

"zacate" that our animals had consumed, he would not be persuaded to receive one real, exclaiming: "No, señor, no es vale nada." We made but a short march, and encamped about a mile to the north of San Felippé, among some old cultivated fields, which afforded grazing for our animals. While here, we saw many of the Indians of Santo Domingo, and we endeavored to induce them to bring "zacate" for our mules, but they seemed not to understand us; in fact very few of them understand the Mexican language.

December 22.—Last night we had a stampede among our animals, and this morning several of them were not to be found; I had lost one mule, and some gentlemen who accompanied me from Valverde had lost three horses and two mules. There was no doubt but that they had been driven off by some ill disposed persons during the night.

The rest of our mules were quite wild and difficult to catch. As I wished to try my skill with the "lazo," I gave chase to one of the swiftest. As I have so often been obliged to mention the "lazo," I will now attempt to describe it, and the method of using this weapon. The best "lazos" are made of strips of hide, generally of four strands, which are beautifully plaited; it has at one end an iron ring about an inch in diameter; through this the thong, which is about one-third of an inch thick, is passed to form the noose, which is so adjusted that the ring shall be at the extremity of the noose farthest from the hand. In this way it is grasped by all the fingers of the right hand, which thus serve to keep the noose open. The remainder of the lazo is neatly coiled, and rests on the forefinger of the left hand, while the extremity of the thong is firmly held by the remaining fingers of the same hand. As the thong is between forty and fifty feet in length, one is obliged to swing the noose horizontally until it acquires sufficient centrifugal force to reach the object of aim. The coils on the forefingers now pass off until at the exact moment, when, with a jerk of the left hand, the noose is made to close; then a turn is instantly taken around the pommel of the saddle, (if the person be on horseback,) which saves the rider's being pulled from his seat. In New Mexico there is no one "hidalgo ó puchero" who is not well skilled in the use of the all-powerful "lazo."

While we were searching for our lost animals, some of the Indians of Santo Domingo warned us not to go to Santa Fé, as the Mexicans were going to kill all the Americans there. We, however, left several men, with directions to continue the search for the lost animals, and proceeded with the intention of encamping on the "Rio de Galisteo."

On the road we saw four coyotls or coyotes, "canis latrans," and made several shots at them, but we were unsuccessful.

When we reached Galisteo creek we found plenty of water, which, although covered with ice, yet that could easily be broken.

December 23.—We were up before sunrise, and I had my mule saddled and started at a rapid pace. The day was pleasant, although cold. The snow that lay upon the ground seemed to increase in quantity as the distance to the city of Santa Fé dimin-

ished. At length I approached "Cieneguilla," and attempting to save distance by going across a marshy spot of ground, my mule immediately sank into the treacherous slough. As the ice was sufficiently strong to bear my weight, I soon got clear of the saddle. I now strove to extricate my mule; she made several desperate efforts, and then seemed to resign herself to despair. The ice, which had supported her thus far, now offered the greatest impediments to her efforts. I ran back a short distance to a place where I had shortly before seen a Mexican; he had gone. I now returned and took off the saddle and bridle also, lest the fear of the severe bit should prevent the mule's full exertions, and taking hold of the extremity of the lazo, I succeeded in turning her head towards the point where she had entered the quagmire, and soon succeeded in drawing out my "mula." For some time she trembled like an aspen leaf with cold and fear, seeming to think the solid ground a dangerous quicksand.

I soon overtook a Mexican who had a bottle of aguardiente, which he offered with great politeness. I eagerly accepted his proffer, for my pantaloons were covered with ice, from the mule having sunk so deep as to wet the housings of my saddle.

About midday I reached Santa Fé and found all the Americans there talking of an intended insurrection which had fortunately been discovered. Sentinels had been placed in every direction, all the field pieces and heavy guns had been parked in the plaza, every thing was in a state of preparation and every body in a state of vigilance.

The chief conspirator was Don Tomas Ortiz; he arranged the organization of the several detachments and the plan of attack; one company was to assemble in the church called the "parroquia," another in the valley of "Tezuque," north of Santa Fé. In the dead of night, at a signal from the bells of the church towers, the conspirators were to rush into the streets, seize the guns and massacre the whole body of troops.

