

sides, where some were nearly four feet in diameter and a hundred feet high.

Another remarkable tree of these woods is called in the language of the country *Madrona*. It is a beautiful evergreen with large, thick, and glossy digitated leaves; the trunk and branches reddish colored and having a smooth and singularly naked appearance, as if the bark had been stripped off. In its green state the wood is brittle, very heavy, hard, and close-grained; it is said to assume a red color when dry, sometimes variegated, and susceptible of a high polish. This tree was found by us only in the mountains. Some measured nearly four feet in diameter and were about sixty feet high.

A few scattered flowers were now showing throughout the forests, and on the open ridges shrubs were flowering; but the bloom was not yet general.

On the 25th of February we descended to the coast near the north-western point of Monterey Bay, losing our fine weather, which in the evening changed to a cold southeasterly storm that continued with heavy and constant rains for several days.

The rain-storm closed with February, and the weather becoming fine, on the 1st of March we resumed our progress along the coast. Over the face of the country between Santa Cruz and Monterey, and around the plains of San Juan, the grass, which had been eaten down by the large herds of cattle, was now everywhere springing up and flowers began to show their bloom. In the valleys of the mountains bordering the Salinas plains wild oats were three feet high and well headed. The Salinas River runs through these plains, which are some fifty miles in length.

Pursuing our course to the southward I encamped on the afternoon of March 3d, at the Hartnell rancho, which is on a small creek-bed well out on the plain. We were now passing Monterey, which was about twenty-five miles distant.

The Salinas valley lay outside of the more occupied parts of the country; and I was on my way to a pass, opening into the San Joaquin valley, at the head of a western branch of the Salinas River.

### CHAPTER XIII.

Third Expedition—Ordered Out of the Country.—General Castro Makes an Offer.—Correspondence with Larkin.—Neal's Good Luck.—Abundance of Salmon.—Mount Linn and Mount Shastl.—Wild Cattle.—I Perform a Surgical Operation.—Archambeau Lost.—Reach Tlamath Lake.—In an Unexplored Country.—Neal Informs Me of Gillespie.—Meet Gillespie and Receive Government Orders.—Desperate Fight with Tlamaths.—Sagundai and Swonok Take Two Scalps.—Another Fight with Tlamaths.

In the afternoon the quiet of the camp was disturbed by the sudden appearance of a cavalry officer with two men. The officer proved to be Lieutenant Chavez, with a communication from the commanding general. He seemed disposed to be somewhat rude and abrupt as I have remarked that subalterns usually are when they represent unfriendly masters. This one brought to me peremptory letters from the general and prefect, ordering me forthwith out of the department, and threatening force in the event that I should not instantly comply with the order.

Surprised both at the message and the terms in which it was worded, I expressed to the envoy my astonishment at General Castro's breach of good faith, and the rudeness with which he committed it; both of which, I remarked to him, were unworthy of an officer in his position. And I desired him to say in reply to General Castro that I peremptorily refused compliance to an order insulting to my government and myself.

And with this message the envoy went off to his general.

Like myself my men were roused by the offence of the message, and were more than ready to support me in any course I saw fit to adopt.

Early in the morning I moved camp a few miles to the foot of the ridge, which separates the Salinas from the San Joaquin, at the house of Don Joaquin Gomez. A stream here issues from the mountain which is called the Gavilan Peak. The road from Monterey passes by this place, entering the neighboring San Juan valley by way of a short pass called the Gomez Pass.

From the Gomez rancho there is a wood-road leading up to the top of the ridge; following this in the morning I moved up the mountain and encamped on a small wooded flat at the summit of the Sierra. This was a convenient position. It afforded wood, water, and grass; and commanded a view of the surrounding country, including the valley of San Juan and the Salinas plain. In case of exigency it opened a retreat to the San Joaquin.

Arriving at the summit, I proceeded immediately to build a rough but



strong fort of solid logs, for which we found good trees abundant on the ridge. While this was being built a tall sapling was prepared, and on it, when all was ready, the American flag was raised amidst the cheers of the men. The raising of this flag proved to be a premonitory symptom.

