

were not in use; they were very long, and by their means we succeeded in erecting a second shelter; but everything was covered with sand, and we felt far from comfortable.

In a short time, the man we had sent out returned unsuccessful; so we finished our suppers without coffee, without even a cup of water. The poor mules, that had worked so hard all day, we were obliged to fasten to the wagon; here they remained all night, on the barren sand, where not one blade of grass was to be seen. We dared not let our mules loose, knowing that when urged by thirst, they will wander off until they find water.

October 23.—We arose when the first streak of grey light appeared in the east, and, without stopping to prepare our breakfast, we resumed our toilsome march. The poor starved and thirsty mules plodded pookingly along, in rather a doleful plight.

Before proceeding far, I caught sight of the peaks of volcanic rock that tower above the town of "Moquino." Immediately after, we got a glimpse of a distant pool of water glimmering in the sunlight. I directly ordered the command to proceed to the pool and to encamp, while I rode over to speak to some pastors who were watching their flocks close by. From them I learned that the ruins we saw near the water were all that now remained of the town of "Rito," which town they said had been deserted by its inhabitants some years since, because those people who lived higher up on the "arroyo de Rito" cut off all the water of the creek in seasons when they wanted to irrigate their lands, thus depriving the people of Rito of it, who needed it most at the same season, for the same purposes.

We encamped close by the town; the large pine rafters of the deserted houses furnished us with fuel. In the afternoon we visited the town. The houses were all of them built of stone, covered with mud, and neatly whitewashed. Here we found a neat little chapel, and the house of the priest still remained in pretty good condition. One feels sorrowful to see so much labor thrown away, so much useful material left to the ravages of destructive time; but our fires burned so cheerfully, that all regrets were consumed in the lively flames. We concluded that it would be a fortunate occurrence to daily encounter old ruins. We remained here all day. We had plenty of wood and of water; the pasturage was good, and our mules needed time to rest and recruit their strength.

In the afternoon, we saw some commissary wagons returning from Covero to Albuquerque. We sent over to them, in order to ascertain if they had any letters for us; for we had desired to have all our letters forwarded from Santa Fé as soon as they arrived there, as those travelling through the country could easily find our whereabouts on enquiry.

Towards dark a party of five or six Mexicans halted near us, and soon more of the rafters from the old ruins were crackling in the flames. These men said that they were going to fight the Navajoes, and that many more of their "compadres" were already on the way.

October 24.—At eight o'clock, we left the ruins of Rito, and



VIEW NEAR RITO.

crossed the "Arroyo de Rito," it is from four to five feet wide, and three inches deep; it has a sandy bed, nearly twenty yards wide, that is evidently covered with water at certain seasons of the year. The valley along which our road runs is seven miles wide, and is covered with good grass.

As we continued our journey, we had on our left a ragged toothed sierra, which the distance mellowed to the same tint with the sky. Close to us rose a high mesa of dark red sandstone, that was based on the compact whitish clay; and wherever we could catch a glimpse of the strata above, we found it to present a greyish white hue; and when we reached it, that it was composed of clay and sand. The first eight miles of the road was compact and firm; at its termination a wild looking cañon extended into the mountain. Here water can be got, but the path is so strewed with huge fragments of rock, that constantly block the way, as to prevent the watering animals there. The first portion of our road was strewed with pieces of petrified wood, full of silicious particles, which glistened in the sunlight.

On one side of the road, we found some wagon-wheel spokes, we collected them with great care, intending to manufacture them into pins for our tents, and pickets for the mules. Hard wood cannot be obtained in the whole of New Mexico. The country around us seems to produce no wood except the cedar. Among the plants we noticed the yucca angustifolia, and several varieties of the artemisia.

After a journey of twenty miles, we encamped on the "Rio Puerco," about nine miles above the point at which it receives the waters of the "Arroyo de Rito," or as it is often called "El Rio de San José."

