

town and the river valley beyond, filled with cotton trees; the high, flat "mesa," covered with a sheet of volcanic rock, and the grand snow-capped Sierra, that rises in the distance. This valley of Valverde has been very highly spoken of, but it is of narrow limits, and its soil is sandy.

November 19.—While paying a visit to one of the traders' camps, I saw the Indian method of grinding corn. A large slab of volcanic rock had been obtained from the neighboring "mesa;" this was then worked into a level surface and placed in an inclined position, to form the "metate" upon which the corn, that has been previously parched to render it more crisp, is placed and ground with an oblong stone.

Last night a Mr. Phelps, who had left his home to try the health restoring climate of the Rocky mountains, died. Being in the last stage of consumption, he had hoped that the pure air of the prairie might ameliorate his disease. Notwithstanding the beneficial effects that pure air may produce, yet the exposure under the thin canvass walls of a tent; the long journeys during days of heat and cold; the deleterious effects of the deprivation of the various conveniences of civilized life; the necessity of travelling daily, whether the patient be sick or well, more than cancel the good influences of the healthful climate.

November 20.—We have a great deal of ice in the Rio del Norte; at one place it was sufficiently strong to bear the weight of a man. We found some of our friends making atole,* which is a very dilute kind of mush made of the flour of parched corn.

We learned that Colonel Doniphan had not yet concluded his treaty with the Navajoes, and was expected in eight days, and several companies were already at Socorro.

November 21.—We were delighted by the arrival of several Americans, who confirmed the report that two companies of Colonel Doniphan's regiment were at Socorro. One can never believe the New Mexicans; not that they are wilfully liars, but they are so ignorant that they see nothing clearly, but judge as if looking through a glass darkened, and give word to the conception thus derived, which generally proves false.

The Mexicans are remarkable for their ceremonious politeness; in meeting each other they generally embrace and uncover their heads, after which each runs through a long formula of inquiries after friends and relations, and ends with good wishes and invocations of the protecting care of God, the virgin, and the saints. To-day some one greeted a Mexican who appeared with the common salutation of "Viva usted mil años;" he instantly replied, "and God grant, sir, that you may live to see the last year of the thousand."

From what I have been informed, the profits of the Santa Fé traders are in this proportion: Goods, such as calicoes or prints that are bought for 10 cents, sell for 37½ cents; and cazinets and

* The "atole" of Clavigera.

cloths, costing about 25 cents, sell for \$2. A wagon contains from two to three thousand dollars worth of goods.

November 22.—We have had some news to-day that caused quite an excitement. The people of Chihuahua have had spies out, far advanced in the direction of the route by which General Wool will have to approach, and they now say that he is not coming at all. This has so encouraged the Mexicans that they have determined to send a force here and capture the wagons and valuable goods of the traders.

November 23.—A cold wind, that continued to blow all day, obliged us to gather around our camp fires; but even then it was almost impossible to be comfortable; one must keep constantly revolving in order to have all sides warm.

While sitting by the fire last night, we heard the sound of horses' hoofs on the frozen ground; hailing those who approached, we found that they were from a trader below, who was sending to Socorro to procure medical aid for a sick man, and to inform us all that he had received most positive information with regard to an intended march of the Mexicans from below, and urged all to join in an application for the volunteers at Socorro to come down and encamp where they would be ready to assist us.

November 24.—When we first arose, the river was frozen across, but by breakfast time the ice was floating down the rapid current in great quantities, with a constant murmuring sound as the fragments grated together.

The river is here full of sand bars. At one place we plucked a reed, "arundo phragmites," and without difficulty threw it across the river, which at that place was not more than 50 feet wide to the bar, but the water is now very low.

As one of the axe helvies had been broken, we were forced to supply it with a piece of "mezquit;" it was very difficult to get a straight piece of sufficient length.

During the day, we sent up an express to the volunteers, desiring them to move down the river.

November 25.—This morning we walked down to a trader's camp below us. We found he had made preparations for remaining here some time. His men had constructed a log house, which they had thatched with poles and rushes, so that it was quite comfortable.

