

in the present day it would be no miracle for a vessel to sail between San Diego and China in the same space of time.

The following is the letter of the President to Father Palou on taking possession of the future capital of the dominions over which he was to preside:

"My Dearest Friend and Sir,—On the 31st day of May, by the favour of God, after rather a painful voyage of a month and a half, this Packet San Antonio, commanded by Don Juan Perez, arrived and anchored in this horrible port of Monterey, which is unaltered in any degree from what it was when visited by the expedition of Don Sebastian Viscayno in the year 1603. It gave me great consolation to find that the land expedition had arrived eight days before us, and that Father Crespi and all others were in good health. On the third of June, being the holy day of Pentecost, the whole of the officers of sea and land, and all the people, assembled on a bank at the foot of an oak, where we caused an altar to be erected, and the bells to be rung; we then chaunted the *Veni Creator*, blessed the water; erected and blessed a grand cross, hoisted the royal standard, and chaunted the first mass that was ever performed in this place; we afterwards sung the *Salve* to our Lady before an image of the most illustrious Virgin which occupied the altar; and at the same time I preached a sermon, con-

cluding the whole with a *Te Deum*. After this the officers took possession of the country in the name of the King our Lord, (whom God preserve). We then all dined together in a shady place on the beach; the whole ceremony being accompanied by many volleys and salutes by the troops and vessels."

The concluding part of this epistle may not be thought the least interesting, as it will show, that while men of an ordinary education would only have thought of their own personal situation and present difficulties, and of asking for assistance to help them out of them; the pious Franciscan only meditated on Popes, Saints, and Calenders. He continues:—"As in last May it is a whole year since I have received any letter from a Christian country, your Reverence may suppose in what want we are of news; but for all that, I only ask you, when you can get an opportunity, to inform me what our most holy Father, the reigning Pope is called, that I may put his name in the canon of the mass: also to say if the canonization of the beatified Joseph Cupertino, and Serafino Asculi has taken place; and if there is any other beatified one, or saint, in order that I may put them in the calender, and pray to them; we having, it would appear, taken our leave of all printed calenders. Tell me also if it is true, that the Indians have killed Father Joseph Soler in



Sonora, and how it happened; and if there are any other friends defunct, in order that I may commend them to God, with any thing else that your Reverence may think fit to communicate to a few poor hermits separated from human society. We proceed to-morrow to celebrate the feast, and make the procession of Corpus Christi (although in a very poor manner), in order to scare away whatever little devils (*Diablillos*) there possibly may be in this land. I kiss the hands, &c.

FR. JUNIPERO SERRA."

They then proceeded to found the mission of Monterey, and to construct a chapel; but the Indians were so terrified by the noise made at the celebration of the first mass, and by the firing of the artillery and muskets, that it was a considerable time before they ventured again to approach the strangers. It was not till the 26th of December that the first baptism of the Indians was celebrated at Monterey, which however turned out better than the first essay at St. Diego, and filled the pious mind of Father Junipero with inexpressible pleasure. He afterwards boasts, that in three years this mission had 175 baptized Indians; which is a proof of how slowly savages admit of civilization, or receive a new religion, however fervently practised or perseveringly advocated.

It was soon found that the first place selected for





THE BAY OF MONTEREY, UPPER CALIFORNIA.

Day & Night, as taken to the Queen.

Capt. Smyth R.N. del.

the mission was inconvenient; they therefore moved it to the borders of the river Carmelo, its present situation. The San Antonio being detained for some time, the Father President was enabled to examine the adjoining country; and finding many Indians, and good situations for establishing more missions, he wrote to the Chief of the College of San Fernando in Mexico, that although a hundred missionaries more were sent, there would be employment for them all.