The persons of the governor, Charles Bent, and the commanding officer, Colonel Price, were to be seized by parties appointed for that purpose.

December 24.—The artillery are busy making preparations to march, in order to reinforce Colonel Doniphan; the clanking of the anvil is incessant; caissons and gun carriages are strewed around the forges. At this juncture it is almost doubtful whether the safety of our citizens does not require that the artillery should remain.

It is expected that the wagons loaded with money for the troops will be attacked; a company has been sent to warn and escort them.

We hear that San Miguel is in a state of insurrection, and the whole country seemed rife and ready to tear down the glorious stars and stripes; to tear down the nest of the eagle from the rugged mountains of the west. The noble bird looks down from his lofty position and sees through the puerile attempts to dislodge him. Beware, beware of the eagle!

Since my arrival here, I had a long conversation with Mr. St.

Vrain about the practicability of going to the United States by the way of the Canadian, the route I followed in 1845. He cautioned me not to attempt it, as he had been warned by the Kioways of a settled determination of the Camanches to kill all the whites who should attempt to go through their country, and therefore he had not sent any persons to his trading houses on "El Rio Cañadiano." This hostile feeling on the part of the Indians has been produced by the great mortality which has this year prevailed among their children, which these superstitious people attribute to sorcery, saying, the whites have made a great medicine, and have blown an evil breath upon our children, and they vow to wreak vengeance upon the white man.

December 25.—As to day is Christmas, we endeavored to make our time pass as pleasantly as possible. During the day Captain Fischer's company of Germans paraded in the plaza; they were in excellent discipline and excellent order, and have worthily been dignified by the soubriquet of the "star company." They are regarded with pride by all Americans and with awe by the Mexicans.

We were quite anxious with regard to the safety of Lieutenant Walker, Colonel Price's adjutant. He had been sent to arrest Diego Archilet; in the evening, while we were at Colonel Price's quarters, he entered; he had not been able to capture the Mexican, and said that while searching his house, the people of the vicinity collected and manifested the most decided disapprobation; in fact, they assumed quite a threatening attitude, and seemed half inclined to attack him and his party.

A second detachment was sent off to capture Salezar, that infamous man who cut off the ears of the Texan prisoners who died on the route from San Miguel to Chihuahua.

In the evening two other prisoners were brought in; they had been exciting the Indians of Santo Domingo, and had succeeded in organizing a body of 300 Pueblos, when the plot reached the ears of some officers, who immediately started with a company of men, and appearing suddenly before the town, they got hold of one of principal chiefs and threatened to bring the artillery from Santa Fé and level the town with the ground, unless the two Mexicans were given up, and they were instantly surrendered.

At night we walked through the city; patrols were marching in all directions. During the night the countersign was changed, which caused us to be arrested by one of the sentinels. Fortunately, the officer of the day, Captain Weightman, was near, and relieved us from our predicament.

December 26. I spent the day in preparations for my journey. As the wagon that I had brought had been much wracked by the rough roads over which it had passed, I therefore exchanged it for another, and procured some tools that would be useful in case of any breakage.

This evening Governor Brent gave an entertainment at the palace, which had formerly been occupied by ex-governor Don Manuel Armijo. We had all the luxuries of an eastern table, and delightful champagne in the greatest abundance. Indeed, we con-

cluded it was better to revel in the halls of the Armijos, than to revel in the halls of the Montezumas, for the latter were poor uncivilized Indians, while the former may, perhaps, boast to be of the blood of the Hidalgos of Castile and Arragon.

December 27.—I had postponed leaving Santa Fé until Monday; nevertheless, I was obliged to attend to business during the day. I found that some of the men whom I had engaged had been tempted, by the price that the government was offering for mules, to dispose of those they had obtained at low rates when we passed through Socorro. Men who would thus break their engagements and promises were no loss to me. So I had their places filled by others; indeed, I had more applicants than I wished to receive.

I called to take leave of Colonel Price, and he most kindly furnished me with copies of all the papers relating to the intended insurrection.

I now found it impossible to obtain the funds which would be necessary to buy corn, and to defray the expenses of my party down the Missouri river. At length, Mr. St. Vrain generously offered to let me have sufficient for my journey.