The provision wagons had arrived here only a little time before; one of the teamsters had gone down the river in search of water, so some of us went up the river, and at a distance of two or three miles found some water, that was quite thick with mud. This we collected and put by, to allow the mud time to precipitate. We had brought with us enough water for our immediate wants, so we determined to let the muddy water rest until the next morning.

On looking at the map, the Rio Puerco appears to be quite a formidable stream. A river 140 miles long, with a valley of seven or eight miles wide, through which it flows, would lead one to think that here was a fine country for pasturage, and a plenty of water. Not so, for we are now but forty-eight miles above its mouth, and there is no water; and the valley, deep with sand, only nourishes artemisias, yucca, and cacti. The banks of the Rio Puerco are perpendicular, and often twenty to thirty feet high; showing that, at some seasons, great bodies of water must rush along its bed.

The men with the ox-team said that their oxen would not be able to get over the top of the dividing ridge between us and the Rio del Norte, unless they travelled on now, for want of water so soon destroys the strength of oxen. They therefore bade us adieu.

October 25.—When we arose this morning, we found the ground covered with a heavy frost, and there was a skim of ice on the water we had put aside to settle. Indeed we felt quite

numbed with the cold, but a cheerful fire soon restored the genial circulation of the blood.

We soon started, and, before proceeding far, overtook the wagons; they had not been able to reach the dividing ridge, on account of the exhausted state of the oxen. As this ridge was but 5 miles from the "Puerco," we soon attained it, and once more caught sight of the Rio del Norte, and the grand chain of mountains on the farther side of the river. Far away to the south, we saw this magnificent stream winding along, its apparent continuity broken by its meanders and its islands, so that it looked like a chain of silver lakes.

On the ridge, we collected enough wood to last a couple of days, for no wood is to be obtained within less than 9 or 10 miles of Albuquerque, where we should stay a couple of days, as it was absolutely necessary that our mules should have some rest. We had travelled at the average rate of 15 miles a day; thrice we had been without a drop of water after a long day's journey, as at Moquino, at Rito, and at the Rio Puerco. Although some of the road was excellent, such as from Cibolleta to Laguna, yet, for the greater portion of our route, we had travelled through deep sands, without a road; through rude wilds, without any guide.

As we entered the valley of the Rio del Norte, we met Major Edmonson, with his command, on their way for the Navajoe country. Most all of his teams had broken down, and he was obliged to stop at the "Rancho de Atrisco," in order to recruit them.

We heard, to-day, some rumors of General Taylor's battle at Monterey. These rumors came up by the way of Chihuahua. They state the loss of the Americans at 300, while that of the Mexicans was 1,200. As the report came through Mexicans, we judged the result must be even more favorable to our arms than these rumors represented.

October 26.—This morning we received notices of an incursion of the Navajoes, a few miles below us. The pastores left their flocks and fled, while a large body of Indians, rushing down from the mountains, where they had secreted themselves during the night, devastated the whole valley, killing all the human kind they met, and sweeping off the flocks and herds of the Mexicans. No less than 5,000 sheep were carried off within 20 miles of the great city of Albuquerque.

In the afternoon, we went to pay our respects to the padre; he received us most kindly, although seated at the dinner table. He insisted upon our entering, and then introduced us to his friends as the mathematicians and astronomers. I am under great obligations to him for changing some gold for me. Mexicans in general do not like to receive anything but "plata blanca."

We heard this evening that the American traders were cut off from all intercourse with Santa Fé, by a body of Mexicans who had come up from "El Passo." Captain Burgwin and Captain Grier marched down this morning, in order to assist the traders.

October 27.—We did not get off this morning until 10 o'clock.

One day's rest always causes such a break in the regular chain of previous habits as is difficult to repair.

When we crossed the Rio del Norte, I met Lieutenant Noble, of the 2d dragoons; he confirmed the reports that Captain Burgwin and Captain Grier had gone down the river to assist the American traders, who were threatened with an attack by a body of Mexicans from El Passo. We also heard that Mr. James McGoffin had been captured, and taken as a prisoner to Chihuahua.

