

Transcription of loose negative photostat, Lately Thomas Gwin notebook:

JULY
25 Monday.

Stood guard in the claim all night. Ed went up the mountain to see how the cattle are doing. When he returned we went to town after some provisions. Gwinn & Welles will speak there tomorrow night [.] Mr. Fish went to work for Jim on the Larduc [?] gulch race. News from Europe states that the Austrians are in full retreat before the French but will make a stand at Mantua[.] Large reinforcements are demanded for the French armies and a naval demonstration is impending in the Adriatic. The German states have assumed a hostile attitude and a general European war is feared. On the 17th June Parliament met and Lord Derby announced the resignation of the Ministry. Palmerston is first Lord of the Treasury and the whole Ministry is said to be favourable to Italy. Kossuth [?] has gone to Italy. Broderick's accusations against Latham of having destroyed his written pledge to place all of _____ friends in some federal office has produced some excitement and Latham of course denies the charge. Broderick will be here next Thursday, and we shall then hear the whole story.

26 Tuesday.

_____ claims after _____

This evening I went to hear Sen. Gwin and C.L. Scott Lecowston [?] candidate for Congress speak. Gwin is a regular pot bellied white bearded old rascal of a politician. His speech was devoted mainly to attacks upon _____ Broderick, his colleague in the Senate. I saw Gov Johnson. _____ He told me he should procure a position for me at Sacramento in Latham and Sunderlands [?] office. Hinting towards a possible secretaryship under Latham should that gentleman succeed in getting elected to the office of Governor[.] I was taken somewhat by surprise, but not so completely as to preclude me from thanking the Governor. I shall in all probability [sic.] have occasion to remember this gentleman with gratitude. I think that I should make great improvements in my studies if so fortunate as to get a position of that kind. I would be in the presence of some of the highest courts and the society of the best Lawyers [sic.]. Nothing like such advantages are to be found in Weaverville [?] and here, in this rude old cabin surrounded by leather headed Irishmen and Wisconsin Cattle [sic.] drovers and Diggers [sic.] and Dishwater [sic.]. There is little of that mutuality of feeling sentiment and practice so beneficial to a student of Law -- I would like to "_____ the ranch" this coming winter -- Ed worked [?] on the _____.

Transcription of negative photostat of clipping, Lately Thomas Gwin notebook:

MEMORIES.

DEAR ARGONAUT: You revel in the delicious memories of Early California. The sad memories you mercifully cover with the mantle of silence; but your heart swells while you revive the recollections of the brave men who stood sponsors around the font when California was baptised into the family of States. That is like you, for you were always a representative American – proud of his country and lineage. I read, with much pleasure, your sketches, biographical and historical, of our early heroes, translated now to the great Republic of Heaven. And though I have a distaste for literary labor yet I will give you one incident of our pioneer history.

You will readily remember that the State Legislature at its second session assembled at San Jose, about the first of January, 1851. It was sometimes called the “Water Lot Legislature,” and sometimes “The Legislature of a Thousand Drinks.” I was there, though not a member. By the retirement of Burnett, John McDougall became Governor. Mr. Broderick was elected President of the Senate and was ex-officio Lieut. Governor. The most interesting event of the session was the struggle between Thomas Butler King, Sol Heydenfeldt, and Jno. C. Fremont for the office of U.S. Senator. One hundred and forty-two ballots were taken in joint convention without any decisive result. The contest was then postponed to another year. The several candidates for Senator kept “open houses,” and entertained sumptuously. The legislative session was a sort of carnival in which everybody participated. Many weeks were consumed in these fruitless ballots for Senator. The struggle was on its high, when, on a certain evening one of the candidates gave a dinner at the Mansion House in San Jose to the members of the Legislature and invited guests. That dinner was an event long remembered by the participants. Everything that the earth, air or water could supply was placed upon the tables; yet the dinner was incomplete. It lacked one divine feature which the Golden State did not possess, and that was *woman*. The heroes of 1849, who braved the ocean billows and traversed deserts to reach this unknown shore, would not permit their loved ones to share the dangers of the journey, and at the epoch of which I speak there was a shadow over the land which was not removed until the smile of woman came and made our hearts beat faster.

So there we sat, a lonely three hundred at dinner in the Mansion House. Gwin, who presided, was called upon for a sentiment. He was then in the zenith of his senatorial career and had just received a vote of thanks from the Legislature for his zeal and fidelity to duty. Rising from his seat he described, in glowing language, our pitiful condition. We were, he said, exiles. In gaining California we had won an Eden; but where, he asked with a sob, is the Eve, without whom Heaven itself would be a gloomy cloister? and echo answered “where?” Gregory Yale, John B. Weller, and many other gentlemen in turn succeeded Gwin. One sang a song, another delivered a speech, and Weller quoted Wolsey’s Address to Cromwell in Henry the Eighth. At last it came to Pearson’s turn. He was a young Kentuckian and a writer of much vigor. Referring to Gwin’s description of an Eden without an Eve, Pearson went on to describe the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden as it is narrated in the third chapter of the Book of Genesis. [If I am mistaken about the chapter you that are a biblicist as well as a publicist can correct me]. Pearson detailed, in thrilling language, the terrible penalties denounced against Adam and Eve for their sin; and said that, after driving them forth from Eden, God placed an angel with a flaming sword at the gate to prevent their return. This good angel,

beholding their pitiable condition, dropped a tear into the bitter chalice, and made it less bitter. The angel then reviewed the judgment pronounced by the Creator against sinful man; and, “at the long string of ills, the kind angel relented, and slipped in three blessings (to sweeten our mortal existence) wife, children and friends.” Pearson then sang Spencer’s beautiful poem, every canto ending with the words –

“At the long string of ills the kind angel relented,
And slipped in three blessings – wife, children and friends.”

Need I add that every man of the lonely three hundred joined in the glorious refrain.

Timon.