December 28.—This morning we had a severe snow storm, which prevented my starting at daylight, as I had intended; for I proposed reaching the ruins of Pecos in one day. The snow fell heavily, so that we could not see the road; but, as the sky showed signs of the storm clearing away, I started off my command at 8 o'clock.

We had a difficult time clambering up the steep sides of the mountain. The ground was frozen hard, the rocks slippery with snow and ice, and our animals, unable to get firm footing, were constantly falling. When we reached the mountain summit, which is about 11 milles from Santa Fé, we found a party of volunteers encamped there. They had built large fires of pine logs, and were so busy warming themselves that we could not get a word from them. Still further on, we met the alguazil, Richard Dallum, who had succeeded in arresting Salazar.

Our road was strewed with the carcasses of oxen. Some were half devoured by the wolves and ravens, others had not been dead long, for the birds of prey had only torn out their eyes. Constantly encountering these repulsive sights, we at length reached the cañon from which Armijo so "ingloriously fled," and then encamped in the neighborhood of a large train of commissary wagons, which were going to Santa Fé. The wagoners had been greatly annoyed by the Indians, in crossing the prairies; they told us frightful tales of the bold daring of the savages.

December 29.—The sun now came forth from among the clouds, which he soon dissipated, and his warm rays rapidly melted the snow and ice, which impeded our progress. In several of the deep mountain gorges the lofty crags of granite beetle so high that an eternal shadow rests around. In such places the snow and ice had accumulated, and our animals found great difficulty to keep their feet.

I procured a beautiful jay, "corvus stellarius," and was able to

preserve the skin. I also obtained a beautiful yellow finch, which proves to be the "fringilla vespertina." In the evening I sent some men to the village of Pecos, which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from, and to the north of, our camp. On their return, they said that they saw, near the ruins of Pecos, a curiously carved stone. It was now too late to see this carving, and we marched so early in the morning that I must needs leave this stone for some one else to examine.

December 30.—We saw, to-day, great numbers of magpies, which, in company with the ravens, were feasting on the innumerable carcasses of oxen that still strewed the road. We saw large flocks of stellar jays, which were flying gaily amongst the groves of cedar and piñon that cover the hills and valleys.

We have a fine view of the valley of the Pecos river, in which lies the town of San José, at which place I encamped; for I had heard that the route through this town was six miles shorter than that through San Miguel.

At this place the river Pecos is 50 feet wide; its waters are beautifully clear, and flow along with great rapidity, as if anxious to mingle with those of the Gulf of Mexico, into which they empty after having joined those of the Rio del Norte, at the Presido del Rio Grande.

We had an excellent road to-day; it is formed from the crumbling down of the coarse decomposing granite rocks, which form the neighboring sierras.

December 31.—We were all up before daylight; and, having given our animals a liberal allowance of corn and "zacate," we started, highly delighted with the idea of saving several miles by going direct to "Ojo Vernal," instead of passing through San Miguel. Having, with infinite labor, succeeded in mounting the high bluff which borders the river, we selected the plainest road, which seemed to be marked with the wheels of American wagons, but before we had proceeded far, a severe snow storm arose. We now urged our animals rapidly forward, with the intention of reaching the timber, where we should be sheltered from the violence of the storm. The wind blew, with great force, directly in our faces; the snow fell thick and fast; we could scarcely see, and our animals could scarcely be forced to face the cold blast. Every moment our progress was more and more impeded, as the falling snow increased in depth; at length, we reached a forest of pine and piñon. We now encamped, and the men soon heaped up huge pine logs, and, having set them in a blaze, we gathered around, endeavoring to dispel the numbness which had seized our limbs. After several hours' continuance, the storm at length ceased, and we resumed our march. Nearly all signs of the road had, by this time, become concealed by the snow; but we followed, as well as we could, the track we had been pursuing, until we found ourselves involved among precipitous cliffs and impassable ravines. We were now obliged to retrace our steps, and soon got out into the country where we could see. The storm had entirely cleared away. We could now perceive the high "mesa," which lies between San Miguel and Ojo Vernal. We, therefore, took a course direct for this

mesa; and, before we had marched far, we arrived at a hacienda, where we obtained a guide, who soon put us on the right road. About sunset we reached the village near Ojo Vernal, and encamped. The man who drove my team was nearly frozen to death. He complained much of a sensation of sickness, and the men were obliged to rub him for some time, in order to restore circulation to his system. I gave him a large dose of rum, and had him taken into the house of one of the Mexicans. This man, had he walked as others did, would not have suffered.