Continuing our journey down the east side of the Rio del Norte, we soon arrived opposite the town of "Pajarito." Here the little "Rio San Antonio," which takes its name from the town near its source, yields up its waters to the grand river of Mexico.

As I attempted to cross the "Rio San Antonio" my mule sank in a treacherous quicksand so suddenly that I could not throw myself out of the saddle before she was half covered. I managed to scramble to the bank, from whence I started, while the mule, relieved of my weight, struggled to the opposite side of the stream, which she reached in safety.

After a march of 11 miles, without seeing a single town on the east side of the river, we recrossed the Rio del Norte, and encamped at "Padillas." This town is near the foot of a high mound, and is wholly Mexican. While travelling about New Mexico I tried several times to gain information with reference to the population of the towns, the numbers of the flocks and herds owned by the inhabitants. I have asked how much corn and how much wheat the land yields to the "fenegada," but never obtained other than the reply of "quien sabe." I would therefore have been obliged to content myself with rude approximations as to the number of inhabitants, had I not fortunately been enabled to get hold of a document from the State department at Santa Fé, which, coming in an official form, is likely to present a correct statement. It is so intimately connected with my report that I will at once introduce it.

Extract from the records in the State Department at Santa Fé.

[Translation.]

Mariano Martinez de Lejanza, brevet brigadier general and constitutional governor of the department of New Mexico, to its inhabitants sends greeting, that the assembly of the department has agreed to decree the following:

The assembly of the department of New Mexico, in discharging the powers which are conceded by the 134th article of the organic law of the republic, decrees the following:

Division of the department.

ART. 1. The department of New Mexico, conformably to the 4th article of the constitution, is hereby divided into three districts, which shall be called the Central, the North, and the Southeast.

The whole shall be divided into seven counties, and these into three municipalities. The population, according to the statistics which are presented for this purpose, is 100,064. The capital of this department is Santa Fé.

Central district.

ART. 2. This district is hereby divided into three counties, which shall be called Santa Fé, Santa Ana, and San Miguel del Bado. The capital of these three counties shall be the city of Santa Fé.

ART. 3. The first county shall comprise all the inhabitants of Santa Fé, San Ildefonso, Pogueaque, Nambé, Cuyamanque, Tezuque, Rio Tezuque, Sienea, Senequilla, Agua Fria, Galisteo, El Real del Oro, and Tuerto. The county seat is Santa Fé. The number of inhabitants is 12,500.

ART. 4. The second county shall comprise the inhabitants of Rayada, Cochitè, Peña Blanca, Chili, Santo Domingo, Cobero, San Felipe, Jamez, Silla, Santa Ana, Angostura, and Algodones. The number of inhabitants is 10,500. The county seat is fixed at Algodones.

ART. 5. The third county shall comprise the inhabitants of Pecos, Gusano, Rio de la Vaca, Mula, Estramosa, San José, San Miguel del Bado, Pueblo, Puerticito, Cuesto, Cerrito, Anton Chico, Tecaloté Vegas, and Sepillo. Inhabitants, 18,800; county seat shall be San Miguel.

Northern district.

ART. 6. This district is divided into two counties, called Rio Arriba and Taos. The capital is Las Luceros.

ART. 7. The county of Rio Arriba comprises the inhabitants of Sata Cruz de la Cañada, Chimayo, Cañada, Truchas, Santa Clara, Vegas, Chama, Cuchillo, Abiquiu, Rito Colorado, Ojo Caliente, Ranchitos, Chamita, San Juan, Rio Arriba, Joya, and Embuda. The county seat is Los Luceros. The number of inhabitants is 15,000.

ART. 8. The county of Taos comprises the inhabitants of Don Fernandez, San Francisco, Arroya Hondo, Arroyo Seco, Desmontes, Sinequilla, Picuries, Santa Barbara, Zampas, Chamizal, Llano, Peñasco, Moro, Huerfano, and Cimmaron. The county seat is Don Fernandez. The number of inhabitants amounts to 14,200.