Meantime I opened communication with a rancho in the valley and a steer was brought up to me by two Californian vaqueros. The wild steer never could have been driven up by the vaqueros, but they had made him fast by a riata to a work-ox which tugged it up to the camp; they butchered it immediately, and the smell and sight of the blood so excited the "tame" ox, that he became wild and commenced hostilities by charging into and scattering the camp.

I remained in position, our flag flying, for three days; during which I received information from Mr. Larkin and from Californians of what was going on below. From the fort by aid of the glass we could see below, at the Mission of San Juan, Castro's troops gathering, and by the vaqueros we were informed that Indians (*Mansos*) were being brought into their camp and kept excited by drink.

Late in the afternoon of the second day we discovered a body of cavalry coming up the wood-road which led from the Monterey road to our camp. With about forty men I went quickly down the wood-road to where a thicket along the creek made a good ambush, and waited for them. They came up to within a few hundred yards, when they halted; but after some consultation they turned back. Had they come on they would have had to pass within a few paces of us.

Late in the afternoon of the third day the pole bearing our flag fell to the ground. Thinking I had remained as long as the occasion required, I took advantage of the accident to say to the men that this was an indication for us to move camp, and accordingly I gave the order to prepare to move. The protecting favor which the usage of all civilized governments and peoples accords to scientific expeditions imposed on me, even here, a corresponding obligation; and I now felt myself bound to go on my way, having given General Castro sufficient time to execute his threat. Besides I kept always in mind the object of the Government to obtain possession of California and would not let a proceeding which was mostly personal put obstacles in the way. In a letter written shortly afterwards to Mrs. Fremont I make the allusion which she would fully comprehend:

"SACRAMENTO RIVER (latitude 40°), April 1, 1846.

"... The Spaniards were somewhat rude and inhospitable below, and ordered us out of the country, after having given me permission to winter there. My sense of duty did not permit me to fight them, but we retired slowly and growlingly before a force of three or four hundred men,

and three pieces of artillery. Without a shadow of a cause, the governor suddenly raised the whole country against us, issuing a false and scandalous proclamation. Of course I did not dare to compromise the United States, against which appearances would have been strong; but, although it was in my power to increase my party by many Americans, I refrained from committing a solitary act of hostility or impropriety."

On the morning of the 11th, after I had left my camp on the hill, Mr. John Gilroy, an Englishman resident in California, came to my camp with a message from General Castro, offering to make an arrangement with me. Mr. Gilroy found our fires burning. I was afterwards informed that the proposition was that I should unite my force with his and jointly march against the Governor Don Pio Pico. This agreed so well with the Mexican revolutionary habit, and subsequent confirmatory facts, that I fully believe it.

In his letters Mr. Larkin says that the Californian who had brought them to my camp reported to him that 2000 of his countrymen would not be sufficient to compel me to leave the country, although my party was small. The letters of Mr. Larkin to the Secretary of State, Mr. Parrott the American Consul at Mazatlan, and myself, give a clear view of the extraordinary circumstances through which I had just passed, and accordingly I insert them here.

The change in the action of the Californian authorities towards me seemed inexplicable until when afterwards I learned that within three weeks after granting me permission to refresh my party in California, General Castro had received by the *Hannah* from the home government at Mexico positive orders to drive me from the territory. Later I learned from Washington of this action taken against me by the Mexican Government.

The following letters cover fully the actual situation:

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, March 4, 1846.

SIR: The undersigned has the honor to inform the Honorable Secretary that Captain J. C. Frémont arrived within this department in January last, with his party of fifty men, and was at the home of the undersigned a few days during the last month, for the purpose of getting funds for refitting and clothing his party, which he received as far as could be procured. He is now in this vicinity surveying, and will be again at this consular house during this month. He then proceeds for the Oregon, returns here in May, and expects to be in Washington about September. To this gentleman is due, from the Government, unqualified praise for the patience, industry, and indefatigable perseverance in attaining the object he is engaged in.