In consequence of this favourable report of the promising appearances of the new country, the Viceroy, in concert with the College of San Fernando, ordered thirty missionaries to proceed from Mexico to San Blas; ten for Upper and twenty for Lower California; and provided them with sacred vessels and ornaments for the churches, and also with ten thousand dollars in money, to enable the Father President to form the other missions which he had projected. Orders were given to have two vessels ready at San Blas for the conveyance of the missionaries and their effects, viz. the San Antonio with the ten missionaries destined for Upper California, and the San Carlos with the twenty for Lower California. The San Antonio left San Blas on the second of January, 1771, and arrived at San Diego on the twelfth of March; all on board affected with the scurvy. The missionaries then



proceeded over land to Monterey. The missionaries who embarked for Loreto, had much worse fortune than their brethren; for although Loreto is but a few days voyage from San Blas, within the gulf, and the transit subject to no peril whatever; yet it so happened, that the unlucky San Carlos, instead of proceeding up the gulf of California northerly, was driven, as they reported, by winds and currents southerly, to Acapulco. Nor was this all: the captain of this vessel, after having allowed himself, at the best season of the year, and on a sea the most placid in the world, to be carried—one can hardly suppose how—so far south, put into a port on the coast called Mansanillo now well known as a good one, got his vessel on shore, and gave notice to the viceroy of Mexico that he could not proceed on his voyage! The poor friars being now left to shift for themselves, resolved to proceed overland; a distance of not less than twelve hundred miles, and along a coast without roads, without inhabitants, and abounding in all manner of hardships and dangers, as well as being remarkable for its insalubrity. This journey they actually performed, and marched along the shore of the Pacific, and the gulf of California, till they arrived opposite to Loreto, and then passed over to that place.

The captain in the mean time got positive orders from Mexico to repair his vessel, and proceed on his

voyage. He at length sailed from Mansanillo, and after many difficulties arrived at Loreto on the thirteenth of August, extending the voyage to eight months, which is now usually made in five or six days!

By the arrival of the new missionaries in Upper California, the Father President was enabled to extend his operations, and proceeded to found the mission of San Antonio de Padua in the hills of Santa Lucia, distant from the coast of the Pacific about eight leagues, and about twenty from Monterey. Some time after the establishment of this mission, we are told by our authority that so severe a frost took place on the first day of the Pascua of the resurrection, in the year 1780, that a field of wheat, which was shot, and in flower, became as dry and withered as if it had been stubble left in the field in the month of August. This was regarded as a great misfortune by the Indians, and still more by the Fathers, they knowing better the great loss to the mission from the want of food. It became necessary to send the converts to the woods to collect seeds and fruits for their subsistence, in the manner they had been accustomed to do before their conversion. The Fathers however (says Palou) encouraging their faith, and confiding in the patronage of San Antonio, invited the new christians to celebrate the Novena of this saint. At the same time



they ordered the frosted field to be artificially irrigated with water; and in a few days the fresh blades were seen springing from the roots of the former stalks, so that at the end of the Novena the field was perfectly green. The watering was continued, and the wheat grew so rapidly, that in fifty days, the new wheat was as high as the former had been, and in full bloom; it filled well, and was ripe at the same time as in former years, giving such an abundant harvest, and such fine grain, as was never before experienced. "The Fathers (continues Palou) as well as the Indians, acknowledged this to be a special miracle which the Lord deigned to work in their favour by the interposition of the holy patron San Antonio, and rendered him their most affectionate thanks accordingly." Some less faithful than our good Fathers and their humble converts may doubt, whether San Antonio, or the water with the rays of a summer's sun had the greatest merit in this miracle; but it may be granted on all hands, that the prodigy had the excellent effects which the friars deduced from it, viz., that it encouraged new converts to come to them, and saved them from the threatened famine.

Soon after the settlement of San Antonio, the establishment of San Gabriel was determined on, and missionaries with soldiers were dispatched from San Diego for that purpose. The following is the

miraculous accounts given of this expedition by Father Palou.

"On the tenth of August the Father Friar Pedro Cambon, and Father Angel Somera, guarded by ten soldiers with the muleteers and beasts requisite to carry the necessaries, set out from San Diego, and travelled northerly by the same route as the former expedition for Monterey had gone. After proceeding about forty leagues they arrived at the river called Temblores; and while they were in the act of examining the ground in order to fix a proper place for the mission, a multitude of Indians, all armed and headed by two captains, presented themselves, setting up horrid yells, and seeming determined to oppose the establishment of the mission. The Fathers fearing that war would ensue, took out a piece of cloth with the image of our Lady de los Dolores, and held it up to the view of the barbarians. This was no sooner done than the whole were quiet, being subdued by the sight of this most precious image; and throwing on the ground their bows and arrows, the two captains came running with great haste to lay the beads which they brought about their necks at the feet of the sovereign queen, as a proof of their entire regard; manifesting at the same time that they wished to be at peace with us. They then informed the whole of the neighbourhood of what had taken place; and the people in large



