

Weston Platte County Mo.

May 18<sup>th</sup> 1841

To Capt. Sutter or Mr Marsh

Dear Sirs

You will receive this by the hands of our friends Elias Barnett and Michael Nye whom together with a number of others visits California for the purpose of exploring the Country and returning to the United States. We have had considerable excitement here on the subject of emigrating to that Country. Two months since, there was a belief that some fifty or an hundred families would start for California this spring. But since doubts having arisen as to the practicability of the routes for waggons and families, Our friends whom you will see in your country have thought proper to go on and explore the Route and if they report favourably there will certainly be a large emigration to that country immediately on their return. If your country should prove to be such as we anticipate and really believe it to be, there is no calculating the emigration that will go there in say 4 or 5 years.

We have heard of you in that Country and have taken the liberty to trouble you for such information as you must necessarily have acquired during your residence there. You can give them some information with regards to the government, if they would willingly admit Americans to the rights of citizenship and if there are any advantages offered to those who may be among the first to emigrate there and what would be the reception of an American population by the government of California.

If you will have the goodness to write either of us a full description of the Country, of soil, climate, timber, water, productions of the Country etc etc. commercial and mercantile and manufacturing advantages, of population, health, and government and any other information which may present itself to your mind as being useful to us, your kindness in so doing will be most fully and satisfactorily reciprocated should an opportunity occur.

We expect confidently to emigrate to California on the return of one or more of our friends if the country and inducements are near our expectations.

We have neglected another and important item viz how are the water privilages or water power of the country for propelling machinery of various kinds and the variety of growths of timber in California.

And last though not least should our friends report favourably, we will want some forty or fifty good mules for the purpose of carrying us out the spring after their arrival here.

We are determined to go, it will be difficult for us to get the animals in this country. If you can let them have <sup>them</sup> you shall be amply compensated for the favour, as they are only on an exploring expedition they are not prepared to trade.

Should the Government be over disposed towards us there is a probability of some of us getting grants of land for the purpose of settling the country with an enterprising population. Should such be the case, we feel perfectly safe in saying that in three years we can carry out

from two to four hundred families if we could get this land or some assurance we can obtain it. Such an arrangement would meet the approbation of many persons who have not yet thought seriously of such an enterprise. We would like to make such an arrangement through our friends Barnett and Nye and any assistance you will give them in this business will render us infinitely men indebted to your kindness.

You will remember us in Independence  
Wm Hague formerly a trader to Santa fe and  
Wm<sup>E</sup><sub>A</sub> Barnett of the firm of Barnett and Shaefe# (?)  
merchants of Independence.

With our best wishes for your  
welfare we remain your friends      Wm Hague  
Wm B. Barnett