On our return to camp, we found that the volunteers had come down the river, and had encamped on the opposite side, about two miles above us.

November 26.—The weather is still extremely cold; the river was again running full of ice, and the water in the camp buckets had frozen to the thickness of three inches; still, the midday sun feels very warm.

This morning I got a sparrow-hawk, "Falco sparverius." To-day I heard an anecdote that accounts for one of our common sayings. It is related that a white man and an Indian went hunting; and afterwards, when they came to divide the spoils, the white man said, "You may take the buzzard and I will take the turkey,

or, I will take the turkey and you may take the buzzard." The Indian replied, "You never once said turkey to me."

November 27.—We now moved our camp to a more sheltered position, where we had plenty of cotton wood trees, and at once commenced building houses, having procured adobes for the chimneys from the ruins of Valverde.

November 28.—This morning I got a little sapsucker, "sitta Carolina," a bird that is often seen creeping on the under side of limbs of trees that extend horizontally; they have three toes running forward, and only one backward, but their bill resembles that of a woodpecker.

We heard, this morning, of the death of two of the volunteers who were encamped near us. These men had gone off from camp five or six miles without any weapons, when they were attacked by the Navajoes, who shot them down with reed arrows, and then beat out their brains with rocks; and the Indians drove off 800 sheep. A party of thirty immediately went out in pursuit of the murderers. By the last advices they had not overtaken them.

We heard to-day, that General Wool had joined General Taylor, and that they had taken Monterey. The person bringing this news, formerly an officer in the English army, had come direct from the city of Mexico. He is now at Señor Algier's camp.

During the morning I saw Mr. Glasgow, formerly our consul at Mazatlan. He had received a letter from some friends in Chihuahua, confirming the news of the battle of Monterey. We also learned that 700 Mexicans had come up from El Paso, and had arrived in sight of our camp on the day the volunteers reached here, and seeing the latter, had retired.

During the morning I went out to see some mules that were branded with the letters "U. S.," when the drivers showed me a certificate signed by Lieutenant Stoneman, dated in the vicinity of the copper mines, on the Gila. This gave us news of the safety of Captain Cook, but obliged us to let the mule drivers retain their mules.

November 29.—A day of cold drizzling rain, during which Mr. R. F. Ruxton, the Englishman previously mentioned, entered our camp. He told us that after the battle of Monterey there was an armistice for six weeks; that General Taylor had been ordered to advance upon Tampico, and that Santa Ana had ordered his troops to fall back on San Luis Potosi, where he was concentrating all his forces. Some of the traders seem to think that he will be able to raise an army of 30,000 men.

Mr. Ruxton brought a paper from the English minister, desiring all American officers to extend every facility to English traders on their route to Chihuahua; also other papers, in which it was stated that traders of all nations would be permitted free egress, even Americans, provided they came with Mexican drivers. We also heard that twenty-one of Mr. Spier's men—this Spier forced his way to Chihuahua in spite of pursuit by the United States dragoons—had perished in the mountains, of hunger and thirst, whilst endeavoring to escape into Texas; and that General Armijo had gone to Durango;

that Ortiz, the cura of El Paso, had led the troops that came to capture the wagons of the traders; and that the people of Chihuahua had made six copper field pieces.

