### The Lamter Banner: PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, BY WILLIAM J. FRANCIS.

#### TERMS: laded at

Two Dollars in advance, Two Dollars and Fifty-cents at the expiration of six months, or Three Dollars at the end of the year.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Proprietor. IT Advertisements inserted at 75 cts, per square, (14 lines or less,) for the first and half that sum for each subsequent insertion. The number of insertious to be marked on all Advertisements or they will be published until ordered to be discontinued, and charged accordingly.

One Dollar per square for a single insertion. Quarterly and Monthly Advertisements will be charged the same as a single insertion, and semi-monthly the same as new

All Obituary Notices exceedingsix lines, and Communications recommending Cand-dates for public offices or trust—or puffing Exhibitions, will be charged as Advertise-

ATAIl letters by mail must be paid to in-sure punctual attendance:

# South Carolina-Sumter Dist. IN EQUITY.

Margaret Hunt, et. al.

Will be sold at Sumter Court House on the first Monday in January next, and if not then sold, will be offered at each subsequent sale day until sold, the following lands, to-wit: A tract of land of one hundred and fifty

A tract of faind of one numered and fity two acressiying on Bay Branch—the mill tract. Price \$3 50 per acre.

A tract lying in the fork of Bay Branch and Deep Hole swamp and adjoining the mill tract, containing Four Hundred and thirty-five acres. Price \$3 50 per acre.

A tract of Forty-Eight Acres, lying on Bay Branch and adjoining lands of Estate of Re Hunt and of C. Hunt. Price \$2 pr acre. The above lands are of the estate of R. Hunt, deceased, and are situated in Darling-

A tract of land of 138 acres, more or less, situated in Kershaw District, on the south side of Big Timber Branch, waters of Black River, originally granted to D. Reynolds and Isham Moore, adjoining lands of Schrock, Smith and Hunt. Price \$1 00 per acre. A tract of land of one hundred acres in Kershaw District, on the west side of Scape

Whore swamp, bounded by Davis, Moore, and Hunt's lands. Price \$1 00 per acre.

A tract of 650 acres of land, more or less situated in Kershaw and Sumitor Districts, on Horsepen Branch, on scape whore swamp, Horsepen Branch, on scape whore swamp, granted to E. Gawkins, bounded by the run of Scape Whore, Arrants, Mckaskill's Bitthers, Davis's, and Miller's lands. Price \$1

The terms of sale are so much cash as will pay the costs of this case and sale. The balance on a credit of one and two years in equal annual instalments, with interest from sale, purchaser giving Bond and personal security, and a mortgage, and paying for all pa-

By order of the Court, JOHN B. MILLER, Com'r. in Equity S. D. Sumterville, Oct. 1848. prs fee \$14. 2 8t

## The State of South Carolina. WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT.

Peter B. Mouzon, Adm'r. of F. A. Nelson,

Wm. J. Burrows.

Whereas William J. Burrows hath filed his petition in this Court, stating that he is confined within the prison bounds of Williamsburg District, by virtue of a writ of capins ad satisfaciendum at the suit of Peter B. Mouzon, administrator of F. A. Nelson deceased, and praying a rule to be served upon the said Peter B. Mouzon, and his other creditors returnable at a day certain, before the Associate Justices of the said State, to shew cause if any they can why the said potitioner should not be entitled to the benefit of the Acts of the Legislature passed for the benefit of insolvent debtors, and he having filed with his petition a schedule of his estate, hoth real and personal:—It is therefore order-ed that the said Peter B. Mouzon administrator as aforesaid, as well as all and singular the other creditors of the said William J. Burrows do appear bofore the Honorable the associate Judges of the said State, at a Court of Common Pleas to be holden, at Williamsburg Court House in and for the District of Williamsburg on the third Monday after the fourth Monday in March next to shew cause if any they can why the said Win. J. Burrows should not be entitled to the benifit of the said acts, and be discharged from his confinement and on which day the goods and chat-tles of said Wm. J. B. will be assigned for the benefit of his creditors. W. R. SCOTT, c. c. rs.