Captain Frémont passed three degrees south of Fort Hall, having taken a route supposed to be a desert, which made his distance to California eight or nine hundred miles less. He considers the distance from Independence to Monterey about one thousand nine hundred miles. He describes the new route he followed far preferable, not only on account of the less distance, but it is less mountainous, with good pasturage, and well watered. The second day of his arrival in Monterey, he visited the commandante general, prefecto, and alcalde, and by verbal request of the general, informed him officially of his object in visiting California. The undersigned forwards, with this, the two annexed letters respecting Captain Frémont's arrival.

I am, sir, with the highest respect and consideration, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS O. LARKIN.

*To the Hon. Secretary of State, City of Washington.*

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
MONTEREY, March 9, 1846.

SIR: Enclosed you have a copy of my answer to the general and prefecto of this place, one to Captain Frémont, and the second letter from the prefect. Captain Frémont is eight or nine leagues from this place encamped, intending to move as soon as the state of his horses will permit. There will be two to three hundred people collected together to-morrow, with the intention of attacking the camp. Captain Frémont has about fifty men—all men of confidence, and remarkably well armed. Neither himself nor men have any fears respecting the result of the present state of affairs; yet, be the result for or against him, it may prove of a disadvantage to the resident Americans in California. I have at some (risk) despatched out two couriers to the camp, with duplicate letters, and this letter I send to Santa Barbara, in expectation of finding a vessel bound to Mazatlan. Having had over one-half of my hospital expenses of 1844 cut off, and know not why, and even my bill for a flag, I do not feel disposed to hazard much for government, though the life of Captain Frémont and party may need it. I hardly know how to act. I have only received one letter (of June) from the department for the year 1845. In the month of February, Captain Frémont, in my company, visited the general, prefecto, and alcalde of this place, and informed them of his business; and there was no objection made. Within twenty days the general says he had received direct and specific orders from Mexico not to allow Captain Frémont to enter California; which, *perhaps*, accounts for the change of feelings with the people.

I am, sir, with the highest respect and consideration, your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS O. LARKIN.

*To the Hon. Secretary of State, City of Washington.*

It will be noticed that Mr. Larkin says in this letter to the Secretary that he had "only received one letter (of June) from the department for the year 1845." From this it does not appear that the State Department was watchful. The Navy Department was.

NOTE IN PENCIL FROM CAPTAIN FRÉMONT TO THE CONSUL LARKIN  
FROM HIS ENTRENCHED CAMP ON THE PIC DEL GABELANO,  
THIRTY MILES FROM MONTEREY, MARCH 9, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR: I this moment received your letters, and, without waiting to read them, acknowledge the receipt which the courier requires immediately. I am making myself as strong as possible, in the intention that if we are unjustly attacked we will fight to extremity and refuse quarter, trusting to our country to avenge us. No one has reached our camp, and from the heights we are able to see with the glass troops mustering at San Juan and preparing cannon.

I thank you for your kindness and good wishes, and would write more at length as to my intentions did I not fear that my letter would be intercepted. We have in nowise done wrong to the people or the authorities of the country, and if we are hemmed in and assaulted here we will die every man of us under the flag of our country.

Very truly yours,

J. C. FRÉMONT.

P.S.—I am encamped on the top of the Sierra at the head-waters of a stream which strikes the road to Monterey at the house of Don Joaquin Gomez.

J. C. F.

*Thomas O. Larkin, Esq., Consul for the United States, Monterey.*

LETTER FROM CONSUL O. LARKIN TO THE U. S. CONSUL AT MAZATLAN,  
ASKING NAVAL ASSISTANCE FOR CAPTAIN FRÉMONT.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, March 9, 1846.