November 30.—To-day we employed much of our time in building, although there was a drizzling rain that was unfavorable for labor; yet we accomplished the filling in of the warp of light poles by weaving with rushes. This afternoon we had a festive scene at the camp of a trader from Missouri, who still had some fine claret wine and some good old brandy. We had many tales of wild adventures of prairie life, and hair-breadth escapes. We heard of Mike Fink, who, with two other desperadoes, for a time lived in the Rocky mountains. There Mike would shoot a tin cup off the head of one of the trio for some trifling bet. One day, under the wager of a keg of whiskey, Mike fired away at the tin cup and his friend dropped. "There," said Mike, "I've lost the whiskey, I shot a little too low." True, the bullet had entered between the eyes of the cup bearer. Shortly after this occurrence, Mike had an altercation with the second man, and, remarking that he had one of the best rifles that was ever shot, *the other* drew a pistol and killed Mike *dead*; and this man, on his way to St. Louis, to stand his trial, jumped overboard and was drowned in the waters of the Missouri. Thus, as the narrator stated, perished three of the most desperate men known in the west. Many more tales were told, of Glass, of Colter, and others, but one only I will relate, as it throws some light on the character of the New Mexicans. A few years ago the Mexicans had been endeavoring to defeat the Apaches; not succeeding, they persuaded a party of 140 to come into Chihuahua, under the pretence of making peace with them. Having given them plenty of aguardiente, they fell upon the intoxicated Indians and killed them; one woman ran to the church, hoping to be protected by the sacredness of the sanctuary. The instinct that compelled her to seek safety here was awakened, not only for the preservation of her own life, but for that of another yet unborn; but nought avails: they seize her, they drag their victim to the grand porch and cut her to pieces, tearing out a living child; they baptize it, with fiendish mockery, and then its soul is sent to join that of the dead mother!—and now, at this very moment, many of the scalps of these unfortunate beings hang dangling in front of the church, a choice offering to the saints. These are deeds of the descendants of those who came to erect the blessed symbol of the cross, who, with such holy horror, cast down the idols of the Aztecs, and abolished the horrid rites and execrable sacrifices of the priests of Huitzilo polchili.

We, this evening, received a dispatch from Captain Walton, of the Missouri volunteers, desiring all the traders to combine at some one point for their better defence, as he had received information that rendered such a movement necessary.

December 1.—The month came in with much wind, scattering the foliage of the cottonwood trees, and rustling through their boughs. During the morning we had an alarm of Mexicans, but it originated from the approach of a "mulada" that belonged to some of the

traders. We busied ourselves during the day in completing the construction of our houses, and soon finished the thatching of all the walls; they already afforded great protection against the rude December blast.

During the day, a Mr. David, a trader, had some of his mules run off by the Indians.

In the evening we learned that Mr. Glasgow and several of the traders had started to Santa Fé, hoping to meet Colonel Doniphan and get some positive information with reference to the place where they should be constrained to winter.

This morning Mr. Kerford's train moved down the river, and formed camp near "Fray Cristobal," which is 15 miles below. Mr. Kerford is an Englishman, and having an English passport, is very anxious to go on to Chihuahua, as well as Señor Algier, who is protected by a Spanish passport. The coming of Mr. Ruxton, with letters assuring foreigners that their property would be protected, has made many of the traders very anxious to proceed, for some of them have as much as 150,000 dollars worth of goods at stake.

This morning we completed our "adobe" chimney, plastering it within and without with mud, and we have now a complete structure, save the roof, which shall be made if we remain here any length of time.

Mr. Ruxton came over and sat a while with us. He said that he was going out deer hunting in the morning, and I told him that Reymond, who was a good shot, would accompany him, hoping that the latter would share the good fortune of one who had been very successful in hunting. Mr. Ruxton said that while he was at El Paso he met three Americans, who had been taken prisoners by the Mexicans four months previous. These persons had left the United States to go to California, by the way of Sonora; they were seized as spies, at the instigation of a man whom they had employed as guide from Santa Fé. The Mexicans had taken all that these poor fellows possessed, and they were now almost starving there, for they allowed them only a handful of "frijoles" and a few "tortillas" each day. Mr. R. said that he remonstrated with several persons, and with the cura Ortiz, who acknowledged that they were ignorant men, without any knowledge of the Mexican language, and in every way unfit for spies; in fact, that it was evident that they were no spies; still, however, these men were detained, and having tried to make their escape while Mr. R. was at El Paso, they were recaptured; all this in direct violation of the treaty between the United States and Mexico, which stipulates for twelve months' notice to Americans and Mexicans; besides, it was known to the Mexicans that these men had left before they had any knowledge of the war.

December 3.—Again another day of commotion; many going hither and thither. During the morning, we saw a long train of wagons pass, belonging to Señor Porros. All of us are most anxiously awaiting news of Colonel Doniphan's movements, and are heartily tired of staying here.