Southeastern District.

ART. 9. This district is divided into two counties, called Valencia and Bernalillo. The capital is Valencia.

ART. 10. The county of Valencia comprises, Valencia, San Fernando, Tomé, Socoro, Limitar, Polvaderas, Sabinal, Elames, Casa, Colorado, Cibolleta, Sabino, Parida, Luis Lopez, Belén, Lunas, Lentas, Zuñi, Acoma, and Rito. County seat, Valencia. Number of inhabitants 20,000.

ART 11. The county of Bernalillo comprises, Isletta, Padilla, Pajarito, Rancho de Atrisco, Atrisco, Palaceres, Albuquerque, Alameda, Corrales, Sandia, and Bernalillo. County seat, Bernalillo. Number of inhabitants 8,204. The whole number of inhabitants of the district, 28,204.

This decree shall be made known to the governor, that he may carry it into execution.

JESUS MARIA GALLEGAS,
President.

JUAN BAPTISTA VIGIL Y MARIS, *Secretary.*

By virtue of the premises, I command that this act be published, circulated, and made known, to all whom it may concern, for its most active observance and fulfilment.

Palace of the government, Santa Fé.

MARIANO MARTINEZ.

JOSE FELIX JUBIA, *Secretary.*

June 17, 1844.

October 28.—Last night we had much rain and wind, and this morning light showed us a sky covered with grey and misty clouds, that hang close to the horizon, without any sign of clearing away. We are, therefore, constrained to give over the idea of leaving this place to-day. The weather is quite cold. The wild geese are flying about us in great numbers, and keep up an incessant "honking."

About 2 o'clock it commenced clearing off. We started out to kill some geese. The "anser canadiensis" and "A. bernicla," are very abundant. We also saw many of those beautiful snow-white geese, called "A. hyperboreas," snow goose, by way of eminence. But the geese were very shy, as the Mexicans said, "Los anseres eran muchos sabios."

In the afternoon we met a young Mexican who had travelled through the United States. He commenced speaking of the powerful steamboats, the rapid rail-cars, and mighty rivers he had seen; and, pointing to the Rio del Norte, he said, "this is the Rio Grande of Mexico, but in the United States it would be muy poquito, muy poquito."

October 29.—This morning Lieutenant Peck and I started for "Peralta," leaving the wagon and most of the mules at Padillas; we thus saved a day's march, as we could now return before night, and I wished to start from this place, in order to explore the country around "Chilili," and all the inhabited portion of New Mexico lying to the eastward.

We continued down on the west side of the river, until we reached the Pueblo of "Isletta," quite a large town. Here we saw extensive vineyards, with long sheds, under which were ranged huge bloated bags of ox hide, where several of the Indians were at work, distilling the liquors from the vats.

We now forded the river, and after a journey of 9 miles, reached the village of "Peralta." This town is situated on the southern

skirt of a large round grove of cotton-wood trees. There were several flour-mills near, and the houses are well built; that of Señor Otero is as fine as any in the department of New Mexico.