numbers, men, women and children, soon came to see the holy virgin; bringing food which they put before her, thinking she required to eat as others. In this manner (continues our historian), the gentiles of the mission of San Gabriel were so entirely changed, that they frequented the establishment without reserve, and hardly knew how much to manifest their pleasure that the Spaniards had come to settle in their country. Under those favourable auspices the Fathers proceeded to found the mission with the accustomed ceremonies; and celebrated the first mass under a tree on the nativity of the virgin, the eighth of September, 1771."

After the settlement of San Gabriel, which was the fourth, and is now one of the richest missions of California, the missionaries found that neither their numbers nor their means enabled them to commence others; and they continued doing all in their power to improve those they had already established. The following letter from Father Junipero, dated so late as the eighth of August, 1772, shews that their situation was not the most comfortable, nor their progress very much advanced; although they had been more than three years in the country:—

"My Dear Friend and Sir,—Thanks be to God, I am in good health; and hunger, which in this country mortifies and has mortified many poor peo-

ple, has not been felt, either by me or the Fathers, my fellows. There is no fear of being under the necessity of abandoning any of the missions now established. The people are chiefly maintained by the Indians, and they live God knows how. The milk of the cows and the vegetables of the garden have been two great sources of subsistence for these establishments; both begin however now to get scarce, but it is not for this I feel mortified; it is because we have not been able to go on with other missions. All of us feel the vexatious troubles and obstacles which we have to encounter, but no one thinks of leaving his mission, or desires to do so. The consolation is, that, troubles or no troubles, there are various souls in heaven from Monterey, San Antonio, and San Diego; from San Gabriel there are none as yet, but there are among those Indians many who praise God, and whose holy name is in their mouths more frequently than in that of many old christians; yet some think, that from mild lambs which they are at present, they will return one day to be lions and tigers. This may be so if God permits; but we have three years of experience with those of Monterey, and with those of San Antonio two years, and they appear better every day. If all are not already christians, it is in my opinion only owing to our want of understanding the language. This is a trouble which is not new to me;



and I have always imagined that my sins have not permitted me to possess this faculty of learning strange tongues, which is a great misfortune in a country such as this, where no interpreter or master of languages can be had until some of the natives learn Spanish, which requires a long time. At San Diego they have already overcome this difficulty. They now baptize adults and celebrate marriages, and we are here approximating the same point; we have begun to explain to the youth in Spanish, and if they could return us a little assistance in another way we should in a short time care little about the arrival of the vessels as far as respects provisions; but as affairs stand at present, the missions cannot much advance: upon the whole I confide in God who must remedy all."

After begging of his friend to procure more missionaries to be sent, he proceeds—

"Let those who come here come well provided with patience and charity, and let them pass on in good humour for they may become rich; I mean in troubles: but where will the labouring ox go, where he must not draw the plough? and if he do not draw the plough how can there be an harvest?"

Having now formed four missions the Father President resolved on returning to Mexico; and for that purpose set out for San Diego, where he intended to embark. On his way to that place he

founded another mission, which he called San Luis Obispo de Tolozo: and having visited that of San Gabriel, being the only one he had not seen, he proceeded to San Diego, where he embarked in the packet boat San Carlos, on the twentieth of October, and arrived at San Blas on the fourth of November, 1772.

On his arrival in Mexico, which was on the sixth of February following, he found that the viceroy Bucareli had determined to withdraw the marine establishment from San Blas, and to abandon that port: but Father Junipero represented to him, that this was the only place from which a communication could be kept up with California, and so fully impressed him with the importance of the new missions, that he not only consented to continue the establishment at San Blas, but also ordered a frigate which had been begun to be built there to be finished for the purpose of exploring the coast of Upper California: and in the mean time gave orders for one of the packet boats to be dispatched to Monterey with provisions. This packet boat, with the usual mishap attending all their sea voyages, in place of making Monterey, was driven up the gulf, and reached Loreto with the loss of her rudder, and otherwise so much damaged that she could not again proceed on her voyage; by which accident the missions were nearly all starved, and the whole