

and the knapsacks and arms of others; there are still in the battalion men old, weakly, and trifling; besides all this, the rations are insufficient.

I have determined and ordered that fifty-five of the sick and least efficient men shall return to Santa Fè; that they shall take rations for twenty-six days, —but of flour only ten ounces to the ration, and of pork, eight. I shall thus be relieved of one thousand eight hundred pounds weight of rations, and by means of what they leave of the rations provided for them, particularly the live stock, make an important increase of rations for the remainder. But I have also determined to send back, if possible, only one team of oxen, and use for my mule wagons the ten other yokes (the other wagons can be sent for;— Captain Burgwin is only fifty-eight miles above). There are some thirty loose mules which some think will do nearly as well if packed only sixty or eighty pounds. I have ordered the upright tent poles to be left, muskets to be used as substitutes; and tents to be reduced to one for nine men (which they will hold, if opened and lowered to the height of a musket). This all carried out, I trust with perseverance and energy to accomplish the undertaking;

though in a few days I commence a route of over three hundred miles—to the San Pedro River—of which the guides know little or nothing; Leroux thinking himself very fortunate in finding water at an interval of thirty miles at the outset. The whole route is now said to be three hundred miles longer than was believed when at Santa Fè; and ten miles, making the road as we go, is a hard day's work—equal to twenty miles or more of a good road."

In that camp an express was received from Captain Burgwin, reporting information that a large party of the enemy were coming from the South by the copper-mine route.

The return party, under a subaltern, was got off on the 10th; but it consumed the day. A large number of tents, poles, camp kettles, and mess pans were put in a wagon to be left under charge of a beaver trapping party found there; the saddles and packs were prepared, and some tried on, under the instruction of the guides and other Mexicans. Leroux, with several assistant guides, was ordered to depart early next day to make further exploration, and to send back one or two guides from a new

point, to meet the battalion at the last water then known, while he shall explore still further on.

About twenty-nine miles were made in the next two days, with improvement of ground, chiefly in river bottom, which had increased to a mile in width, with a wide strip of timber; the country to the west gradually flattening; mountains rising abruptly from the eastern bank; but an apparently complete gap was observed, which was thought to be where the "jornada" road approaches within four or five miles of the river; if so, it is where a future road should cross and fall into the one now being made.

There was an evident improvement of means; thirty-six mules were lightly packed, besides oxen; some of which "performed antics that were irresistibly ludicrous, (owing to the crupper perhaps,) such as jumping high from the ground, many times in quick-step time, turning round the while,—a perfect jig."

"On the 11th, while Charboneaux was making a rather remote exploration for water, I rode a mile through willows, weeds and reeds above my head, and found some in a densely timbered and brushy bottom, and established the camp on the bluff, with

fine grass near. The tents are pitched with muskets somewhat lengthened by a peg that enters the muzzle; the backs are opened and a gore inserted, so that they are stretched out into nearly a circle, and are very capacious.

The 12th was a fortunate day; the pioneers were several times at bad spots just ready for the wagons as they arrived; and I discovered just in time to set the wagons right, that we had got into a *cul de sac*. I had calculated that the wagons would be lightened above twenty per cent, while the rations were increased eight days. This is confirmed by the facility of motion.

November 13th.—A mile or two from camp a note from Leroux was found on a pole, but also two return guides were met, who directed the march short to the right; and a march of fifteen miles was made in a south-west course, always ascending over gravelly prairie, uneven but not very difficult; and then, in a rocky chasm a hundred feet deep, a natural well or reservoir of pure water was found. There was no fuel, save a few bushes and Spanish bayonet, but the country was well covered with grama and buffalo grass.

And here, before describing this unique venture of the exploration by a battalion with a wagon train, of the unknown wilderness which must be passed to reach California, it will serve the unities of place, and nearly of time, to pause, and to record the completion of the conquest of New Mexico. For there soon occurred an uprising against our bloodless, but perhaps stern change of rule, which had found temporary success, chiefly, it is believed, through an audacious surprise. And it proved that the best traits of our nature at a low stage, combine with the forces of ignorance and confirmed customs and habits, to resent and resist an abrupt and forcible bestowal of the greatest boons—the comforts of civilization—Liberty itself!

II.

THE INSURRECTION IN NEW MEXICO
AND THE FINAL CONQUEST.

ABOUT the middle of December, Colonel Price, Second Missouri Mounted Volunteers, left in command by Colonel Doniphan, received information that efforts to excite a general revolt were being made. A former officer of the Mexican army was arrested, and a list of all the disbanded Mexican soldiers was found on his person. Then many others, supposed to be implicated, were arrested; but the two leaders, Ortiz and Archuleta, made their escape to the South. A full investigation revealed that many of the most influential persons in the northern part of the territory were engaged in the conspiracy. But these prompt measures seemed to be effectual in preventing an insurrection.

Charles Bent, the Governor, appointed by General Kearny, was an able man; amiable, and married to a native of the country, he was considered quite