Office of the Common Pleas, 4
Williamsburg Dist. Sept. 18, 1848. \ 3m

## CAMDEN HOTEL.

The undersigned has again leased this commodious Establishment. Grateful for past favors, he hopes that his proximity to the Rail Road Depot, the conveyances at hand to be transported from it, the improved management of the Stables connected with the Hotel, and the care and attention bes'owed upon his Table, will induce and se-dure a continuance of that patronage hither-to so generously given to his House.

The Cheraw and Charlotte Stages always call for passengers whenever required. ... IF Drovers will find spacious lots prepared for every kind of stock.

B. P. BOYD.

Musical Instruments, Violins, Flutes, &c.; a fresh lot of Italian Violin and Guitar strings. Also, Bridges, Aprons and screws for Violins. L. B. HANKS.

accompained by Lieut. W. T. Sherman, 3d artillery, A. A. A. Generai, I started on the 12th of June last, to make a tour through the northern part of California. My principal purpose, however, was to visit the newly discovered gold 'placer' in the valley of the Sacramento. I had proceeded about forty miles, when I was overtaken by an express, bringing me intelligence of the arrival at Monterey of the United States ship Southampton, with important letters from Commo-dore Shubrick and Lieut. Col. Burton. I re-turned at once to Monterey, and despatched what business was most important, and on the 17th resumed my journey. We reached San Francisco on the 20th, and found that all, or nearly all its male inhabitants had gone to the mines. The town, which a few months before was so busy and thriving, was then almost deserted. On the evening of the 24th, almost deserted. On the evening of the 24th, the horses of the escort were crossed to Sousoleto in a lounch, and on the following day we resumed the journey by way of Bodega and Sonoma to Sutter's fort, where we arrived on the morning of the 2d of July. Along the whole rout, mills were lying idle, fields of wheat were open to cattle and horses, houses vacant, and farms going to waste. At Sutter's there was more life and business. Launches were discharging their cargoos at Launches were discharging their cargoes at the river, and carts were hauling goods to the fort, where already were established several stores, a hotel, &c. Captain Sutter had only two mechanics in his employ, (a wagon-maker and black-smith,) whom he was then paying ten dollars a day. Merchants pay him a monthly rent of \$100 per room; and whilst I was there, a two-story house in the fort was rented as a hotel for \$500 a month. stores, a hotel, &c. Captain Sutter had only

At the urgent solicitation of many gentle-men, I delayed there to paticipate in the first public celebration of our national anniversary at that forty but on the 5th resumed the jour ney, and proceeded twenty-five miles up the American fork to a point on it now known as the lower Mines, or Mormon Diggings. The hill-sides were thickly strewn with canvass tents and bush arbors; a store was erected, and several boarding shanties in operation. The day was intensely hot, yet about two hundred men were at work in the full glare of the sun; washing for gold—some with tin pans, some with close-woven Indian baskets, but the greater part had a rude machine, known as the cradle. This is on rockers, six or cight fact long over the fort could be sund to the content fact long over the fort could be successed. or eight feet long, open at the foot, and at its head has a coarse grate, or sieve; the bottom is rounded, with small cleets nailed across. Four men are required to work this machine: one digs the ground in the bank close by the stream; another carries it to the cradle and empties it on the grate; a third gives a violent rocking motion to the machine; whilst a fourth dashes on water from the stream itself. The sieve keeps the coarse stones from entering the cradle, the current of water washes off the earthy matter and the gravel is gradually carried out at the foot of the machine, leaving the gold mixed with a heavy fine black sand above the first cleets. The sand and gold mixed together are then drawn off through auger holes into a pan below, are dried in the sun, and afterwards separated by blowing off the sand. A party of four men thus employed at the lower mines averaged \$100 a day The Indians, and those who have nothing but pans or willow baskets, gradually wash out the earth and separate the gravel by hand, leaving nothing but the gold mixed with sand, which is separated in the manner before de-scribed. The gold in the lower mines is in fine bright scales, of which I send severa

specimens.

