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Lines.

The following lines were written by the Princess AMELIA, a little before her death:

Unthinking, idle, wild and young,
I laugh'd and danced, and talk'd and sung;
And proud of health, of freedom vain,
Dream'd not of sorrow, care or pain;
Concluding in those hours of glee,
That all the world was made for me,
But when the hour of trial came,
When sickness shook my trembling frame,
When folly's gay pursuit was o'er,
And I could dance and sing no more,
It then occur'd how sad 'twould be,
Were this THE ONLY WORLD FOR ME.

THE FAR WEST.

[Fisher's National Magazine]

A SKETCH OF CALIFORNIA.

The First Settlers—Missions—Indians—Agriculture—Horses and Cattle—Farms—Ports—Mines—Forests and Timber—Climate—Population and advantages to the United States.

For the following interesting sketch of California, we are indebted to Alfred Robinson, Esq., author of a very popular work called "Life in California," recently published by Messrs. Wiley & Putnam New York. Mr. Robinson resided a considerable time in that country was a close observer, and both in the work above mentioned, and in this little sketch has spread before his fellow citizens an amusing and instructive account of a part of the Western Continent, which is increasingly attracting public attention:—

The extensive tract of country comprised under this name, constitutes, at present, part of the Mexican Republic, and was once included in the Vice Royalty of New Spain. It extends from Cape St. Lucas, along the border of the great Pacific Ocean, to the forty second degree of north latitude, and is bounded on the east by the Gulf of California, the river Colorado, and the Indian territory.

La Virja, or Old California, was discovered in 1534, by an expedition fitted out by Hernan Cortes. It consisted of two ships, commanded by Hernando Gr. J. alba and Diego Bercerra de Mendoza, who being separated during the first night of their voyage were unable to prosecute their discoveries together.—Senor Grijalba, after navigating three hundred leagues north of Tehuantepec, made land near the southern extremity of California and returned to New Spain. Bercerra, less fortunate, was murdered by Ortun Jimenez, his pilot, who took the lead of a mutinous faction on board, and fearing the wrath of Cortes, continued his voyage in search of other land. Arriving at a place called afterwards La Bahia de Santa Cruz, he landed and was attacked by the Indians, in which conflict he and twenty others perished; thus receiving the just penalty of their wickedness. The crew returned to New Spain with the ship, and reported favorably of their discoveries which determined Cortes to superintend in person another expedition, wherein he ascertained that California was not an island as had been supposed. Other subsequent attempts to explore the country were made by the Viceroy of New Spain, but no important effort for its settlement took place until the years 1596 and 1602. The method of colonization by the Spaniards, was by establishing missionary posts, and in converting the Indians to Christianity, whom they located at the various points of their religious conquests. In this performance the primitive fathers suffered many trials and in many instances martyrdom. Yet, notwithstanding, their hopes were at length realized, and they triumphantly beheld the subjugation of the whole country to the banner of the cross.

Alta, or Upper California, was first visited by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese, under the patronage of the Viceroy Senor Don Antonio Mendoza. Cabrillo set sail on a voyage to the north on the 27th June, 1542, and anchored at most of the ports along the coast as far as the forty-fourth degree of latitude; but no particular attention was drawn to the settling and colonizing the country, until the expulsion of the Jesuits from Lower California, in 1767. The year following it was resolved on by the Marquis de Croix, when Father Junipero Serra received the appointment of missionary president. Sixteen brothers of the same order accompanied Father Junipero, some of whom were destined to replace the Jesuits in Lower California. This holy brotherhood sailed from San Blas on the 12th March, 1768, and arrived at San Diego some time in May, 1769, they recommenced their apostolic labors. The great length of time intervening from the date of their departure until that of their arrival in Alta California, was partially occupied at the port of Loreto. A military force, under the command of Don Gaspar de Portala, was sent for the pro-

tection of the missionaries, and the same of colonization and government was observed as in the colonization of Lower California. During the administration of Father Junipero, which continued until his death, in 1782, there were established eight missions, and afterwards under other management the number was increased to twenty one. As these religious institutions flourished, the directors of them were occasionally succored by remittances from the Spanish government, and important donations were made, and numerous estates were bequeathed in lands and houses, for the benefit of the missions which were held as a fund, known in Mexico as La Fonda Padoso de California. This fund was managed by the Convent of San Fernando, and the proceeds, as well as the salaries of the missionaries, to whom were assigned the sum of four hundred dollars per annum, were remitted annually to California.

