that all may vote, and see and record the vote of others. Then, with the aid of a Registry Law, we might utterly exterminate the banded body of traitors and villans who have so long robbed us of our birthright, and brought reproach upon the very name of liberty and republicanism.

McGowan at Santa Barbara.

[From the Alta California, July 21.]

ATTEMPT TO BURN HIM OUT OF A SWAMP—GREAT EXCITEMENT.

By a gentleman who arrived yesterday from Santa Barbara, we have been told all about the attempted capture of Edward McGowan.

It appears that on Sunday morning, the 6th instant, a stranger appeared in the town of Santa Barbara, and was seen talking for a long time with Mr. Packard, a person well known in this city. At length the two were passed by Mr. Blake, who at once recognised in the stranger none other than the notorious McGowan. A short time afterwards, Ned went to the hotel and approached Major Bache, of the coast survey, who was eating at the table. The Major immediately knew the visiter, and McGowan smiled as he neared Mr. Bache's seat, and withdrew. By this time everybody had heard that the runaway was in the place, and application was made to the Sheriff that he might be arrested. But while this officer was satisfying himself that there really was an indictment against McGowan for murder in San Francisco, Ned's friends became alarmed and run him off to the fastnesses of a swamp. The Sheriff collected a posse and started in pursuit; but it being near night, it was not possible to enter the swamp to make search with any prospect of success; so he spread his posse around and set fire to the tules, but they being scarcely ripe enough to burn well, made a big smoke that "fizzled out." Meanwhile the darkness approached, and the search was given over.

It was now ascertained that the fugitive had been accompanied to the place by two men, one a Californian and the other an American, named "Jim Dennison," who had acted as guides either from the Mission of San Jose or Dolores. Dennison, who is a butcher, and has a ranch at Half Moon Bay, stated that he was on his way to San Diego to buy horses