

light. At San Philippi I met one of my express men, who had returned, according to instructions, to guide me. Though direct from San Diego, he brought neither orders nor news. I encamped that night near the summit of the beautiful pass, overlooking the valley of Agua Calienta. On the 21st day of January, I arrived and encamped at Warner's ranche; the very day, as it happened, I had promised, in my letter of December 27.

This was seven miles off the road to San Diego; but I had resolved, the night before, to march for the Pueblo de los Angeles, where the enemy had concentrated, unless I met orders or fresh information. That which I had, placed your forces approaching it on the south, and Lieutenant Colonel Frémont's from the north. Thus, I should advance from the east, and from the only pass leading to Sonora. I halted at Warner's the 22d, to rest and refresh my men, before commencing, as I hoped, active operations. The day was required, in fact, to obtain beef cattle, and to collect the new mules, many of which had escaped to their wonted pastures in that vicinity.

On the 23d, I marched 18 miles, on the road to Pueblo. That night we were exposed to a drenching rain, and a wind storm, which prostrated every tent. The storm continued the next day; I, however, marched, over a very bad road, three or four miles, to more sheltered ground, and better grass for the animals. (A mountain torrent in front would have forbidden further progress.)

On the 25th, I marched into the Temecala valley, and encamped four days' march from Pueblo. There I received a letter, written by your orders, which had followed me by Warner's. From this letter I could infer that hostilities were suspended, and that I was expected at San Diego. Accordingly, next morning, I left the valley, by a very difficult outlet, and, descending into that of the San Luis, fell into the road leading from Pueblo de los Angeles.

At San Luis Rey I received your instructions, by express, to march to San Diego mission, and there take post. I arrived there, by a very bad cross-road, on the 29th of January, and the same evening reported to you, in person, at San Diego.

This march from Santa Fé has extended, by my daily estimate, to 1,125 miles. It has been made in one hundred and two days, in fourteen of which no march was made; so that the marching days average slightly less than thirteen miles. The rest days have been very nearly one in seven. It is believed, by many who have experience, that the weekly day of rest is advisable on a long march, even for speed. In looking back, I find that the half of mine were unavoidable detentions. I made, also, some twelve marches of less than nine miles, in consequence of extraordinary bad road, or the delays of road making, over difficult ground; and also the necessity, at times, of accommodating the marches and camps to inconvenient watering places.

If I had continued on the most direct route to San Diego, the distance would have been rather under 1100 miles, (about 1800 miles from Independence, Missouri, by Santa Fé.)

The constant tenor of your letters of instruction made it almost

a point of honor to bring wagons through to the Pacific; and so I was retarded in making and finding a road for them. From this road, any that may follow will have various advantages. The breaking the track, often through thickets of mezquite and other thorny bushes, although worked on by pioneers, was so laborious that I habitually relieved the front wagons about every hour; but a team on a firm, open prairie, labors much less, if on a beaten track. Much of the difficult ground on the Gila, consisting of light porous clay, becomes a good beaten road. My journal and sketch indicate some points where the road may be shortened; but, between the Ojo de Vaca and the point of leaving the San Pedro river, it is probable that between 80 and 100 miles may be saved, and some bad road avoided. It is only necessary for a small experienced party, well provided with water, (with Indian guides, if practicable,) to explore the prairie, and discover the watering places. The direct distance is about 160 miles.

The worst road is on the Rio Grande, opposite the upper and middle part of the Jornada del Muerto. It may probably be avoided by coming the Jornada road half way down or more, and then crossing to the west side. I have reason to believe that there are gaps in the mountains, and opposite where my road becomes good. This assumes that the great highway will pass as far north as Santa Fé, which may not be the case.

The country from the Rio Grande to Tueson is covered with grama grass, on which animals, moderately worked, will fatten in winter.

An emigrant company may leave Independence, Missouri, from June 10, to late in August, or Van Buren, Arkansas, later. It will subsist a short time on buffaloes, and be able to lay up much of the meat, dried or salted. In New Mexico, it may rest, make repairs, and obtain supplies—particularly of mules, sheep, and cattle—which, in that grazing country, will be found cheap; it may pass through settlements for 250 miles; and they will be much extended in the rich river bottoms to the south, when the Indians shall be subdued.