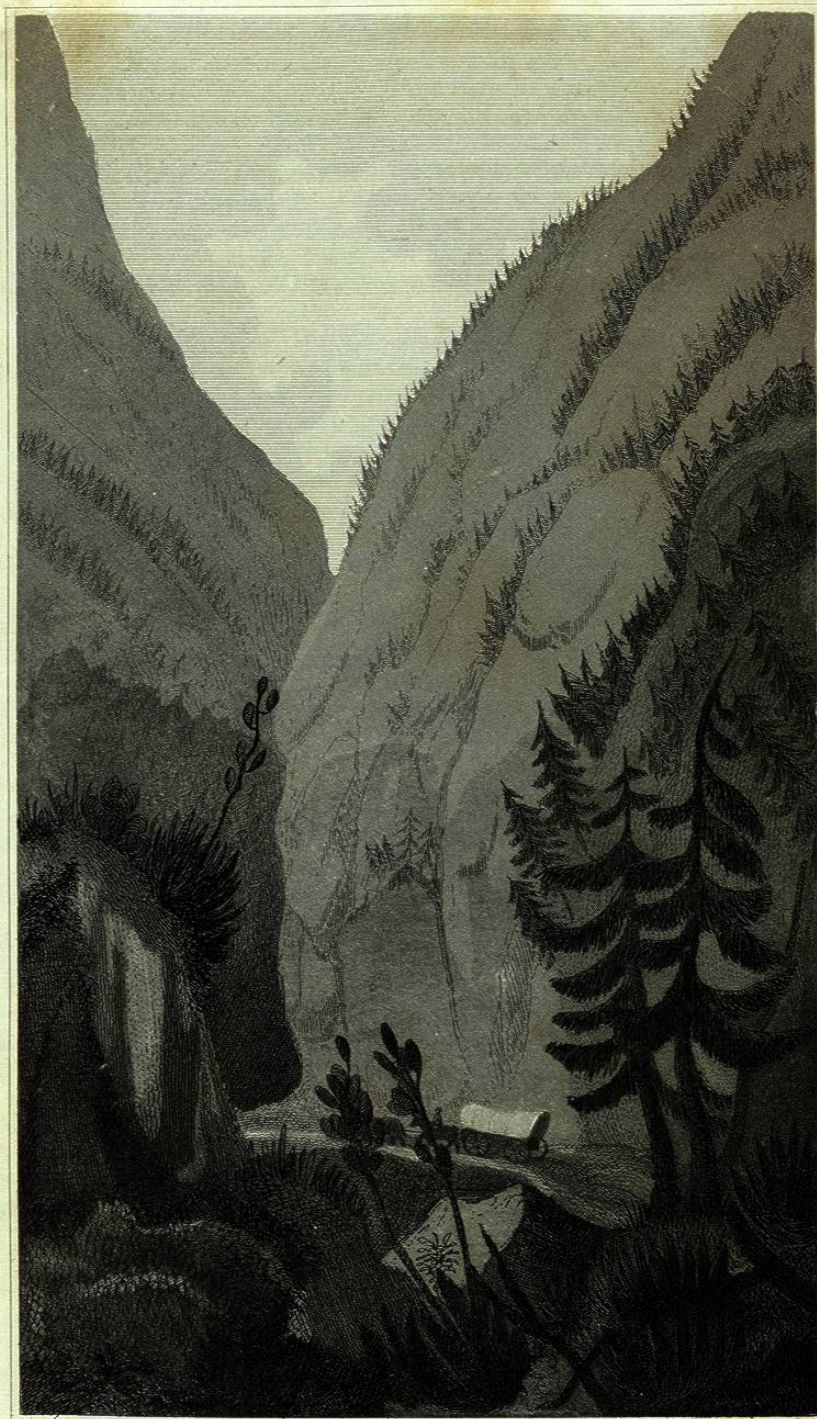
At Peralta we met with two very polite and communicative gentlemen; they freely answered our interrogatories, and kindly furnished us with some pamphlets and several copies of the "Republicano," a paper published in the city of Mexico. Three miles to the south, is the village of "Valencia," the capital of the county of the same name. Directly opposite to use, on the west side of the river, is the town of "Lentes," and one and a half miles south of it, the town of "Lunes." We now returned to "Padillas," and on our way stopped at "Isletta;" we entered some of the houses of the Indians, who had numbers of buffalo robes, which they offered to trade. They had also apples and bunches of grapes—the latter fruit they hang up on the rafters, where it does not decay as it would do in the United States. In fact so pure is the air, and so free from all tainting influences, that meat may be hung up in the same way, at any season, without fear of being spoiled. One of the favorite dishes of the Mexicans consists of meat that has been dried by simply hanging it over cords that are stretched beneath the "portales" of the house for this purpose. The Indians also preserve their melons for some time, plucking them before they are entirely ripe, and suspending them by twine manufactured from fibres of the yucca or palmillo.

