



UPPER SACRAMENTO HILLS.

neers, who is in command of a party of some fifty men, engaged upon an important Scientific Expedition.

You will perceive that Capt. Frémont states "his party to be nearly destitute, and under the unfriendly feeling of the Government of this country, in the existing position of affairs, he is unable to obtain supplies; and, in any case, only at very exorbitant prices." From the above-mentioned circumstances, I am induced to enclose this requisition, and respectfully request you to supply the same or such parts of it as you may be able to spare; being fully assured it will afford you great pleasure to render assistance to a different arm of the Service, engaged upon a laborious and dangerous expedition, exposed to every kind of danger and the greatest hardships men can endure; oftentimes living upon horseflesh, and at times without any provisions whatever.

Capt. Frémont is also in want of funds for the purchase of animals, as, upon leaving for the United States, it will be necessary for him to purchase more horses, his present supply being travel-worn and almost unfit for the saddle.

The exorbitant rate at which the Government Bills are exchanged induce me to beg you to supply Capt. Frémont with fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500), if the same can be furnished without injury to your own particular service; for which he will give the necessary receipts or bills upon the Department. For these supplies and any others he may receive, Capt. Frémont will make due settlement upon his arrival at Headquarters, Washington City.

Capt. Frémont is now encamped on the Sacramento, at the mouth of the Feather River, where he awaits my return with such provisions as I may be able to obtain.

Hoping you will be able to make the supply, I will only add that, in the event of the party receiving from you the assistance requested, you may be assured the same will not only be highly appreciated by the President and Departments, confer an obligation upon Capt. Frémont and myself, but will receive the heartfelt thanks of a party of some of the bravest and most determined men, who are happy in suffering privations while serving their country with a zeal and fidelity unsurpassed by any other.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) ARCHIE H. GILLESPIE,
1st Lieut. U. S. M. Corps, and Special and Confidential
Agent for California.

To JNO. B. MONTGOMERY, ESQ., Commanding U. S. Ship Portsmouth,
Sausalito, Bay of San Francisco.

Lieut. Gillespie left my party on the 28th of May and on the following

day left Cordua's rancho for Sutter's Fort, going down the Sacramento by canoe.

Neal, who had been on a visit to the coast settlements, returned in company with Mr. Samuel Hensley, of Missouri, who was now one of the leading American Settlers. From him I learned that recently, at Yerba Buena, he had met with General Guadalupe Vallejo, who was in command of the northern district of the Department, and one of the most influential men of upper California. The General had informed him that recently he had attended a convention composed of General Castro, himself, and five others, delegates from the different districts in California, at which the proposition to separate from Mexico and establish an independent government under the protection of a foreign power had been debated; but that the majority in the convention was not in favor of placing the country under the protection of the United States.

Mr. Hensley had returned to Sutter's Fort in a few days after the conversation with General Vallejo. He had there learned from Captain Sutter that there was great excitement among the Indians in the neighborhood and that he had just sent for the Cosumné chief, who had recently returned from the California settlements on the coast. Mr. Hensley waited for the chief, who, on his coming, was examined by Captain Sutter, as the Alcaldé and Magistrate of the District. The chief stated that he had seen General Castro during his visit to the settlements, and that he had received from Castro promise of great reward on condition that he would excite the Indians to burn the wheat crops of the American settlers whom Castro was preparing to drive out of the country.

Learning of my return into the valley, Hensley had come immediately to me with this and other information which he had gathered concerning the designs of the leading men among the Californians. His conviction was that the American residents would have to leave the country or fight for the homes which they had made.

Neal made a similar report about the condition of the country. The growing hostility of the Californian authorities towards Americans and the insecurity in which these found themselves placed is shown by the following letter. This letter sets out that arbitrary and flagrant abuses of authority, and denial of just attention to their representations, and to their proofs of ill treatment by Mexicans, had brought affairs to such a condition that they petition for the presence of an American man-of-war in the harbor of Yerba Buena; they declare "that the situation of all foreign residents at this place is extremely insecure and precarious; and that the immediate presence of an American vessel of war is absolutely needed." The signatures comprise all the best names of business men, of ship-captains, and of both the English and American vice-consuls, Forbes and Leidesdorf.

This was October 15, 1845; nearly half a year before I was made a pretext by Castro. The enmity and injuries to foreigners were already existing facts, and in keeping with the special orders of the Home Government against me by the *Hannah*.

MEMORIAL OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS.

To the Commander of the United States ship *Levant* or any other United States vessel of war, this memorial of the masters and supercargoes of the American vessels, citizens of the United States, and other foreign residents at the port of San Francisco, Upper California, respectfully sheweth:

That on the night of the 11th of October, 1845, Captain Elliot Libbey, of the American barque *Tasso*, now lying at anchor in this port, was assaulted on the public street of the town of Yerba Buena by a party of armed natives of this country, and after being grievously wounded by sundry stabs in his body, a dreadful gash upon his head and divers other bruises about his face and body, was left on the street weltering in his blood.

That the perpetrators of this outrage were recognized and complaint made in form to the local authority by Henry Mellus, Esq., supercargo of the barque *Tasso*; who received an official answer that judicial proceedings had been instituted against those individuals; which of course implied that those offenders had been placed separately in confinement to await their trial, even according to the laws of this country.

That it is a notorious fact that all the individuals who co-operated in the assault upon Captain Libbey have been entirely at liberty, and still continue so, walking about the streets of this town and pursuing their customary avocations at their residences on the neighboring farms and Mission.

