

It seemed that, not being able to negotiate with me, and having lost the battles of the 8th and 9th, they met Colonel Frémont on the 12th instant on his way here, who, not knowing what had occurred, entered into the capitulation with them, which I now send to you; and, although I refused to do it myself, still I have thought it best to approve it. I am glad to say that, by the capitulation, we have recovered the gun taken by the insurgents at the sad defeat of General Kearny at San Pasqual.

And in a letter of the 22d of January he informs the Secretary that "the civil government of this Territory is in successful operation, that Colonel Frémont is acting as governor, and Colonel Russell as secretary, and that I am on board of the *Congress* preparing her for the coast of Mexico."

With this event I close the volume which contains that part of my life which was of my own choosing, which was occupied in one kind of work, and had one chief aim. I lived its earlier part with the true Greek joy in existence—in the gladness of living. An unreflecting life, among chosen companions; all with the same object, to enjoy the day as it came, without thought for the morrow that brought with it no reminders, but was all fresh with its own promise of enjoyment. Quickly as the years rolled on and life grew serious, the light pleasures took wing and the idling days became full of purpose; and, as always, obstacles rose up in the way of the fixed objects at which I had come to aim. But it had happened to me that the obstacles which I had to encounter were natural ones, and I could calculate unerringly upon the amount of resistance and injury I should have to meet in surmounting them. Their very opposition roused strength to overcome them. The grand mountains stood out fairly in their armor of ice and snow; the sterile face of the desert warned the traveller off; and if he ventured there it was with full knowledge of his danger. No treachery lurked behind the majesty of the mountain or lay hidden in the hot glare of the inhospitable plain. And though sometimes the struggle was hard, it was an honest one and simple; and I had my own free will how to combat it. There was always the excitement which is never without pleasure, and it left no griefs behind.

So that all this part of my narrative has been the story of an unrestrained life in open air, and the faces which I had to look upon were those of nature's own, unchanging and true. Now this was to end. I was to begin anew, and what I have to say would be from a different frame of mind. I close the page because my path of life led out from among the grand and lovely features of nature, and its pure and wholesome air, into the poisoned atmosphere and jarring circumstances of conflict among men, made subtle and malignant by clashing interests.