As we ascended the south branch of the American fork, the country became more broken and mountainous, and the sawmill, 25 miles above the lower washings, or 50 miles from Sutter's, the hills rise to about a thousand feet above the level of the Sacramento plain. Here a species of pine occurs, which led to the discovery of the gold. Capt. Sut-ter feeling the great want of lumber, contracted in September last with a Mr. Marshall to build a sawmill at that place. It was er ected in the course of the past winter and spring-a dam and race constructed; but when the water was let on the wheel, the tail-race was found to be too narrow to permit the water to escape with sufficient rapidity Mr. Marshall, to save labor, let the water directly into the race with a strong current, so as to wash it wider and deeper. He effectso as to wash it wider and deeper. He effected his purpose, and a large bed of mud and gravel was carried to the foot of the race. One day Mr. Marshall, as he was walking down the race to this deposite of mud, observed some glittering particles at its upper edge; he gathered a few, examined them, and became satisfied of their value. He then went to the fort, told Capt. Sutter of his discovery, and they agreed to keep it secret until a certain grist-mill o. Sutter's was finished. It, however, got out, and spread like magic. Remarkable success attended the labors of the first explorers, and in a few weeks hundreds of men were drawn thither. At the time of my visit, but little more than three months after its first discovery, it was estimated that upwards of four thousand people were employed. At the mill there is a fine deposite or bank of gravel, which the people respect as the property of Capt. Sut-ter, although he pretends to no right to it, and would be perfectly satisfied with the simple promise of a preemption, on account of the mill which he has built there at considerable cost. Mr. Marshall was living near the mill, and informed me that many persons were employed above and below him; that they used the same machines as at the lower washings, and that their success was about the same—ranging from one to three ounces of gold per man daily. This gold, too; is in scales a little coarser then those of the lower mines. From the mill Mr. Marshall guided me up the mountain on the opposite or north bank of the south fork, where in the bed of

small streams or ravines, now dry, a great deal of course gold has been found. I there

Interesting Despatch from

California.

Among the dominants received by the Secretary of War, and communicated with the President's nessange, is the following letter from Col. Mason, the military commandant of Galifornia, who presents the fullest description we have seen of the gold placors of that distant region:

[NO. 37.]

Headquarters 10th Multary Deft., Monterey, California, Aug. 17, 1848.

Sin: I have the honor to inform you that, accompained by Licut. W. T. Sherman, 3d artillery, A. A. A. General, I started on the north necessary as four placed and the specimens accompanied by Licut. W. T. Sherman, 3d artillery, A. A. A. General, I started on the north lors where it was deposited from the rock that once bound it. I inquired of many proposed to July pieces and the proposed sherman are companied by Licut. W. T. Sherman, 3d artillery, A. A. A. General, I started on the north lors where it was deposited from the rock that once bound it. I inquired of many proposed as the proposed of the pold was invariably mixed and proposed as the proposed of the pold of the polymer of the pold was invariably mixed to form the rock that of Brannan & Co. had received in payment for goods \$30,000 (worth of this payment fo once bound it. I inquired of many poo-ple if they had encountered the matrix, but in every instance they said they had not but that the gold was invariably mix-ed with washed gravel, or lodged in the cravices of other rocks. All bore testimony, that they had found gold in greater or less quantities in the numerous small gullies or ravines that occur in that mountamous region. On the 7th of July Lieft the mill, and crossed to a small stream emptying into the American fork, three or four miles below the saw-mill. struck this stream (now known as Wabser's creek) at the washings of Sund & Co. They had about thirty Indians employed, whom they pay in merchandise. They were getting gold of a character similar to that found in the main and doubtless in sufficient quantities to satisfy them. I send you a small specimen presented by this company, of their gold. From this point, we proceeded up the stream about eight miles, where we found a great many people and Indians some engaged in the bed of the stream, and others in the small side valleys that put into it. These latter are exceedingly rich, and two ounces were considered an orde nary yield for a day's work. A small gutter not more than a hundred yirds long by 4 feet wide and 2 or three deep, was pointed out to me as the one where two men—William Daly and Perry Me. Coon—had, a short time before, obtained 17,000 worth of gold.—Capt. Weber informed me that he knew that these two men had employed four white men and about a hundred Indians, and that, at the end of one week's work, they paid off their party, and had left \$10,000 worth of this gold. Another small ravine was shown me, from which had been taken upwards recommendation of colors and being and showed me in bags and bottles over \$2,000 worth of gold; and Mr. Lyman, a gentleman of education and worthy of gaged with four colors had that he had a good committed in the gold district. All live in tents, in bush arbors, or in the open air; and men have frequently about their persons thousands of dollars worth of gold, and it was to me a matter of surprise that so peaceful and quiet state of things should continue to exist. Conflicting claimes to particular spots of ground may cause collisions, but they will be fare, as the extent of country is so great and the gold so abundant, that for the present there is room and enough for all government is anything. gaged with four others, with a machine on