The snow was now five inches deep. Towards evening a fresh breeze sprang up, which drifted the snow along the surface of the road. Everything was covered; even the dark forests of pine and cedar were hidden beneath robes of white; and now and then, when shaken by the wind, they cast off the snow in clouds that rose up like smoke bursting from cannon's mouth. At the village where we encamped, were some men, who had just returned from a hunt. They had killed several black-tailed deer, "cervus macrotis." These animals exceed the common deer in size, and in the length of their hair; their tail is round, and has a large round tuft at the end; their ears are very large.

January 1, 1847.—This morning, at an early hour, we made our arrangements for marching. We had passed the night quite comfortably, for the snow was so piled around our tents that the cold could not gain admittance. The morning was excessively cold, clouds of snow were drifting about, borne rapidly along by the strong wind. I now found that one of my men was ill with the measles. I wished to leave him here, where he could be taken care of, but he preferred to proceed; so I had him wrapped up warmly and put into the wagon. The man who came so nigh freezing yesterday, had recovered sufficiently to be able to walk. In a little time the wind died away, and the sun arose; his genial heat was truly grateful to us. The snow commenced to melt, and the walking became slippery and extremely laborious. After a tedious march, we reached "Vegas." Here one again meets with the infinitely extended prairies, which give birth to the tributaries of "El Rio de los Gallinas," and of "El Rio Moro," and following on in the direction of the "El Rio Cañadiano," are at last limited by the cross timbers. It is from "Los Vegas" and "Tascalote," that trails have been made which cross the Cañadian at the mouth of the "Arrojo de los Yutas." This is the shortest route to the United States, and would be the best route, if the road was definitely marked out. At "Vegas" I tried to purchase corn for the "cavalada," but the only person who possessed the corn, prepared as I wished it, seemed determined to take advantage of my necessity, and asked me an exorbitant price. Having offered in gold the price I had been accustomed to give, it was refused, and I was placed under the necessity of taking the corn, and notified the owner to that effect. The town was in a state of great excitement from the occurrence of some recent depredations of the Arrapaho Indians, who had driven off the flocks and herds of the Mexicans, and had killed and scalped the "pastores." We everywhere

heard horrid accounts of diabolical mutilations to which the bodies of the victims had been subjected.

The Americans here, too, seemed anxious about some insurrectionary symptoms which were daily developing.

January 2.—We procured as much corn as we could well carry in our wagons, and I gave the owner a draft for a blank amount, leaving the quartermaster to decide what was the market price. We were detained a long while in crossing some "acequias," which had been filled with water during the night, and were now covered with ice. It was with great difficulty that our mules could be forced upon the ice, they had become so fearful of falling, and it was near eleven o'clock before we got clear of these troublesome acequias.

Soon after crossing the "Rio de los Gallinas," we saw large herds of antelopes, apparently from two to three hundred animals in each herd, but the snow on the ground exhibited the hunters in such bold relief as to prevent all possibility of approaching them without being observed. One of our hunters, by the name of Raymond, seeing the fruitlessness of continuing the pursuit, drew up his rifle and fired, although 400 yards distant; we all felt deeply disappointed when we saw the whole herd bound away, but before they ran very far one of them stopped and lay down, and soon a second shot laid it on the ground to rise no more. Shortly after this occurrence, we met a train of 50 commissary wagons going to Santa Fe. They had no corn for their oxen, and the poor beasts were suffering from want of sustenance and from exposure to the cold. Several of them lay dying by the road side. We encamped near "El Arroyo de Sepullo," at the foot of a lofty mass of rocks which completely sheltered us from the winds. Here we built our fires, and at night the huge projecting masses of rock, which beetled over our little camp, seemed, as they were illuminated by the ruddy glare of our fires, to be threatening to topple down. I suffered intense agony from my feet having been frosted. The greatest relief I could obtain was by keeping them firmly pressed to the ground. I had inadvertently mounted my mule after having walked in the wet snow, which had soaked through my moccasins, and when I came to dismount my left foot was frozen fast to the stirrup, so that I was obliged to draw my case knife and use it to free myself.