The prevailing style of architecture observed in erecting the missionary establishments, has been faithfully described in a work entitled "Life in California," but it may be interesting to know how or in what manner they were conducted in the administration of their temporal as well as spiritual government. The domains were always extensive—often from twenty to thirty square leagues, and divided into separate farms for domesticating cattle and for cultivation. The control over those estates and the principal establishments was effected by a few soldiers and a sergeant, who were subject to the friars, and whose *quartel* or barracks were immediately opposite the front entrance. The Indians were taught many trades, and a variety of things proved their progress in their arts. They manufactured blankets, carpeting, and a coarse fabric of woollen for clothing; they also made hats, shoes, and other necessary articles. Notwithstanding their immense resources at home, they were yearly supplied with large quantities of merchandise by foreign vessels, many of their establishments making purchases to the amount of forty and fifty thousand dollars which were freely distributed among the Indians, so that they were clad, most of them, after the manner of the Spaniards. The Indians, as well as the priests, rose with the sun and went to mass, which lasted about an hour. During this ceremony the breakfast was prepared, which was usually their favorite *atole* or pottage, with boiled dried meat. After breakfast they went to their labors either in the workshop or the field. At noon the tolling of a bell announced the hour for dinner, when the Indians quitted their work, and repaired to receive their rations as at breakfast time. After dinner they returned to their work until the evening ceremony of prayer, when all repaired to the church, and the supper of *atole* wound up the performances of the day. The girls and widows were kept in separate rooms while at work during the day, and at night the unmarried of both sexes were locked up separately; the keys being delivered always to the missionary, who severely chastised any breach of this custom when detected. Thus the Indians were happy, and venerated the men who had made them so.

The immense herds and flocks belonging to the missionaries yearly increased their resources, and they became of important account to the government, inasmuch as it was almost entirely dependent on them. At many of the establishments I saw accounts against the government amounting to over one hundred thousand dollars, besides many large amounts owed by individuals, who were never expected to pay them. This did not, however, affect the missions nor weaken them in the least, for their possessions were continually increasing, and they were prosperous indeed. But alas! this state of things exists no longer. Since 1834 the priests have been deprived of their property, and the missions have been entirely destroyed under the scandalous administration of certain hirelings of the government. The following returns of 1834 and 1842, may be interesting:

"1. In 1834 the Indian population of the 21 missionaries amounted to 30,650; in 1842, to 4,460.
"2. In the former year the number of horned cattle was 424,000; in the latter 28,220.
"3. At the same period the number of Sheep, goats, and pigs, was 231,500; at the latter, 31,600.
"4. In 1834, the number of horses, asses, mules, &c., was 61,500; in 1842, it was 3,800.
"5. The produce in corn, &c., has decreased in a much greater proportion—that of 70 to 4."

These facts will prove the blind zeal on the part of the government, in its imprudent measures for secularizing the missions, which have caused such results, and the return of the Indians to their old customs in the mountains.

For several years after the revolution broke out in Mexico in 1822, the white population of California was very limited, and could not have exceeded four thousand. At the different *Presidios* certain officers were appointed to receive such duties as might be obtained from any vessels arriving in their respective dis-

tricts; and in this way the government received a small revenue, by imposing a trifling per centage on the value of the goods sold. The same practise continued till 1828, when Don Jose Marie de Eachandia was named commandant-general, who placed a collector at the port of San Diego, and other subordinate officers at Monterey and Santa Barbara. The Mexican tariff was now introduced, and the general government, to encourage the settlement of the Californias, awarded that two-fifths of the duties established, should be deducted on all goods landed in that country of foreign importation. This regulation however, has ceased to exist, and the importer is now obliged to pay the full extent of the tariff rate, which on some articles amounts to over one hundred and fifty per cent. on their first cost.

