

CHAP. I.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF UPPER CALIFORNIA BY THE FRANCISCANS.—HISTORY OF THE MISSIONS TO THE DEATH OF FATHER SERRA.

New or Upper California was discovered about the year 1542, by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Spanish navigator, and the coast explored by him (or by his pilot, after his death,) as far north as 43° or 44° N. lat. Part of the same coast, as formerly stated, was visited by Sir Francis Drake in 1578. He did not, however, touch so far to the southward as the country now called California; although the whole of this coast has generally been called New Albion, the name given to it by Sir Francis. In 1582 the same coast was visited by Francisco Gali: and was, as we have already seen, more fully explored in 1603 by Sebastian Viscayna. Captain Cook's discoveries did not reach so far to the southward as even Drake's; but the whole of the coast has been since visited and fully explored by other European navigators, besides Spaniards. The most distinguished of these and who have published accounts of the

country, are Pérouse in 1786; Vancouver in 1792; Langsdorff in 1805; and Beechey in 1826. All of these found the country completely settled by the Spaniards; and it is the object of the present chapter to give an account of how this settlement was first effected. On this occasion, as in the case of Old California, I shall also avail myself of the information supplied by an old Spanish or rather Mexican chronicler; and here my authority is Father Francisco Palou, one of the original missionaries, and subsequently Principal of the Convent of San Fernando in Mexico. The work of Father Palou was published in Mexico in 1787. It gives a most minute account of the settlement under the name of "A Life of the Chief Missionary Father Junipero Serra."

The expulsion of the Jesuits from Lower California in 1767, seems to have attracted public attention more strongly to the countries of which it forms a part, and led to the determination of settling and civilizing the upper province. In the year following, this settlement was finally resolved on by the Viceroy of Mexico, the Marquis de Croix; and, as on former occasions, the enterprize was committed to the care of the priesthood. Accordingly, in 1768, Father Junipero Serra, a Franciscan Friar, was nominated Missionary President of Upper California, with a staff of sixteen brothers of his own

order all taken from the convent of San Fernando. Some of these friars were destined to replace the Jesuits in Lower California; and the remainder, together with their chief, to proceed to the "spiritual conquest" of the Upper Province. Before proceeding with the detail of the humble proceedings of these good men, I would warn the reader here, as in the case of Lower California, that if he is prepared to estimate the importance of the history only according to the magnitude of the events or the dignity of the actors, he had better pass over the following narrative. To those, however, who look below the surface of things, and who, in the pages of history, regard more the springs of action, the motives and conduct of the agents, than the grandeur of the results, and who study the influence of progressive events, however small, on the happiness of communities, "the short and simple annals" which I am about to trace will not be devoid of interest.

The Father President having arrived at San Blas in the month of February, 1768, with his sixteen missionaries, they there met an equal number of Jesuits who had arrived from Lower California, whom they were to replace; and on the 12th March they sailed for Loreto in the same vessel which brought the Jesuits. "This seraphic and apostolic

squadron (as Father Palou calls it) headed by the venerable Father Junipero Serra" arrived at their destination all well on the first of April, and dispersed themselves each to his respective mission to wait the arrival of the "Visitador General," Don Joseph Galvez, who was soon to follow them. He arrived, and embarked at San Blas on the 24th of May following, but experienced such a bad voyage that he did not arrive at La Paz till the sixth of July, having been unable to make Loreto. Galvez not only brought orders to visit the missions of Lower California, but also a royal order to superintend the expeditions to be dispatched for Monterey and San Diego in Upper California. Accordingly, after examining the situation of the different missions in Lower California, and particularly those on its northern frontier, the Visitador thought the best mode of putting the orders of the king into execution would be, to add to the projected expedition by sea, another by land; which setting off at the same time, might join at San Diego, and there make the first establishment. This plan he communicated to the Father President, who fully approved of it, and offered to hold himself and a competent number of his brother missionaries ready when required. It was subsequently determined that three missions should be formed in Upper California, viz. one at

the port of Monterey, another at the port of San Diego, and a third between those two ports to be called San Buenaventura.

Soon afterwards two of the three packet boats destined for this expedition arrived from San Blas; one called the San Carlos, and the other the San Antonio. The former vessel having been put in a state fit for sea, the provisions and stores which had been brought from San Blas were put on board, as well as those collected in La Paz. There were also put on board agricultural implements, various seeds, both of Old and New Spain, and such other necessities as could be procured, and which they thought would be useful in the new country. It was at the same time resolved, that the land expedition should take two hundred head of black cattle from the most northerly of the missions of Lower California, in order to stock the new establishments with that useful animal, and to enable them to cultivate the soil.