December 4.—To-day Captain Walton rode down, and expressed

his positive determination to prevent any one from going to Chihuahua until Colonel Doniphan should arrive. This evening, however, all the traders assembled and drew up a letter to Captain Walton, desiring that Mr. Kerford should be allowed to proceed. His goods have come through the United States from England, in the original packages, and have been, thus far, free of duty; and now, if they are brought into competition with the goods of the other traders, it will be ruinous to them; but if Mr. K. is allowed to proceed at once, he will pass on through Chihuahua towards Zacatecas and Durango. As he has an immense stock of goods, this arrangement was greatly desired.

December 5.—The hunting party returned; they had been unsuccessful, although they saw many deer and wild turkeys. To-day we went up to Captain Walton's camp, when we found that he had gone down the river to visit his picket guard at "Fray Cristobal." On my return I got a fine specimen of the Mexican meadow lark, "sturnella neglecta."

December 6.—In accordance with the arrangement which I yesterday made with Captain Walton's commissary, I sent up my wagon to-day for some provisions. We obtained all we wanted, except sugar. While at the camp, we heard that one volunteer had been shot by another, in a brawl. We heard to-day of the death of Lieutenant Butler, Colonel Doniphan's adjutant. This news cast quite a gloom over our feelings, for he was much esteemed by all who knew him. Every moment we are expecting a mail, and ardently desire to hear the news, to be enabled to shape our course so as to reach the United States by the speediest route. The evening was extremely unpleasant; it was hard to tell whether it was raining or snowing. We cut down some huge cotton wood trees, and turned our animals loose to browse upon the tender bark of the twigs.

December 7.—During the morning I was busily engaged in skinning birds, we had killed eight Mexican blue birds, "sialia occidentalis." They differ from the blue birds of the United States, in having the back brown, and the wings tipped with black, and are more delicate in their contour. We find great numbers feeding upon the mucilaginous berries of the misletoe, which, in this vicinage, grows upon every cotton wood tree.

December 8.—We procured several specimens of the red winged flicker, "picus Mexicanus." On dissecting them I found their stomachs full of ants. In the evening, Mr. Houck, Mr. Kerford, Mr. Harmony, El Señor Algier, and El Señor Porros, arrived at our camp; they were going up to see Captain Walton, in order to make a more formal representation.

December 9.—Spent this morning in hunting quails, in the vicinity of the "mesa" below us; procured a female "ortix squamosa," in fine plumage. There are several coveys of these birds in the neighborhood of some sand knolls; but the ground is so overgrown with clusters of artemisia, and the birds run so rapidly, that it is difficult to see anything but their tracks on the loose sand.

This evening, we heard that Colonel Doniphan was approaching,

and that Major Gilpin had already arrived within a few miles of us. There was also a rumor that General Wool would march to Chihuahua, but that he had gone by the way of Monclova.

December 10.—This morning I went up to "Parida," in order to purchase provisions. The river was full of floating ice, and for some distance from the shore it was yet unbroken. We were obliged to get logs and break a road for the wagons, and even then it was with considerable difficulty that we succeeded in urging the mules into the river. When we arrived at the opposite shore, we found Major Gilpin and his command. The men were without tents, and constant exposure to the cold and snow, on the high sierras of the Navajoes country, have given them a pretty ragged looking exterior. After we had proceeded five miles, we met Colonel Doniphan and his staff. He said that he should march for Chihuahua, as soon as the artillery should arrive from Santa Fé. We recrossed the river at San Pedro, and at dark reached "Parida," where we stopped at the house of the alcalde, Don Miguel Baca. He asked me if "El Señor Don St. Jago Polk, no está el Presidente de nuestra republica." I found out that he considered himself a citizen of the United States.

