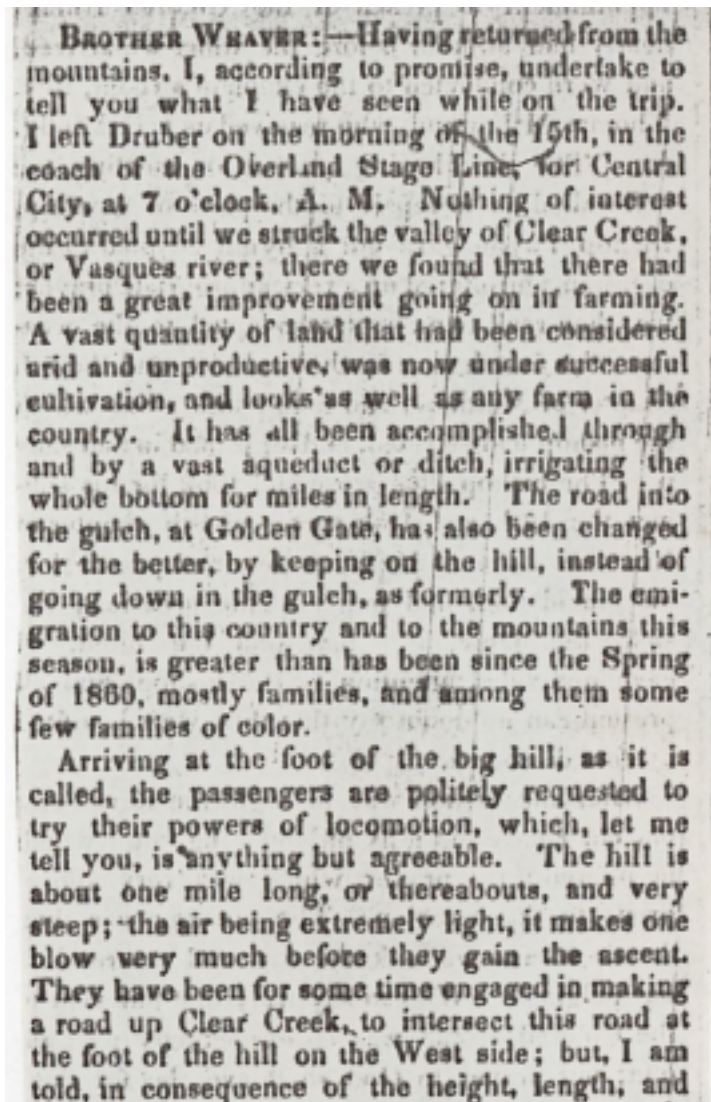


BROTHER WHAVER:—Having returned from the mountains, I, according to promise, undertake to tell you what I have seen while on the trip. I left Druber on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, in the coach of the Overland Stage Line, for Central City, at 7 o'clock, A. M. Nothing of interest occurred until we struck the valley of Clear Creek, or Vasques river; there we found that there had been a great improvement going on in farming. A vast quantity of land that had been considered arid and unproductive, was now under successful cultivation, and looks as well as any farm in the country. It has all been accomplished through and by a vast aqueduct of ditch, irrigating the whole bottom for miles in length. The road into the gulch, at Golden Gate, has also been changed for the better, by keeping on the hill, instead of going down in the gulch, as formerly. The emigration to this country and to the mountains this season, is greater than has been since the Spring of 1860, mostly families, and among them some few families of color.

Arriving at the foot of the big hill, as it is called, the passengers are politely requested to try their powers of locomotion, which, let me tell you, is anything but agreeable. This hill is about one mile long, or thereabouts, and very steep; the air being extremely light, it makes one blow very much before they gain the ascent. They have been for some time engaged in making a road up Clear Creek, to intersect this road at the foot of the hill on the West side; but, I am told, in consequence of the height, length, and



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solidity of the rocks lining each side of the creek, it will be almost impossible to do so at present, although, I believe, the company is still working the road.

We arrived at the Michigan House, to dinner. The house, when under the management of the builder, Mr. Farley, set an excellent table to all classes of travellers, but under its present management and prices, I would advise all travellers with dark skins to give it the go by.

Arrived at Black Hawk Point, I hardly knew the place, it had improved so much since I last saw it, which had been about nine months before. Every available spot seems to have a building of some kind upon it; there must be at least thirty or forty quartz mills along the creek, which is North of Clear Creek. It is one continuous city from that point to the head of Nevada and Eureka gulches, which is over four miles. Business there is very good, the mills turning out remarkably well. After laying over all night at Central City, we started next morning at 9 o'clock, A. M., for Empire City, where we arrived at 2 o'clock, P. M. Being too tired to attempt to climb the mountains that evening, we laid over. In the morning, we started before breakfast for the mines, where we arrived after a toilsome walk up the mountain side of over an hour. The water from the ditch having filled the leads, the lead or lode miners had an injunction served upon the patch miners, until they would flume the ditch, so that at present there is little mining going on. We came down the hill, via the railroad, to the new mill of Mr. William Russell, of whom a gentle-

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man of more polished manners does not exist hereabouts. The mill is perfect in all its parts, but is idle at present on account of the non-working of the lodes. The Clear Creek and Middle Park wagon road to the hot sulphur springs, is pushing towards completion of which Mr. Russell is president: he expects to have it finished by the last of August next. After breakfast, we returned to Central City via Foot & Walker's line, where, after climbing the division, which is some three or four miles up the face of a steep mountain, (it is no easy matter,) we arrived sick and sore at 3 o'clock, P. M. The second day, we started for home, where we arrived about 4 o'clock, P. M., perfectly satisfied with our voyage and the mountains for the present.

We found one copy of your paper in the office on our return, which we had to send to the mountains without reading it; another we received to-day with our first effort displayed therein, saving a few omissions of the compositor. I may be able to send you a few more names in a short time, if not one more at present; the papers all came to the subscribers. Please correct Millen instead of Nillen, as you have it on one of the papers.

There is some talk of raising a colored company in this city and vicinity for the war, so I was told to-day by a Lieutenant of the 3d Regt. Colored Volunteers. In my next I shall speak of our church prospects, and as I have drawn this out long enough, I will now close.

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