This morning the wind blew keenly, but we started before the sun was half an hour high. After marching one mile we reached the crossing of the Sepullo. Here we had a siege of troubles. The ice was very thick, and it required some time to cut our way across the stream, for the ice was not sufficiently strong to bear the weight of the wagons. The river banks were steep, and as the wagon rushed down to the water, the mules became frightened and swerved from the road we had cut, and, getting upon the firm ice, they were not able to keep their feet; several of them fell, and one, after making many vain efforts to rise again, gave up in despair, and we were forced to drag him out of the stream by main strength. As he had got very wet, and the air was freezing cold, we had to keep

him moving about lest he should die. In a little while, by the help of ropes, which we attached to the uppermost felloes of the hind wheels, we dragged the wagon out, and immediately hitching up the beast that had got wet, we kept him in brisk motion until his limbs regained their wonted flexibility.

Having marched four miles further, we reached "El Rio Moro," and by being extremely careful to cut away all the ice, we crossed without any accident. But the fording of these rivers delayed us so long that our day's march did not exceed ten miles.

We encamped about three-fourths of a mile from the road, in a mountain gorge, where the high precipices which surrounded us completely protected us from the cutting winds. We had snow water for our own use, and drove our mules to a spring which was about a mile distant, near "Ponds in the prairie."

One of my men was perfectly overcome by the cold, and gave up entirely. We were obliged to put him to bed and we gave him large doses of rum. He complained of a pain in his chest and seemed to be tormented with extreme thirst.

This evening the duty of guard mounting commenced; I cautioned the sentinels to be vigilant, which was hardly necessary, as my men had already heard, at "Los Vegas," of the Arapahoes and their horrible atrocities.

January 4.—We were up long before day; the wind blew biting cold until ten o'clock, when the sun shone forth with some warmth.

We now noticed a great many prairie dogs that had come forth from their habitations to enjoy the sun's rays. I fired several times at different ones with a shot-gun; I wished to obtain one without injury to the skin, but I did not succeed in killing any.

Naturalists say, that the prairie dog remains dormant during the winter season; wherever we met with the villages of these little animals, we found them as lively as if it was summer; we must, therefore, conclude that this animal does not hibernate.

We saw great numbers of the antelope, they had congregated in dense herds, and were seeking shelter from the cold winds in the deep valleys and gorges.

Soon we arrived at some volcanic hills; which rise up just before reaching the "Rio Ocate;" in their vicinity there was but little snow. Here we found that the fore axletree of our leading wagon was broken in the hub of the wheel. With great care we managed to reach the Ocate, but were obliged to unload before we could cross. Here we encamped, and endeavored to make ourselves as comfortable as possible. We had plenty of cedar wood for fuel, but not one stick of timber fit to repair our wagon.

Near our camp were the carcasses of several oxen, upon which the wolves and ravens were gorging themselves. I also noticed some beautiful magpies, "Pica melanoleuca," and I killed a fine one.

January 5.—We now endeavored to patch the broken part of the axle. The lower "skeen" of the spindle was broken, we changed it for the upper one, and then started, determined to proceed until we should be obliged to leave this wagon. After marching five

miles, we reached a deep gorge, into which we prepared to descend. There I found the "sand-board" of some wagon which had been broken in passing this abrupt declivity. We achieved the descent in safety, but just as we arrived opposite the salt lake, the wagon wheel broke entirely off. I immediately ordered the mules to be unhitched, and we set to work to splice the broken axle-tree. The piece of wood that I had picked up was of good seasoned oak, and of the exact width of the axle tree. By sunset we had finished the wood work, and it was now necessary to put on the irons.

To-day we saw great numbers of antelopes; in one herd there must have been nearly two hundred; and the prairie dogs were running about as if it were not winter. The morning was quite warm, and the little snow upon the road thawed rapidly. Several of my men are now sick with the measles; the poor fellows are suffering much. We are obliged to travel, and can take no care of them, and they are necessarily very much exposed to the inclemencies of the weather. Those who yet retained their wonted health attend to their duties with such zeal as seems to show that they know how much depends upon their efforts; and I am truly grateful to them for their support.