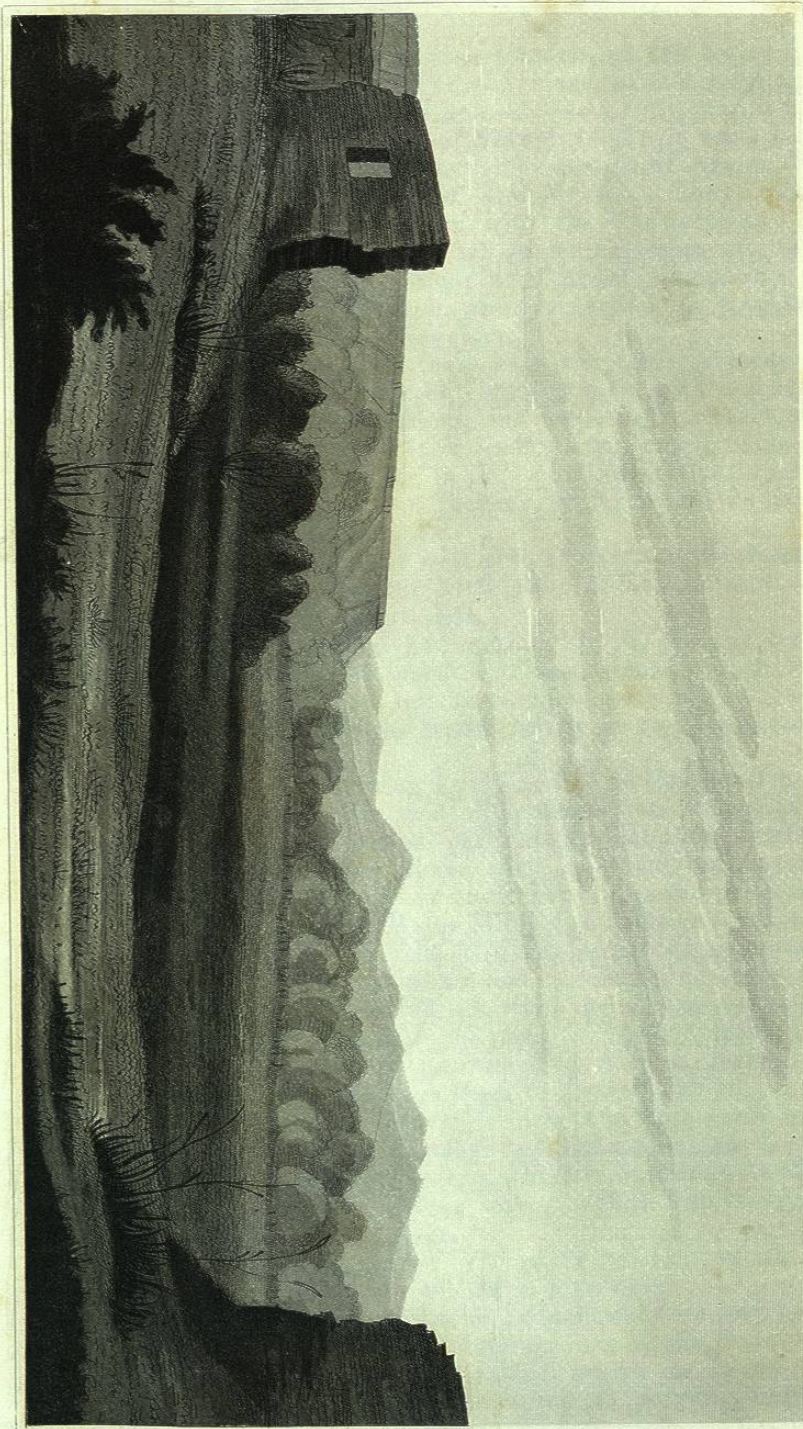
December 11.—Everything has just doubled in value, beeves are now worth \$20 a head, and corn \$6 the fanega.

December 12.—The kindness of these people was remarkable; they gave us numerous presents of "ponche," or tobacco, and "chili colorado." At 9 o'clock we started, after having embraced the whole household. We were struck with their politeness; they always uncovered their heads when offering a light for our "cigarito;" and, when they made any movement, prefixed it with "con su licenceá Señor." When an old patriarch of the village entered, they all rose and uncovered their heads; he, too, was a Baca.