SIR: Enclosed with this, you will receive several copies of correspondence in this town, for the present week; also an official letter for the captain of any of our ships of war you may have in your port on your receiving this letter. It is impossible to say whether Señor Castro, the prefecto, and the general will attack Captain Frémont; we expect such will be the case. I am just informed by Señor Arcé, the general's secretary, who has just come in from the general's camp (St. John's), that the whole country will be raised to force Captain Frémont, if they require so many. Señor Arcé



further says, the camp of the Americans is near Mr. Hartnell's rancho, on a high hill, with his flag flying ; of the latter I am not certain. As you are acquainted with this country, and its people, you will advise with our naval captains on the subject of sailing immediately for this port. If the vessel is not actually obliged to go elsewhere, it is my earnest desire she sails for Monterey on the receipt of this, although everything may end peaceably amongst us.

Believe me to be, yours, sincerely,

(Signed)

THOMAS O. LARKIN.

*To John Parrott, Esq., United States Consul, Mazatlan.*

[Copy.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, March 9, 1846.

SIR : Captain J. C. Freemont with a party of fifty men has been within the limits of California about two months, within a few days encamped about eight leagues from this Town, resting his men & animals, he has two letters from the General and Prefecto, wherein he is ordered to leave this Country, or they will take immediate measures to compel him, they sent me copies of the same, which I have sent in English to Captain Freemont. I have not heard from the camp since, this morning I wrote to Captain Freemont in duplicate, one by a Native, the other by a Foreigner, by to-morrow there will be collected together nearly three hundred men, with the intention to drive out the strangers, and if required, there will be by the next week, a much larger body collected ; should this force be used against Captain Freemont, much blood will be shed, his party though of only fifty in number, have from three to six guns, rifles, and pistols each,—and very determined, both Commander & men, having every confidence in each other. It was the intention of Captain Freemont, to leave this week, if his animals were in good condition, perhaps he may not now be willing, as the people wish to force him ; he was at my house alone in February, and in company with me, visited the General, Prefecto & Alcalde, informed them of his orders to survey the nearest route to the Pacific, and had come into California to purchase provisions, clothes & other necessities, including horses ; no objection was made at the time, since then, the General states, that he has received by the "Hannah," positive orders from Mexico, to drive Captain Freemont from the country. I shall send this letter open to Consul Parrott of Mazatlan, with copies of this weeks correspondence. If there is a fight between these people & Captain Freemont, be the result for or against him ; the American residents are under some apprehensions of their safety hereafter. I would therefore request you, if in your power, to despatch a Sloop of War, to this Port, from Mazatlan, on the receipt of this.

I understand there were in December, five of our Ships of War then in that Port, should this be the case, I hope it will not be inconvenient to comply with this request. I have looked for the Portsmouth over two months ; Captain Montgomery informed me he was to return.

I remain, Sirs', your respectfull servant,

(Signed)

THOMAS O. LARKIN.

*To the Commander of any American Ship of War,  
in San Blas, or Mazatlan.*

*Monterey, May 29, 1846.*

The above is a copy of the original—drawn off at the request of Captain Montgomery—Captain Freemont was not attacked—the Californians did not come within three leagues of his camp—he is now on his way to Oregon.

(Signed)

THOMAS O. LARKIN.

COPY SENT CAPTAIN FRÉMONT BY CONSUL LARKIN.

CONSULSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES,

MONTEREY, March 10, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR : I am ignorant if it would meet with the approbation of Captain Frémont, that I should permit, that of the note which he wrote with so much precipitation, the translation should be made which you solicit. But since it pleases you to allow that my courier should pass to the encampment of said officer, and trusting that the contents of the said note will contribute to calm the minds, and preserve harmony, I consent that the translation which you wish may be made.

Perhaps the authorities have conceived suspicions in relation to my person, considering the difficulty of the circumstance, being Consul of the United States, but I cannot remedy it. Nevertheless, you may know that verbally I have offered my services, always when I have judged them in any manner useful, the same as now I am lending them by writing. Captain Frémont has his particular instructions, which it is not one of the attributes of this consulship to alter, nevertheless I will do as much as may be reconcilable with my functions to avoid any conflict whatever.

It only remains for me to ask you respectfully, that when you write to-day to the General, that you make known to him on my part, that I take the liberty to propose to him that before proceeding to extremities, he will please to address a communication to Captain Frémont, in which he shall ask of him an hour's interview. I am in the firm belief that there will be a