January 6—At 3 o'clock this morning we were awakened by the beating of the snow against our tents. The wind blew a hurricane, and the pelting of the snow flakes sounded like pattering of hail. We had been obliged to encamp in an open valley, by the side of the wagon which had been broken; and in this exposed situation we had to abide the fury of the storm. Fortunately it soon cleared away, and we were able to resume our labor of repairing the axletree.

Our mules were loosened from their pickets, and permitted to range in the neighboring forests of pine and cedar, while the guard built large fires, and under the shelter of the trees passed their time more comfortably than any others of the party. At length we finished our work, and commenced packing up our baggage. I noticed around our camp great numbers of skylarks, ("alauda alpestris.") Some idea may be formed of the immense numbers in the flock, when I state that 25 were killed at one shot. Among them were several snowlarks, ("plectrophanes nivalis,") one of which I skinned.

After returning to camp, we saw the ravens engaged in chasing some of the birds which had been wounded. They showed themselves as skilful in hawking as the falcon genus, and in a little time they captured five or six birds. Then an amusing scene took place, for the successful bird catcher was sure to be attacked by some of his fellows, who endeavored to make him drop his prey. We did not interfere, for we thought it best to let the wounded be devoured at once, than to die a lingering death.

At two o'clock this evening we commenced our march. The road was covered with snow, which was in many places very deep, and in some places covered with a hard crust, which was sufficiently strong to bear the weight of our mules, although it broke through beneath the wheels of our wagon. Towards evening we met some

men who were plodding their way on foot to Santa Fé. They said that they had been obliged to leave their wagons on account of the depth of the snow, as it was impossible for their half-starved oxen to drag them any further. They spread the most discouraging reports among my men, with regard to the possibility of passing the Raton cañon; stating that the snow was five feet deep, and that the hill sides were covered with ice.

We encamped near the head of a little stream which empties into the Ocate, in a grove of cedar trees. The evening air was biting cold, and the faces of the men, when they first gathered around the fire, were covered with frost-work and ice, from the congelation of their breath; icicles hung from the hair on their foreheads, and their moustaches and beards were one mass of ice. This night was so bitter cold that I found it was vain to get asleep, and went out and sat at the watch-fires of the guard. Not a cloud was to be seen, the air was beautifully clear, and the brilliant constellations blazed so brightly as to appear to have approached a few millions of miles nearer to our globe.

January 7.—After marching about six miles, we crossed the "Rio Rayado" on the ice, which was sufficiently strong to bear the weight of our wagons. Here we saw the train of commissary wagons, to which the men whom we met yesterday belonged. A few persons had remained to take charge of the train; they seemed to think that they would have to spend the whole winter here.

Passing onward, we commenced the ascent of a long hill; it was the lee side, and the snow had settled here to the depth of from one to two feet. Every few moments we were obliged to stop and rest our animals. It was with infinite labor that the poor beasts succeeded in floundering through the deep drifts, until they at length arrived at the plain from which the snow had been blown, when our progress became comparatively easy, and we soon reached "El Rio Cimaroncito." We had much trouble in crossing this river, being obliged to unhitch the mules and work the wagons across by hand.

January 8.—At four o'clock this morning, our animals were turned loose, to graze upon the tender shoots of the willow and what else they could find.

The wolves had become emboldened by the feeble resistance they had met with from the broken down oxen which they find on the road. This morning they attacked our mules, wounding one badly about the nostrils, and gnawing off the "cabrestoes" of the rest.

As we did not intend to march this day farther than "El Rio Vermijo," which was only ten miles distant, we did not start until the sun had risen. We were encamped between the forks of the river; as it was necessary to cross the other branch, we roughened the ice with axes, and scattered sand and gravel over it. As the banks were steep and frozen, we tied the hinder wheels so that they could not revolve, and wrapped the felloes in contact with the ground with coarse chains, to increase the friction; and having attached ropes to the hind axletree, so that we might hold back men were stationed at the head of the wheel mules, to force them to hold back. All being now ready, we moved slowly up to the