In good season we reached "Padillas," when I at once called to see Señor Don José Chavez, to inquire of him when I could procure a guide, when he kindly promised to send me one of his peones on the coming morning.

October 30.—We again crossed the river, and then continued onwards, in a course almost due east, for the mighty range of the Sierra Blanca. The first three miles was up a sandy acclivity, which gave our wagon mules some severe labor; but, having at last reached the top of the ascent, we found a fine compact road, over a plain composed of clay and gravel. For the first twelve miles the road continued its direct course; at length we began to approach "el cañon inferno," when our road leads us over beds of limestone. This was full of little patches of hornstone, which were varied with cracks that were now filled with calcareous matter, so that the patches resembled ludus helmontii, or septaria.

The road, on both sides, was thickly studded with several species of yucca and cacti. The mountains were covered with snow, and we soon began to feel a great difference in the temperature of the air as we proceeded.

Having marched sixteen miles, we entered the "cañon inferno;" there was a clear stream of cold water, which, as we followed up to its source, we found to be, in many places, entirely absorbed by the sand. Along its bed grew many cottonwood trees and grapevines; they both show the effects of the late frosts; the brilliant yellow of their leaves forms strong contrast with the sombre green



EL CAÑON INFIERNO.

of the cedar and piñon, with which the banks of the stream are embroidered.

Stupendous masses of green stone that were once seething in the bowels of the earth are piled up, rock upon rock, until but a narrow strip of sky can be seen over head. These rocks are traversed, in all directions, by narrow seams of milky quartz. Various species of cacti and yucca spring forth from every crevice where enough earth has collected to afford them nourishment, and the cedar and piñon stretch out their boughs above these plants, as if to prevent the sun from evaporating the little moisture they contain.

We encamped, after having proceeded five miles into the very heart of the cañon; here the rocks were so steep that not one spot could be found where we might pasture our mules; we, therefore, cut down boughs of cedar, but the animals only nibbed them a little, and we were forced to tie them fast to the wagons to prevent their going off in search of pasturage.

October 31.—Last night we had a terrible storm; it consisted of a succession of great gusts of wind, accompanied by rain, hail, and snow; the wind roared through the cedars on the mountain side, with the sound of a grand water fall. Our tent trembled beneath the terrific force of the blast that swept backwards and forwards through the cañon, and the deep gorge sent forth fierce howlings.

Morning at length dawned, and we arose shivering with cold, and gathered around the fire. Our Mexican guide had been obliged to walk about all night, in order to keep warm, for the fire went out during the early part of the night. Our mules had had nothing to eat, we, therefore, hurried off quickly, hoping before long to reach a patch of grass, where we could halt. We soon met with some of Señor Chavez's wagons, which had been sent out to procure pine logs fit to make rafters for some new buildings.

Mixed with the cedar and the fir tree, we saw some stunted oaks, "*Q. olivæ formis*;" also some fine specimens of the pitch-pine. Amongst the shrubs, there is a species of holly; it bears scarlet berries, on which the robins, flickers, and stellar jays feed with great delight. We noticed numerous signs of the bear, and our guide said that they were of the black bear.

As the road was rough, we had to be careful lest the wagon should upset. Before we had gone ten miles we reached a level piece of ground; here we halted and built a large fire, around which we gathered, while the mules were busily engaged in appeasing their hunger.

After halting an hour we resumed our march, and found the country more gentle in its aspect, and much easier to travel. We now commenced descending slowly, for we had crossed the dividing ridge; the ground was in many places covered with snow, except where it was exposed to the rays of the sun. The air was biting cold. At length we entered the road that runs from Albuquerque to the famed "salinas," or salt lakes. These lakes afford salt for the whole of this region. Our course was very direct, and as the