The San Carlos being ready, the Visitador General fixed the day of her departure, and ordered that all should prepare themselves by means of the holy Sacrament. This was accordingly done; and the Rev. Father President, after saying the Mass "derogativa" to the most holy Patriarch, San Joseph, (whom they named patron of all the expeditions by sea and land), blessed the vessel and colours, and

gave his benediction to all the people. The Visitador then pronounced a long discourse, and every thing being embarked, they set sail on the 9th day of January, 1769.

There were embarked in this vessel her commander Don Vincente Vilal, twenty-five soldiers of the Catalonion volunteers, with the Lieutenant Don Pedro Prat, surgeon in the royal navy, with a sufficient crew and corresponding number of officers; accompanied, for their spiritual consolation, by the Father Friar Fernando Parron. The San Antonio not having got higher up than Cape San Lucas, the Visitador proceeded there on the sailing of the San Carlos; and having examined and repaired her also, every thing was embarked, and she made sail on 15th of February of the same year. Her commander was Don Juan Perez, an able navigator, brought up in the Phillipine trade; in her also went two father missionaries, Friar Juan Biscayno, and Friar Francisco Gomez. The third vessel was called the San Joseph, and was despatched from Loreto on the 16th of June the same year; her commander's name is not known, and the Friar that was to have proceeded with her fell sick, so that none of the missionaries were on board.

The fate of these vessels proves the deplorable state of navigation among the Spaniards in those seas at this period. The San Carlos arrived at San

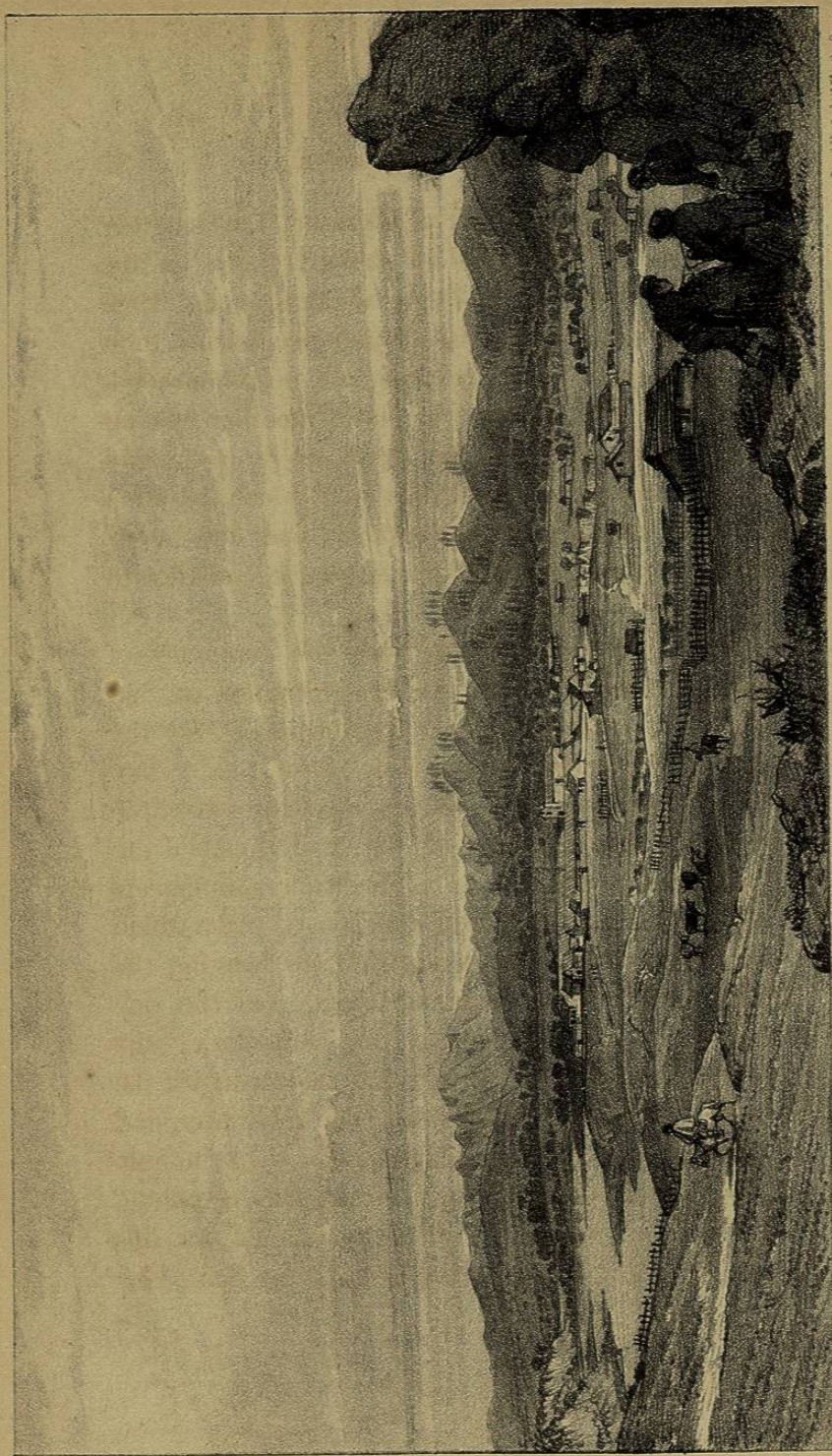
Diego on the first of May, and lost the whole of the people by the scurvy, thirst and hunger, except the officers, the cook, and one seaman. The San Antonio, although she sailed five weeks later, arrived on the eleventh of April, but lost eight of her crew by scurvy. The San Joseph was never heard of after her leaving Loreto.

