

apparently in Upper and Lower California. (California seems necessary, and have been universally applied—the principle being applied. Lower is being in a lower degree of latitude and of course, not from its earlier settlement. It is spoken of collectively, the two countries have been and are still frequently designated THE CALIFORNIA. More especially by English navigators. The principal object of the present work is to give an account of the Upper Division, this being the only one which is of much importance; it seems however necessary to call the notice of the Lower also, not merely from the intimate geographical and political relations which exist between the two countries, but also from the fact that the Lower is connected with the Upper by the same line of the continent, and thus of the one line of the other, the settlement and actual condition of the other. On account of its earlier settlement, I shall commence with the Lower Division; and shall endeavor to compress into as small a space as possible what seems necessary to be said respecting it.

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PART I.

LOWER CALIFORNIA.



Portrait of a Native Indian.

Pub. by Smith, Elder & Co. Cornhill.

CHAP. I.

HISTORY OF LOWER CALIFORNIA FROM ITS DISCOVERY TO ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT BY THE JESUITS.—NATIVE INHABITANTS.—NATURE OF THE COUNTRY.

Old or Lower California was discovered in the year 1534 by a squadron fitted out for purposes of discovery by the great Cortez, and commanded by Grijalva. This expedition sailed from the coast of Guatemala and soon reached the shores of California. The adventurers put into a harbour in the Gulf, in what they supposed to be an island and which they named Santa Cruz. This supposed island, however, is part of the peninsula of California, and the harbour is that now known by the name of La Paz; but there is an island lying off this harbour which is still called Santa Cruz. The companion of Grijalva, on this occasion, was Mendoza, who commanded the other ship; and Ximenes was pilot. Both of these perished during the expedition, the former in a mutiny of his men headed it is said by Ximenes, and Ximenes himself by the Natives in the bay of La Paz, together with twenty other Spaniards. The issue of this voyage was altogether so unsatisfactory that Cortez re-

solved to pursue the discovery himself; and, in the following year fitted out three ships at the same part of Guatemala, called Tehuantepec, which he himself joined when they reached the port of Chiametla, having marched over land from Mexico with a large retinue of soldiers, negro slaves, settlers and priests. He soon reached Santa Cruz (La Paz) and sent back some of the ships for the people and the provisions which he had left behind. The country was found so barren as to afford no sustenance to his armament; and the imperfect navigation of that day rendered the transport difficult and dangerous, even from so short a distance as the opposite coast. Only one vessel is said to have returned and with a very imperfect supply of stores. But in the mean time Cortez explored the gulph to the northward, visiting both shores: and it is believed that he ascertained that California was neither an island nor an Archipelago, as had been supposed. For some time after this the Gulph of California was named the *Sea of Cortez*: it was also called the *Red Sea* (El mar Rojo) either from resembling the Red Sea of the old world in its shape, or from the discoloration of its waters in its northern part by the Rio Colorado or Red River. After many labors and dangers Cortez returned to the port of Acapulco recalled by the machinations of his rivals and enemies in Mexico; but he continued to prosecute the

discovery of the new countries by means of ships at his own cost, and commanded by his own officers. The principal of these was Francisco de Ulloa. This officer in 1537 sailed with three ships and continued nearly for the space of two years exploring the different shores of the gulf up to almost its northern point. The expedition of Ulloa confirmed the previous report of the extreme barrenness of California and the rudeness and poverty of the natives, who were found quite naked. He saw the indigenous goat (Argali) and observed some vessels of clay in the possession of the Indians, a circumstance which escaped the notice of several future travellers.

Many subsequent attempts to explore and settle California, were made by the Viceroy of new Spain and also by private adventurers, but with little or no results of consequence for nearly a century. In 1562-3 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo explored the western coast of the peninsula, reaching as high as lat. 63°. In 1596, in the Vice-royalty of Don Gaspar de Zunniga, Count of Monte Rey, Don Sebastian Viscayno commanded an expedition to the gulf, and made some effort to settle the country permanently by establishing a garrison at the old station of Santa Cruz, which he named La Paz from the peaceable deportment of the inhabitants. General Viscayno surveyed the coast a hundred leagues to the north of this and found the inhabitants less peaceable,

and 1634, Captain Francisco de Ortega made three voyages to the same ports; and two years later Carboneli, his pilot, followed his example. In 1648, Admiral Cassanate again made an attempt at settlement, under the authority and at the expence of government, taking with him priests for the conversion of the Indians: but like all his predecessors he was repulsed not by the natives but by the insuperable barrenness of the country. The early histories of California narrate many other attempts equally unsuccessful, as that of Pinadero in 1664, of Luzenilla in 1668, and of Admiral Otondo in 1683. The expedition of this officer was more considerable than most that had preceded it, and was distinguished by the company of the Jesuit missionary, Father Kühn, formerly a professor in a German University, and afterwards famous for his exploits in the conversion of the Indians, under the Spanish name of Kino. Otondo staid some considerable time in the country, and traversed a considerable portion of the interior, the zealous Fathers exerting all their powers in converting and baptizing the natives, but with such indifferent success that he also finally abandoned it, with the whole of his establishment, within a period of three years. This expedition, fruitless as it was, cost the Mexican government no less a sum than 225,400 dollars*. The last of these attempts made under the

* Venegas, Vol. 1 p. 224.

direction of the military and civil powers, was that of Itamarra who made a fresh descent at his own expence in the year 1694, and with the same fruitless results as all his predecessors.