That the repeated arbitrary and flagrant abuses of the power vested in the Sub-Prefect of the Second District of this Department and the indifference with which the Departmental Executive has viewed these abuses, particularly with respect to foreigners, have led to the barbarous treatment of Captain Libbey. For the perpetrators thereof declared before witnesses on the spot, that they only acted in conformity to orders they had received from the Sub-Prefect. And he having arrogated to himself the right to authorize the appearance of an armed mob under the pretext of their being a patrol, violated the very laws that he has sworn to enforce and respect. And in consequence he should be held responsible for such violation.

That the proper authority in whom resides the power to establish patrols or any armed person whatever, and to designate their duty, is the Military Commandant, who solemnly denies ever having received any communication relative to ordering out any patrol on the night Captain Libbey was assaulted or of having been aware of that outrage, until the fact was made known to him by an eyewitness.

That Mr. Nathan Spear, a citizen of the United States of America, and for a number of years a resident of this country, was also assaulted by the same party that wounded Captain Libbey, and received from them several severe contusions upon the head and shoulders, causing him grievous injury, having only escaped being murdered by a precipitate flight.

That your memorialists are aware that in cases of this kind they should have recourse to the local authorities. This has been already done in another cause of complaint some two months since, but without effect. And now these authorities sanction by a tacit consent the infamous proceedings of these lawless people and thereby become accessories. The persons who attempted to assassinate Messrs. Libbey and Spear are not even arrested, but on the contrary are applauded by their companions for their valor. And their next act may be to murder some supercargo or seize some of the American vessels lying here, under the plea that they are enemies. Your memorialists do not hesitate to declare, that the situation of all foreign residents at this place is extremely insecure and precarious; and that the immediate presence of an American vessel of war in this port is absolutely necessary to inspire a salutary terror into the authorities; and to compel them to render justice according to their own laws, for the barbarous treatment received by Messrs. Libbey and Spear.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully request that you will be pleased to take their case under your serious consideration.

And your memorialists will ever pray, etc.

Yerba Buena, San Francisco Upper California, 15th October, 1845.

(Signed) HENRY MELLUS.
T. C. EVERETT.
JOSEPH P. THOMPSON.
JOHN WILSON.
JAMES ORBELL.
G. H. NYE.
A. B. THOMPSON.
WILLIAM FISHER.

NATHAN SPEAR.
WILLIAM S. HINCKLEY.
ELIAB GRIMES.
JAMES ALEX. FORBES.
WM. A. LEIDESDORFF.
MIGUEL DE PEDRORENA.
ROBERT S. RIDLE.

My geographical work in the valley had been finished, and having nothing more to do than observe the changes made in the face of the country by the progress of the seasons, I had abundant time to think over the political situation and to settle upon the course to pursue. I clearly saw that my proper course was to observe quietly the progress of affairs and take advantage of any contingency which I could turn in favor of the United States, and, where uncertainties arose, to give my own country the benefit of any doubts by taking decided action.

Leaving Lassen's and travelling south into a more open and wider part



THE BUTTES, SACRAMENTO VALLEY.
SIERRA NEVADA IN THE DISTANCE

of the valley, where the bordering mountains are low and showed less snow, the temperature increased rapidly.

Hensley and Neal left the rancho at the same time with my party; their object being to notify the American settlers in the valley to meet and take measures for the common safety.

My camp, wherever it might be, was appointed the place of meeting. I commissioned Hensley to visit Dr. Marsh, an American living on the southern side of the bay. He was a man of marked intelligence and sagacity; favorable to American interests and likely to be well informed of any intended movement by the Californian authorities.

On the 29th we encamped on Bear River. Among the settlers was a man named Ezekiel Merritt. He was tall and spare, what I understand by "rawboned;" a rugged man, fearless and simple; taking delight in incurring risks, but tractable and not given to asking questions when there was something he was required to do. Merritt was my Field-Lieutenant among the settlers.

Information was brought in that a band of horses had been gathered for Castro in Sonoma, and were then on their way to his camp. These were intercepted by Merritt, the guard and vaqueros dispersed, and the horses brought to my camp.

Looking over the field I saw that prompt precautionary measures were necessary in order to avail myself of such advantages as my position offered. Acting upon this necessity I sent Merritt into Sonoma instructed to surprise the garrison at that place.

On the 30th we encamped at the "Buttes of Sacramento." This is an isolated mountain ridge about six miles long, and at the summit about 2690 feet above the sea. At our encampment on a small run at the southeastern base we were about eight hundred feet above the sea. The mornings here were pleasantly cool for a few hours, but before ten the heat of the sun became very great, usually tempered by a refreshing breeze. Our camp was in one of the warmest situations of the Sacramento Valley. The summer winds being steadily from the northwest, this block of mountains entirely intercepted them. We felt the heat here more sensibly than at any other place to which our journeying brought us in California. The hunters always left the camp before daylight, and were in by nine o'clock, after which the sun grew hot. Game was very fat and abundant; upwards of eighty deer, elk, and bear were killed in one morning. This country was a perpetual delight to the Delawares. Its wonderful abundance of game, always in fine condition, and its comfortable climate, with everywhere water and wood and grass, giving the hunter a good camp wherever night might overtake him, kept them constantly happy. If they could have been suddenly transported into it they might have thought that they had