

convenience.' (The attempt failed for want of proper iron.)

Some Californians, this day rode out of town, at full speed, under fire of a few dragoons, a-foot, who had been ordered to arrest them; they had assaulted a countryman for having taken part with the Americans. It appears that an old regulation, closing drinking saloons on Sundays, has of late months been abrogated, and with very bad effects.

Lieutenant-colonel Fremont returned to Los Angeles March 30th.

Colonel R. B. Mason, first dragoons, had been sent to California in consequence of General Kearny's request to be relieved so soon as peace and order should follow on the conquest of California. He was now sent to Los Angeles, as an officer senior in army rank to Lieutenant-colonel Fremont, to enforce the discharge of the "battalion," and obedience to other orders. The New York regiment of volunteers, Colonel Stevenson, had arrived at Monterey; and two companies had taken post at Santa Barbara, and one at San Diego.

During all this period there were depredations by wild Indians, and exaggerated reports, and appli-

cations for military aid and protection, to the commander at Los Angeles; Captain A. J. Smith was sent to Cajon Pass, March 31st, with forty dragoons, in consequence of repeated calls for protection from an invasion of Piute Indians on the settlements of that vicinity.

The authority of Colonel Mason proved sufficient, with some difficulty, for the discharge of Lieutenant-colonel Fremont's men; and ten pieces of cannon were brought from the mission to Los Angeles. Only twenty-five horses were delivered.

Indian murders and depredations seemed to increase; it was believed that a body of Utahs, from far beyond the Territory, had invaded it. Colonel Mason, exercising a civil authority, addressed to alcaldes requisition to furnish Lieut.-colonel Cooke with all the men and horses he should demand. An expedition dependent upon this aid was planned by the latter, but failed for want of coöperation; but a company of the Mormon battalion was sent, April 11th, to establish a post at the Cajon Pass.

"The view from the hill overlooking the town is fine; the white-walled village is fully revealed, as at your feet; the meadows of the bright stream, inter-

sected by many 'live fence' enclosures of vineyards, gardens and orchards; the Mesa extending above twenty miles, and the ocean beyond; on two sides, smooth green hills swell into mountains, which have the rich blue tints of a pure atmosphere, and are capped with snow-fields."

Report was received that the people near Cajon Pass refused, at first, to sell cattle; and will not send them to the post.

It is known that Indians—all savages—are very sympathetic with any warlike commotions; these evidently stir within them, and encourage their natural passions, and their cherished habits. It is probable that they were now thus incited to very unusual activity of aggression. But here, as in New Mexico, the Mexican power habitually ignored any duty of protection against them; and certainly now, the people were entirely remiss in any coöperation for their own protection, even in the matter of their abundant horses; and more, a general backwardness or unwillingness to sell horses for government use. Thus perhaps their applications and reports should have been treated with indifference; and there were indications, as there was rumor, of bad influences, of

subtle intrigue. It was perhaps a mistake in Lieutenant-colonel Cooke, to yield, as far as he did, to his instincts of military protection.

April 19th.—"The irrigating canals are a source of considerable trouble and vexation; not only as to distribution into fair shares, but in the matter of drinking, when foul clothes have been washed above.

"The native, of the best class, on occasion of ceremony is picturesque as well as very fine in costume. As a horseman he wears ever a jacket, but an ornamental one; the trousers are open on the outer seams nearly to the waist, with many buttons, chiefly for ornament; they show thus, very white fine and voluminous drawers. They wear also, silk sashes of bright colors (from China). Stamped leather leggings, wonderful spurs, and the sombrero complete the picture."

It was ascertained, April 20th, that two men, in advance of a party of eleven, had arrived in Los Angeles from Sonora, and had presented passports to the alcalde,—who made no report. The men were confined, and examined separately; one of them had a passport which had been sent to him by Lieutenant-colonel Fremont; he had been a cap-

tain in the late hostilities,—and the other had been engaged in them, and wounded; giving a good account of themselves, they were released. But immediately after, it was reported through town that General Bustamente was approaching California at the head of a military force,—and then more definitely, a force of fifteen hundred men.

An intelligent Spanish gentleman was communicated with: he gave positive information that the Mexican Government had appropriated \$600,000 toward this expedition, and that artillery and other arms and stores, had been collected at Acapulco; and also that one Limentura, whose vessel had lately been seized at San Pedro, had brought commissions, of high rank, for Californians. This gentleman detailed extraordinary indications, in the southern district, of an expected resort to arms, and was of opinion that there would be an insurrection, whether external aid came or not, unless the American forces were increased in this quarter; that the natives no more regarded the troops at Monterey than if they were at Boston.

It was soon ascertained that Limentura had landed cannon, etc., at San Vincente or San Thomas

—twelve miles apart—and near the Lower California line. There was a general excitement, and threatening demonstrations, accompanying these reports, whether true or false.

All measures of precaution were immediately but very quietly taken; an officers' party of dragoons was sent to Warner's rancho, Agua Caliente, to patrol the Sonora road as far as the desert; the company at Cajon Pass was withdrawn, the park of artillery was brought from camp into town, to the dragoon quarters, and three pieces manned by dragoons. The construction of a fort on the hill, fully commanding the town, which had been previously determined upon, was begun, and a company of infantry there posted. An express was sent to the commanding-general at Monterey.