About dark we reached our camp at Valverde, when I received several letters; and amongst them an order from the adjutant general, directing me to repair immediately to Washington city. I had already two orders to the same effect, one from General Kearny, and the other from Colonel Doniphan; and, as it was not known which way Colonel Doniphan would proceed after reaching Chihuahua, I determined to return at once to Santa Fé, and thence proceed to the United States, which was the only route open to me. Many of my friends represented the undertaking as almost impossible, but there was one trader who had crossed the prairies in the winter; and, as he had done it, I did not see why it might not be done again; moreover, my orders to return had to be obeyed.

December 13.—I obtained five beautiful specimens of the "ortix squamosa;" as the arsenic that we had obtained in St. Louis had been taken to California, I was obliged to fill the skins with corn meal.

In the afternoon we saw Captain Walton's picket guard returning; it had been relieved by Major Gilpin, who was now at Fray Cristobal, from which place he would proceed to San Juan, as soon



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as his animals had rested a day or two, preparatory to crossing the terrible "Jornada del Muerto."

December 15.—This morning, at 9 o'clock, we left Valverde for Santa Fé. On the opposite side of the river, at the crossing, we met Colonel Doniphan. He said he had been highly gratified with his march into the country of the Navajoes. From what I could learn, they build in a style similar to the people of Acoma, Santo Domingo, and the other Pueblos of New Mexico. They belong to the great Apache nation, together with the Cytleros and Mezcaleros, of the southern regions, all of which tribes are said to speak the Apache language. Some of Colonel Doniphan's command visited the people of Zuñi, and succeeded in establishing peace between them and the Navajoes.

Before we had gone more than half the day's journey from Valverde, we overtook a party of eighteen men, who had left the employment of some of the traders, and were now on their way to the United States. I at once took them in my employment, considering myself most fortunate in thus obtaining a party in complete readiness for the intended journey, which would obviate the necessity of delaying in Santa Fé.

Continuing our route on the west side of the Rio del Norte, we encamped this evening near the little town of San Antonio, which is fourteen miles north of Valverde.

Although our mules have had nothing to do for the last four weeks, yet the cold and the insufficient nourishment to be derived from the grama grass had left them in a poor plight. One of them gave out to-day, and the men I left to drive it up, could not get it to camp.

December 16.—This morning I represented to the men I had engaged yesterday, the trials and difficulties that we would most likely encounter, and I insisted particularly that they should purchase a new set of mules, as those they then had were poor, and would inevitably die before they could get across the prairies.

This morning we passed Major Mitchell's command. Although his men were mounted on mules, still they presented a fine appearance, owing to the good discipline and regularity observed on the march. They had just passed us, when we heard a rustling of sabres, and looking round, saw the men all on foot, leading their mules. The movement was performed with such perfect unity, that one must necessarily judge them to be well drilled. I recognized in the ranks some brave fellows who had been with us through the country of the Kioways and Camanches in the fall of 1845. At noon we reached Socorro, which is by this route 27 miles north of Valverde. Passing four miles beyond the city, we encamped on the bank of the river.

We have now a journey of 136 miles to accomplish before reaching Santa Fé, where we will be in nine days.

We passed to-day a deserted town, which we were told had been left on account of the continued depredations of the Navajoes.

This morning I started off and walked as far as Limitar, for I had counselled my men to walk as much as possible, in order to

prepare for the arduous journey before us. I wished now to enforce what I had so strenuously advised by my own example. Besides, I knew that this exercise would be of great personal benefit, as my constitution had not yet entirely recovered from the severe shock it had sustained from my illness in August. On our road we saw great numbers of redwinged flickers, shore larks, wild geese and brant; also many varieties of ducks, among which were the mallard, the merganser, and the teal. We saw also many cranes, the "grulla" of the Mexicans, but they were not so numerous now as they were when we came down the river. Although ornithologists have determined that the blue crane is only the white crane in its first plumage, still we did not see a single white crane during our exploration of New Mexico.

Arrived at the town of Limitar, the people came out in great numbers, bringing us mules to sell. I bought two fine ones, and exchanged a horse for a beautiful "macho," which, although a little wild, was indeed a valuable mule; he had never had a scar on his back, and was large, fat, and beautifully formed. Before the day's march was over we placed the "macho" in the wagon, and he worked as if he alone would drag the whole load. I found among my new men one named James Dobson, who had at one time been a soldier in the army, and had had the advantage of having crossed the prairies several times. I am but too glad to have one who has served in such a good school for acquiring perseverance and fortitude.