> ed there, and were then on the plaint of resuming operations. I might tell of hundreds of simil ar in stances; but, to illustrate how plentiful the gold was in the pockets of common laborers, I will mention a simple occur rence which took place in my presence, when I was at Weber's store. This store was at Weber's store. This store was nothing but an arbor of bushes, under the lamost impossible to exclude. The description of the lamost impossible to exclude. which he had exposed for sale goods and groceries suited to his customers. A man gold has entirely changed the character of groceries suited to his customers. A came in, picked up a box of Seidlitz . powders, and asked its price. The man offered an ounce of gold, but Capt. Weber told him it only cost 30 cents, and he not wish to sell it. The man then of ered an ounce and a half, when Capt. W had to take it. The prices of all the ings are high, and yet Indians, who b hardly knew what a breech cloth was , can now afford to buy the most gaudy dr sses.

the American fork, just below Sutter's

mill; that they worked eight days; and

that his share was at the rate of \$50 a

day; but hearing that other were doing

better at Weber's place, they had remov

The country on either side of We ber's creek is much broken up by hills, and is intersected in every direction by streams or ravines, which contain m ore or less gold. Those that have been v orked are barely scratched; and although thousands of ounces have been carried away. I do not consider that a serious imp ression has been made upon the whole. Every day was developing new and ric her deposites; and the only impression seemed to be, that the metal would be found in such abundance as seriously to & in value.

small

preciate On the 8th of July I returne to the lower mines, and on the following day to Sutter's, where on the 10th I wa making preparations for a visit to the Feather. Yubah, and Bear river, when received a letter from Commander A. R. Long, United States Navy, who had ju st arrived at San Francisco from Muzatle n, with a crew for the sloop-of-war IVa tren, with orders to take that vessed to the squadron at La Paz. Captain Long wi ote to me that the Mexican Congress ha d adjourned without ratifying the treaty o' peace; that he had letters for my from Commodore Jones, and that his or tlers wi re to sail with the Warren on or be fore the 20th of July. In consequence of t'aese, I determined to return to Monterey, and accordingly arrived here on the 17th of July. Before leaving Sutter's, I sati slied myself that gold existed in the bed of the Feather river, in the Yub ah and ! lear, and in many of the small s' reams the at lie between the latter and the . America n fork; also, that it had been for ind in the Cosummes to the south of the American fork. In each of these streams, whereas in the gold his found in small streams, whereas in the gold his found in small streams, whereas in the gold district. Many private letters have the gold district. Many private letters have the gold district. Many private letters have the gold district. The numbers on the topographical the gold district is gone to the United States giving accounts of the specimens of gold accompany. Some of the specimens of gold accompany ing this wete presented for transmission to the gold district. Many private letters have gone to the United States giving accounts of the specimens of gold accompany. tains it occ airs in co arser lumps.

gold) from the lat of May to the 10th of July. Other metchants had also made extensive sales. Large quantities of goods were daily sett forward to the mines, as the Indians, heretofore so poor and degraded, have suddenly become constant. as the Indians, heretotore so poor and de-graded, have suddenly become consumers of the luxuries of life. I before mention-ed that the greater part of the farmers and rancheros had abandoned their fields to go to the mines. This is not the case with Captain Sutter, who was carefully gathering his wheat, estimated at 40,000 bushels. Flour is already worth at Sutter's \$36 a barrel, and soon will be fifty. Unless large quantities of breadstuff reach the country, much suffering will occur; but as each man is now able to pay a large

the country, much suffering will occur; but as each man is now able to pay a large price, it is believed the merchants will bring from Chili and Oregon a plentiful supply for the coming winter.