Some years before this on the return of Admiral Otondo, the Viceroy and Council of Mexico had come to the resolution that the settlement of this country was impracticable by the means hitherto adopted, and that it should be no more attempted at the public expence: it was, however, decided at the same time, that the reduction of the peninsula should be recommended to the Society of Jesuits, and that a fixed sum should be paid to them for this purpose out of the King's treasury. This recommendation was most cordially received by this zealous Society, and Father Kino and the other missionaries, who had accompanied Otondo, kindled yet higher among their brethren their desire for the spiritual conquest of California, which was destined, in fact, to take place under their indefatigable zeal and courage. In contemplating what was thus effected, it is no wonder that the historian of California, himself a member of this holy order, should regard the cause as hallowed and the agents as under the protection of heaven. "The great conqueror, Hernando Cortez (he says) several times employed in the conquest of California, the whole force he could raise. His example stimulated many private per-

sons: even governors, admirals, and viceroys made the attempt. At last the kings of Spain themselves took the scheme into their own hands; yet the result of all such vast expences, such powerful efforts was, that the reduction of California was given over as impracticable. And so indeed it was by the means made use of by men; but not by those which God had chosen. Arms and power were the means on which man relied for the success of this enterprise; but it was the will of heaven that this triumph should be owing to the meekness and courtesy of his ministers, to the humiliation of the cross and the power of his word. God seemed only to wait till human nature acknowledged its weakness, to display the strength of his Almighty arm, confounding the pride of the world by means of the weakest instruments."*

In the intended reduction of California under the new system, Father Kino was the presiding genius as he had been the originator of the plan. This excellent and extraordinary man had been professor of mathematics at Ingoldstadt where he was in high favour with the electoral house of Bavaria. In consequence of a vow made to Saint Francis Xavier at a time when he was not expected to live, he left

* Noticia de la California y de su Conquista temporal y espiritual hasta el tiempo presente. Por el Padre Miguel Venegas. Madrid, 1575.

his professorship and came to America full of zeal for the conversion of the heathen. "Proposing to himself (says Father Venegas) this holy apostle as his model, he imitated his virtues and all the other qualities of his seraphic mind." The new Missionary was certainly a man of extraordinary talents as well as virtues, and his whole life proved how well he fulfilled the vow which had transported him from the lecture-room of Ingoldstadt to the savage wilds of America. But in the conquest of California he fortunately met with associates no less able and willing than himself among the learned men of his own order, and particularly in the Fathers Salvatierra, Ugarte and Piccolo, afterwards so distinguished for their labours and success in this undertaking. To Salvatierra the direction of the first attempt was confided, Kino remaining on the opposite coast of Cinaloa and Ugarte in Mexico, all equally active, in their respective stations, in promoting the great design. The spirit being once kindled, the rich among the laity as well as the religious orders in New Spain, contributed largely to the outfit of the expedition, and settled sums for the endowment of the new missions expected to be established. The government took no part in the enterprise, further than granting the Fathers permission to enter the country, to enlist soldiers on their own account, and to have sole authority over

all concerned in the expedition and in the intended missions—requiring only, in return, that the country should be taken possession of in the name of the king of Spain, and that the expedition should be in no way burthensome to the government.

On the 10th. October 1697, Father Salvatierra sailed from the port of Yaqui on the eastern side of the gulph, with his small band of five soldiers only and their commander, and on the third day reached California. For some days they were employed in looking out for a convenient station, and at length fixed on the bay of San Dionisio, ten leagues north of San Bruno where Admiral Otondo had pitched his camp. There on the 19th. October they landed, and finding a convenient spot near a spring of water about a league and half from the shore, they pitched their tents and transported from the ships their stores of cattle and provisions, the good father being the most active labourer of the party. "Here (says Father Venegas) the barracks of the little garrison was built and a line of circumvallation thrown up. In the centre a tent was pitched for a temporary chapel; before it was erected a crucifix with a garland of flowers, and every thing being disposed in the best manner possible, the image of our Lady of Loreto, the Patroness of the Conquest, was brought in procession from the ship and placed with proper solemnity. On the 25th. formal pos-

session was taken of the country in the name of the king of Spain and the Indies.

Before proceeding further with the history of these true soldiers of the cross, and the minute but not uninteresting warfare which they maintained for so many years against the rude natives of California and its still ruder soil, until at length they triumphed effectually over the former and as much over the latter as was possible,—it may be well to notice briefly the nature and extent of the obstacles they had to contend against.

In all the numerous attempts that had been made to make a settlement in this peninsula, it was invariably to the rugged and unproductive nature of the country, not to the opposition of the natives that the failures were attributable. Like all the aboriginal tribes encountered by the Spaniards in America, the Californians were a feeble and weak-hearted people; and although when irritated or oppressed, they not seldom turned on their tyrants; and, when revenge could be safely indulged, did not hesitate to cut off openly or by stratagem such as fell into their power; still they never offered any effectual resistance to the invaders, hundreds or even thousands of them being often kept in awe by a mere handful of armed Europeans. These poor people had good reason both to fear and hate the Spaniards, as they were often greatly maltreated by the mili-