December 17.—Before we had proceeded far, we met a party of Colonel Doniphan's men with flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, on their route to join the army. In a little while we entered "Sabino," having crossed the mouth of the "Rio Puerco," which was perfectly dry. On our way we shot several mallard ducks, "anas boschas," and brant geese. In the evening we encamped near "Coralles," at the hacienda of El Señor José Chavez, having obtained the permission of el Señor. In an acequia that lay near our camp we saw several "muskrats," "ondata zibethicus," but they were beneath the ice, and we did not shoot for fear of the ball glancing.

December 18.—Before starting we called on Señor Chavez to pay for the "zacate" that we had taken to feed our mules. He told me that he had lately lost a son, who had been carried off by the Navajoes, and that several of his peons had lost their wives and children. I was introduced to the ladies of the household; they had their faces covered with a thick coating of some whitewash that concealed every feature except the eyes. This preparation is not put on because they consider it ornamental, but, as I have been told, to protect the delicacy of the skin from being spoiled by exposure; for these ladies seem to think the "reboso" an insufficient guard to their beauty.

The females of the lower class love to ornament their cheeks with paint or pokeberry juice; the latter, when dry, makes them look abominable.

We made a long march, encamping at "Lentes," and passing

through the towns of Corales, Belen, Saucillo, Galvados, and Lunes. At Belen I obtained some beautiful specimens of selenite, such as the people of this region use to glaze their windows. They also calcine it and mix it with water, and with this mixture white-wash the facades of their dwellings and churches.

December 19.—Starting at daylight, we reached Isletta at noon. Here we saw a beautiful antelope, "dicranoceros furcifer." It had been wounded so that the pueblos had captured it, and it had now become perfectly domesticated. At Padillas we tried to purchase corn, but the people wished to receive \$4 the cestal, (a bag $\frac{3}{4}$ vera wide by $1\frac{1}{4}$ veras long.) We passed through "Pajarito," and in the evening crossed the Rio de Norte and encamped at Albuquerque. We found the west side of the river to be much the best for loaded wagons; one thus avoids those terrible sand hills at Joyeta, at Socorro, and at Bosequecito; however, one must be cautious in crossing the Rio del Norte with wagons containing such immense loads as the trader's wagons, for some of the traders told me that the bottom of the river is not sufficiently firm to bear great weights.

At Albuquerque we found Captain Burgwin and Captain Grier, with their troops quartered in the adobe houses. They find the place very healthy, and the surgeon, Doctor Simpson, tells me that there is no sickness except amongst the Mexicans, who have lost many of their children by the measles and the whooping cough.

Around the soldiers' quarters the sentinels were stationed in all directions, even on the tops of the houses, and the strictest vigilance was observed, no one being allowed to pass with the countersign unless recognized by the men on post.

December 20.—We now bade adieu to our brother soldiers, who seemed only to regret that they were not also going back to the United States. On our road we found much snow, which had apparently been on the ground several days; it was thawing fast, and the air was extremely chill. At Alameda we stopped to purchase corn. One of my men came and told me that he had just been bitten by a dog. I told him to shoot it, which he did. When the poor woman heard the report of the pistol, she came immediately, crying out, "mortéron mi perro, mortéron mi perro," and looked dolefully. Indeed, I heartily pitied her, but she certainly ought to have kept such a dog tied, and it would not have been killed. Some Mexicans afterwards looked at the man's leg, but they seemed to think it was a mere trifle. We now pass through the pueblo "Sandia." On our march we saw a great many flocks of shore-larks, and many ravens, while the blackbirds, in immense flocks, were hopping about the fodder-stacks and sheds of the corrales. In the evening we reached the pretty little town of Bernalillo, and we encamped close by the neat haciendas at the northern extreme of the town. Here are the handsomest and best arranged vineyards in the whole department, and the houses show a greater appearance of wealth and comfort.

December 21.—In the morning, when I called to pay the charges of our landlord for the use of his corral, and for the bundles of