

THE CONQUEST  
OF  
NEW MEXICO AND CALIFORNIA;

AN HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

By P. ST. GEO. COOKE,  
BRIGADIER, BREVET MAJOR-GENERAL, U. S. A.

AUTHOR OF  
'SCENES AND ADVENTURES IN THE ARMY; OR, ROMANCE  
OF MILITARY LIFE,' ETC.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE first historical narrative of the Conquests of New Mexico and California, is here offered to the public.

They were conquests as much of Nature's most inhospitable wastes, as of those primitive and isolated communities, and so exhibited great privations and labors; but some perilous ventures and exploits tinged the whole with the old romance of the original Spanish invaders.

The conquerors were, for a year, almost beyond communication with government or countrymen, and these were wholly interested in the battles in Mexico; and thus it happened that a few soldiers and sailors, without



sympathy or applause, achieved the only permanent fruits of the war.

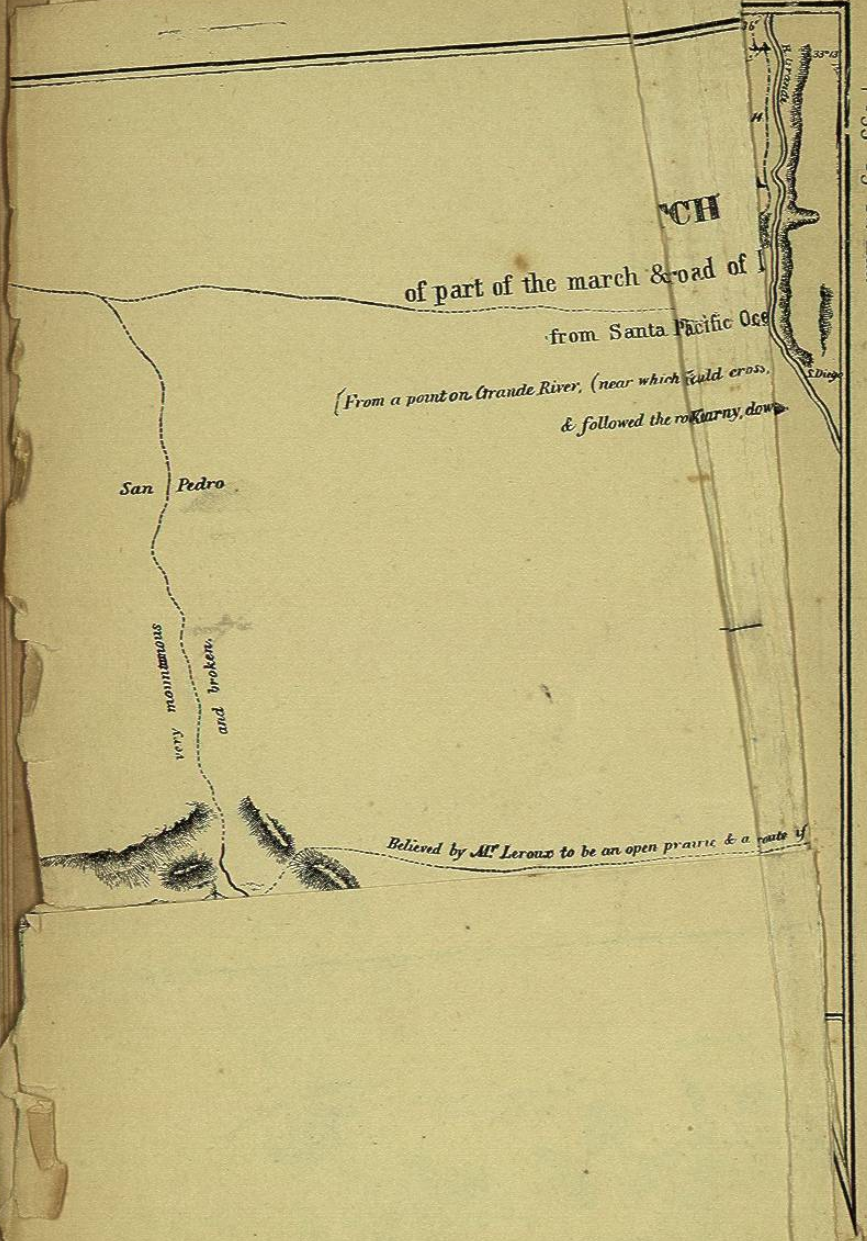
This obscurity, and the remoteness of responsibility, led also to criminal intrigues as well as to patriotic sacrifices; and the time has come to give the world a connected and permanent record.

## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
I.	
NEW MEXICO . . . . .	I
II.	
THE INSURRECTION IN NEW MEXICO AND THE FINAL CONQUEST . . . . .	III
III.	
THE INFANTRY MARCH TO THE PACIFIC . . . . .	125
IV.	
CALIFORNIA. . . . .	198
V.	
FINAL CONQUEST OF CALIFORNIA . . . . .	263





THE CONQUEST OF  
 NEW MEXICO AND CALIFORNIA.

I.  
 NEW MEXICO.

NOTWITHSTANDING the country by the policy and measures of the executive branch of the government had for many months been surely drifting toward war with Mexico, the public was electrified by the news of a collision of arms and brilliant victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, May 8th and 9th, 1846. Thus was terminated,—“By the act of the Republic of Mexico,” Congress declared on the 13th of May—our peace with all the world, which had continued so long that we had begun to look upon war as a chimera.

The first plans of the government were promptly developed: General Taylor crossed the Rio Grande and advanced with his army of “occupation” on