I brought to California both beeyes and sheep; the latter did, perhaps, the best, requiring little water; they gave no trouble; two or three men can guard and drive a thousand. At Tueson, or at the Pimo villages, fresh supplies may be obtained. The Pimos and Maracopas, 15 or 20,000 in number, wonderfully honest and friendly to strangers, raise corn and wheat, which they grind and sell cheaply for bleached domestics, summer clothing of all sorts, showy cotton handkerchiefs, and white beads. They also have a few mules and cattle. I gave them some breeding sheep. Oxen will not do well for draught, their feet become tender; and west of the Pimos, their food is not found sufficient or suitable; mules require no shoes; I cached a large quantity on the Gila, having used none.

Undoubtedly, the fine bottom land of the Colorado, if not of the Gila, will soon be settled; then all difficulty will be removed. The crossing is about 100 miles from the mouth, and about 60 above

tide. For six months in the year, the river is said to be navigable by steamboats for 350 miles; its bottoms are wide and rich; and sugar, undoubtedly, may be grown. In winter, it is fordable at the crossing; but I think it has at least as much water as the Missouri at the same season, and *may* be navigable by steamers to the mouth of the Gila at all seasons.

In conclusion, much credit is due to the battalion for the cheerful and faithful manner in which they have accomplished the great labors of this march, and submitted to its exposures and privations. They would much have preferred to lighten and abridge them, by leaving the wagons; but, without previous discipline, all was accomplished with unity and determination of spirit. To enable the mules to endure the extraordinary labor of drawing these wagons, without a road, and often without food or water, the duties of guards were greatly increased, to herd them safely, as they did, over tracts sometimes a mile in extent, sometimes two miles from the camp, or beyond a river; and ten times did the battalion encamp without water.

I am indebted to Lieutenants Smith and Stoneman, of the first dragoons, who performed the duties of assistant commissary of subsistence and assistant quartermaster, for valuable assistance, particularly in directing the pioneers. Mr. Willard P. Hall, too, was ever ready to give me aid, particularly in the most active and venturesome duties.

Thus, general, whilst fortune was conducting *you* to battles and victories, I was fated to devote my best energies to more humble labors; and all have cause to regret that the real condition of affairs in this territory was so little understood. But it is passed! and I must be content with having done my duty in the task which you assigned to me, if, as I trust, to your satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted:

P. ST. GEO. COOKE,

Lieut. Col., commanding Mormon battalion.

Brig. Gen. S. W. KEARNY,

Commanding Army of the West,

San Diego, Upper California.

APPENDIX.

Copy of a letter to the Governor of Sonora.

CAMP AT TUESON, SONORA,
December 18, 1846.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: The undersigned, marching in command of a battalion of United States infantry, from New Mexico to California, has found it convenient for the passage of his wagon train, to cross the frontier of Sonora. Having passed within fifteen miles of Fronteras, I have found it necessary to take this presidio in my route to the Gila.

Be assured that I did not come as an enemy of the *people* whom you govern; they have received only kindness at my hands.

Sonora refused to contribute to the support of the present war against my country, alleging the excellent reasons that all her resources were necessary to her defence from the incessant attacks of savages; that the central government gave her no protection, and was therefore entitled to no support. To this might have been added that *Mexico supports a war upon Sonora*; for I have seen New Mexicans within her boundary, trading for the spoil of her people, taken by murderous, cowardly Indians, who attack only to waste, rob, and fly to the mountains; and I have certain information that this is the practice of many years. Thus one part of Mexico allies itself against another.

The unity of Sonora with the States of the north, now her neighbors, is necessary effectually to subdue these Parthian Apaches.

Meanwhile I make a wagon road from the streams of the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, through the valuable plains and mountains, rich with minerals, of Sonora. This, I trust, will prove useful to the citizens of either republic, who, if not more closely, may unite in the pursuits of a highly beneficial commerce.

With sentiments of esteem and respect, I am your excellency's most obedient servant,

P. ST. GEO. COOKE,

Lieut. Col., commanding U. S. forces.

To His Excellency Sr. DON MANUEL GANDARA,
Governor of Sonora, Ures. Sa.