The land expedition was set about with all possible activity; and it appears that those worthy Fathers and Visitadores, not only took their divinity from the bible, but their military tactics also; for Father Palou relates, "that considering the land expedition not less arduous and dangerous than that by sea, owing to the many savage and depraved tribes through which they had to pass, it was resolved, in imitation of the patriarch Jacob, to divide it into two companies, in order that if one was unfortunate, the other might be saved."

Don Gaspar de Portala captain of dragoons was appointed Governor of California, and Commander of the land expeditions, captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada was nominated his second, and appointed to proceed with the first division. The Governor was to follow with the second. Capt. Rivera y Moncada and his people left Santa Anna in Lower California in the month of September 1768; and after a short time arrived at the village of Nuestra Senora de los Angeles, which is on the Indian

frontier, and where they met part of the baggage which had been sent in launches to the bay of San Luis. Having examined the country, and found it incapable of maintaining even the cattle from its entire want of pasture, they proceeded farther into the Indian territory; and at the distance of eighteen leagues, in the direction of San Diego, they found a place suited to their wants. The whole caravan was accordingly conducted thither. From this place the Commander gave notice to the Visitador, who was then in the South fitting out the vessels, that in the month of March he expected to be ready to continue his route. Accordingly they left this place, called by the natives Villacata, and proceeded on their destination on the twenty-fourth of March, 1769. This division consisted of its commander Rivera y Moncada; Father Crespi; a midshipman; twenty-five soldiers; three muleteers; and a number of converted Indians as servants or assistants to the muleteers and for other purposes: they were armed with bows and arrows. After having passed fifty-four days on their march without experiencing any thing remarkable, they arrived at the Port of San Diego on the fourteenth day of May, when they found at anchor the San Carlos and San Antonio.

The mules, horses, black cattle, muleteers, and baggage, which were to accompany the second



By Engraving to the Queen.

THE PRESIDIO and PUEBLO of MONTEREY, UPPER CALIFORNIA.

Smith, Elder & Co. Cornhill.

Designed by Capt. Smith, R. N.

division, being collected at Villacata, the Governor and the Father President arrived there on the thirteenth of May. Being detained some time waiting the arrival of troops and necessities, they took the opportunity to examine the neighbourhood, and finding it superior to that of another mission not very distant called San Francisco de Borja, and considering that it would be well calculated for a point of communication between Upper and Lower California, they resolved on removing the mission to that place.

Father Palou thus describes the ceremony of taking possession: "this being determined on, and the day following being the fourteenth of May the first of the Pascua of the Holy Ghost, they immediately set about taking possession of the soil in the name of our catholic monarch; and thus laid the foundation of the Mission. The soldiers, muleteers and servants set about clearing away a place which was to serve as a temporary church, hanging the bells and forming a grand cross. On the day following they commenced the foundation; the venerable Father President being invested with the *Capa* and *Alba Pluvial* blessed the holy water, and with this the site of the church, and then the holy cross: which, being adorned as usual, was planted in front of the church. The patron named for this church, and of the whole mission, was Saint Fer-