The most moderate estimate I could obtain from men acquainted with subject, was, that upwards of four thousand men were working in the gold district, of whom more than one half were Indians; and that from \$30,000 to \$50,000 worth of gold, if not more, was daily obtained. The entire gold district, with very few exceptions of grants made some years ago by the Mexican authorities, is on land belonging to the United States. It was a mathematical and such as they now do on the Sacramento.

The gold 'placer' near the mission of San'. The most moderate estimate I could obtain from men acquainted with subject, was, that upwards of four thousand men were working in the gold district, of whom more than one half were Indians; and that from \$30,000 to \$50,000 worth of gold, if not more, was daily obtained. The entire gold district, with very few exceptions of grants made some years ago by the Mexican authorities, is on land belonging to the United States. It was a matter of serious reflection with me how I could secure to the government certain rimts or fees for the privilege of procuring this gold; but upon considering the large extent of country the character of the people engaged, and the small scattered force at my command, I resmall scattered force at my command, I re-solved not to interfere, but to permit all to work freely, unless broils and crime should call for interference. I was supprised to learn that crime of any kind was very unfremore difficult it will become. C.3 plan I would suggest is, to send out from the United

specified periods. A superintendant to be appointed at sutter's Fort, with power to grant licenses to work a spot of ground—say 100 yards square -for one year, at his discretion; the surveyors to measure the ground, and place the rentor in possession.

States surveyors with salaries, bound to serve

A better plan, however, will be to have the district surveyed and sold at public auction to the highest bidder, in small parcels —say from 20 to 40 acres. In either case, there will be many intruders, whom for years

Upper California. Its people, before engaged in cultivating their small patches of ground and guarding their herds of cattle and horses, have all gone to the mines, or are on their way thither. Laborers of every trade have left their work benches, and tradesmen their shops. Sailors desert their ships as fast as they arrive on the coast, and several vessels have gone to sea with hardly enough hands to spread a sail. Two or three are now at anhor in San Francisco with no crew on board. Many desertions, too, have taken place from the garrisons within the influence of these mines: twenty-soldiers have deserted from the post of Sonoma, twenty-four from that of San Francisce, and twenty-four from Monterey. For a few days the evil appeared so threatening that geat danger existed that the garrisons would leave in a body; and I refer you to my orders of the 25th of July, to show the steps adopted to meet this contingency. I shall spare no exertoins to apprehend and punish deserters, but I believe no time in the history of our country has presented such temptations to desert as now exist in Calfor-The danger of apprehension is small, and the prospect of high wages cortain; pay and bounties are trifles, as laboring men at the mines can now earn in one day more than double a soldier's pay and allowances for a month, and even the of a lieutenant or captain cannot hire a servant. A carpenter or mechanic would not listen to an offer of less than fifteen or twenty dollars a day. Could any combination of affairs try a man's fidelity more than this and I really think some extra-ordinary mark of favor should be given to those soldiers who remain faithful to their flag throughout this tempting crisis. No officer can now live in California on his

pay, money has so little value; the prices of necessary articles of clothing and subsistence are so exorbitant and labor so high, that to hire a cook or servant has become an impossibility, save to these who are earning from thirty to fifty dollars a day. This state of things cannot last forever. Yet from the geographical position of California, and the new character it has assumed as a mining country prices of labor will always be high, and will hold out temptations to desert. I therefore have to report, if the government wish to prevent desertions here on the part of men, and to secure zeal on the part of officers, their pay must be increased very materially. Soldiers, both of the volunteers and regular service, discharged in this country, should be permitted at once to locate their land warrants in

just returned from Fronter river. He fells me that the company to which he belonged, worked seven weeks and two days with an average of fifty ludians; (washers, and that their gross product was two hundred and seventy three pounds of gold. His share, (one-seventh,) after paying all expenses, is about thirty-seven pounds, which he brought with him and exhibited in Monte roy. I see no laboring man from the more roy. I see no laboring man from the mine who does not show his two, three, or for pounds of gold. A soldier.