A communication was also sent to Commodore Stockton, still at San Diego, giving full and minute information of the landing of the stores; and informing him that the lower road, easiest for General Bustamente, if coming, fell into the coast road at San Vincente; it was suggested that it would be well to send the sloop *Julia*, very quietly, to capture the cannon and stores.

Meanwhile the patrol had observed a collection of horses, which were being driven for concealment into cañons; and a traveller from Santa Barbara encountered twenty armed men, with the Mexican flag displayed. A race was announced at Santa Anna, eight or ten miles from Los Angeles, for Sunday April 25, and without the license required by Mexican law and usage. It was not stopped; and it was attended by nearly all the males of Los Angeles (including some confidential observers). This meeting was kept up until late at night; and undoubtedly it was then decided to await the actual arrival of reinforcements from Mexico. Lieutenant-colonel Fremont, two weeks previously, had informed Colonel Mason that his business would be finished in two or three days, when, as ordered, he would set out for Monterey; but he still lingered at Los Angeles.

April 28th, an answer was received from Commodore Stockton; he promised to sail to find and seize the deposit of arms, as soon as he could get the *Congress* out of the harbor; he added, "if Bustamente comes this road, he will not go far without some broken shins and bloody noses." The *Julia*

came to San Pedro, April 30th, Lieutenant Selden commander, bringing an application from Commodore Stockton for four-pounders, to be used against Bustamente; he had sailed in the *Congress*. As most of the ammunition at Los Angeles was for four-pounders, they were not sent.

A report was received, May 3d, through the best available sources of information, that General Bustamente had crossed the Gulf, near its head, in boats of the pearl fishers; and, at last information was at a rancho on the western coast, seventy leagues below San Diego. The same day a return courier from Monterey gave information that two companies of the New York volunteers would be sent to Los Angeles.

The arrival of large reinforcements from New York, and the preparations for his reception, are among the probable causes of the miscarriage of General Bustamente's expedition.

Meantime, while immigration had been largely increasing, San Francisco, whose existence counted by months, showed great vitality and growth; fifty houses had gone up in a month; its population was American; General Kearny, aided by the arrival of

troops and large amounts of mechanical means, and stores of all sorts, was fast establishing confidence and order throughout. March 10th, following Mexican law and custom, he granted to the town of San Francisco,—to be sold at auction for its benefit,—the beach and water lots; thus providing for wharves and docks, for the accommodation of a commerce which was growing beyond all precedent; merchant vessels were arriving almost daily; already the editor of a newspaper there established, was predicting its destiny to be the “Liverpool or New York of the Pacific Ocean.”

In March, also, General Kearny inaugurated the first beginning of a mail service in the Territory; a horse mail was established every two weeks each way, between San Francisco and San Diego.

General Kearny arrived at Los Angeles May 9th; he had come to San Pedro in the store-ship *Lexington*; and with him were Colonel Stevenson and two companies of the New York regiment. Lieutenant-colonel Fremont was then sent to Monterey to be thence ordered to Fort Leavenworth.

The General and Governor was at this time looking to his speedy return, overland, to the United

States; availing himself of the permission accorded to his application made at Santa Fe, to return “in the event of our getting possession of Upper California—of establishing a civil government there,—securing peace, quiet and order among the inhabitants, and precluding the possibility of the Mexicans again having control there.”

The time of service of the Mormon battalion expired in July, and the acceptance of the resignation of its Lieutenant-colonel commanding having been earnestly urged by him, in order that he might also return by this opportunity, it was accepted by General Kearny, May 13th, and he embarked, next day, with him and his suit, on the *Lexington* at San Pedro for Monterey.

After a pleasant voyage, lengthened by calms, the *Lexington* sailed into the picturesque but not always safe bay and harbor of Monterey, May 27th. “A most beautiful view presented itself; in the foreground eight vessels of war and some merchantmen were riding at anchor; beyond, the green slopes of the town and its environs, enclosed by a perfect semi-circle of rounded hills, chequered and sprinkled with the dark pines. Nature with

its graceful variety here outdid itself in a distribution of slope and grove, valley and hill-top, which formed a combination of the *unsought effect*, which taste and art could not equal on this scale of magnificence; a grandeur, which, stopping short of the sublime, is the perfection of the beautiful."

The *Columbus*, ninety guns, was then in the harbor, and Commodore Biddle was Naval Commander-in-chief.

Leaving Colonel R. B. Mason, First Dragoons, Military Commander and Governor, in his place, General Kearny, May 31st, with numerous officers, constituting, with attendants, about forty men, (exclusive of Lieutenant-colonel Fremont's large party), and divided into convenient small messes, set out upon what proved a hard ride; one which averaged thirty-three miles a day for eighty-three days, without one of rest. Their provisions were exhausted, while in a corner of the territory of the Oregon of that day; but they soon met, as expected, the head of the great column of migration, extending then perhaps, a thousand miles.

The sequel of the military conquest is told in few words; for the poor natives of that great country, and all their discontent and restlessness, their hatred, threats, and seditions, were soon to be overwhelmed and extinguished, as by the stroke of Fate. Two men, discharged from the Mormon battalion, and employed by Captain Sutter to dig a mill-race, a few months later discovered, in prodigal abundance, placer GOLD.

THE END.