He made by trading and working during that time \$1500. During these twenty days he was travelling ten or eleven days, leaving but a week, in which he made a sum of mo-

The gold 'placer' near the mission of San Fernando has long been known, but has been little wrought for want of water. This is in a spur that puts off from the Sierra Nevada. little wrought for want of water. This is in a spur that puts off from the Sierra Nevada, (see Fremont's map,) the same in which the present mines occur. There is, therefore, every reason to believe, that in the intervening spaces of five hundred miles (entirely unexplored) there must be many hidden and rich deposites. The 'placer' gold is now substituted as the currency of this country, in trade it passes freely at Si6 per ounce, as an article of commerce its value is not per fixed. The only purchase I, made was of the specimen No. 7, which I got of the Neligh at Si2 the ounce. That is, about the present cash value in the country, although it has been sold for loss. The great demand for goods and provisions made by this sudden development of wealth, has increased the amount of commerce at San Francisco very much, and it will continue to increase.

I would recommend that a mint be established at some eligible point of the bay of San Francisco; and that machinery, and all the necessary apparatus and workmen must be bound by high wages, and even bonds to secure their faithful services, else the whole plan may be frustrated by their going to the mines as soon as they arrive in California. If this course he not adopted, gold to the amount of many millions of dollars will pass yearly to other countries, to enrich their merchants and capitalists. Before leaving the subject of mines I will mention, that on my return from the Sacrèmento I touched at New Almoder, the quicksilver mine of Mr. Alexander Forbes, consul of her Britannie.

New Almoder, the quicksilver mine of Mr. Alexander Forbes, consul of her Britamie, Majesty at Tepio. This mine is in a spur of mountains 1,000 feet above the level of the bay of San Francisco, and is distant in a southern direction from the Pueblo de San Jose about 12 miles. The ore (cinnabar) occurs in a large vein dipping at a strong angle to the horizon. Mexican miners are em-ployed in working it, by driving shafts and galleries about 6 feet by 7, following the

The fragments of rock and ore are remov-ed on the back of Indians, in raw hide sacks. The ore is then hauled in an ox wagon, from the mouth of the mine down to a valley well supplied with wood and water, in which the furnaces are situated. The furnaces are of the simplest construction—exactly like a common bake-oven, in the crown of which is inserted a whaler's trying-kettle; another inverted kettle forms the lid. From a hole in the lid a small brick channel leads to an apartment, or chamber, in the bottom of which is inserted a small iron kettle. This chamber has a chimney.

In the morning of each day the kettles are filled with the mineral (broken in small pie-ces) mixed with lime; fire is then applied, and kept up all day. The mercury is vola-tilized, passes into the chamber, is condensed on the sides and bottom of the chamber, and flows into the pot prepared for it. No water is used to condense the mercury.

During a visit I made last spring, four such ovens were in operation, and yielded in the two days I was there 656 pounds of quicksilver, worth at Mazetlin \$1.80 per lb. Mr. Walkinshaw, the gentleman now in charge of this mine, tells me that the vein is improving, and that he can afford to keep his people employed even in these extraordinary times. This mine is very valuable of itself, and becomes the more so as the mercury is extensively used in obtaining gold. It is not at present used in California for that pur-pose, but will be at some future time. When I was at this mine last spring, other parties were engaged in scarching for vein; but none have been discovered that are worth following up, although the earth in that whole range of hills is highly discolored, indicating the presence of this ore. I send several beautiful specimens, properly labelled. The amount of quicksilver in Mr. Forbest vats on the 15th of July was about 2,500 pounds.

I enclose you herewith sketches of the country through which I passed, indicating the position of the mines and the topography of the country in the vicinity of those I visit-