The nett amount of revenue seldom exceeded, in any year, over eighty thousand dollars, so that when a deficiency took place, to supply the expenditures of government, it had been usual to call upon the missions for aid. Mexico would have had to have remitted annually, if it had paid its debts and its soldiers, over one hundred thousand dollars, of which the exchequer fell short, to defray the actual expenses of the country. This may be quite sufficient to show the important standing which the missions held towards sustaining the government, and how enfeebled it must have become since their ruin.

Since 1836, when the Californians drove out the Mexicans, the country has undergone many changes. Numbers of new farms have been erected by the division of the mission estates, and hundreds of Englishmen and Americans are scattered over the extent of their domains. There were very few farmers previous to 1830, whose actual possessions of horned cattle did not exceed one hundred thousand. In 1842, there were no less than ninety-two *rancheros* located between the ports of San Diego and San Luis Obispo. These persons possessing, on an average one thousand bullocks each, making an aggregate of ninety-two thousand. From San Luis Obispo towards the north, the farmers are more numerous, and may be supposed to contain treble the number of cattle contained southward of that point; so we may safely estimate the whole number of horned cattle held by individuals in the whole country, at four hundred thousand.

The yearly number of cattle slaughtered seldom exceeded fifty thousand, which left a large increase; so that, with care and attention, in a very short time the number must overreach that ever held by the missions even in their most flourishing condition. The value of the hides and tallow derived from these annual slaughters, may be estimated at three hundred and seventy two thousand dollars. These two commodities, with the exception of some beaver, sea otter, and other furs, comprise the most important part of their exportations, which in addition, would augment the value of exports to four hundred thousand dollars per annum. The greater portion of these items find their way to the United States, either direct or via the Sandwich Islands or Lima; the Yankees being the principal participants in the trade with California.

No mercantile houses of any importance are yet established in the country, owing to the impolitic advantages given to foreign navigation, which permit the coasting trade, and give license for the disposal of merchandise without restriction as to quantity. Hence each vessel becomes a moving warehouse, which is despatched about, from port to port, according to the demand for their merchandise; and no one thinks of buying anything on shore, while these floating conveniences are at hand. As it may be supposed, this method of non-protection to home trade, is of serious injury to the country, inasmuch as it prevents the introduction of capitalists, and the establishment of them on shore. This detriment to the prosperity of California, however, is not unknown to its government, and it has made several unsuccessful attempts to regulate and reform the system. Weak and unstable in their government, the Californians have ever wavered from their decrees, and though certain restrictions have been levied again and again upon foreign commerce, they seldom continued long enough to give any encouragement. This has been owing to the poverty of the treasury, and the lack of means possessed by government to support itself without the aid of foreign commerce, which is the only source of revenue whereby it is sustained. A reform can only be effected by shutting the ports, and imposing a direct tax upon individual property, which to accomplish the government has not sufficient force; and for the reason California must remain as it is, subject to a thousand changes, until some other and more elevated power shall rule its destiny. In the small villages almost every house is a place for retailing merchandise; and during the harvest for grapes, while distilling *aguardiente*, all of them become grog shops, and serve out destruction to the Indians, who are the principal consumers.

Of late years the cultivation of the grape has become an important branch of

agriculture, and almost every inhabitant of any note in the town of LOS ANGELES has his vineyard. No particular attention was drawn to its culture to any extent, until Monsieur Louis Vigne, a native of France, successfully undertook the management of a partially abandoned vineyard, which he purchased for one hundred and fifty dollars. Mons. Vigne emigrated to California in 1834, and six years afterwards, when desirous of leaving the country, he was willing to make a sacrifice, and offered his estate for sale for the sum of twenty thousand dollars. The soil, he says, for this kind of culture, is not surpassed anywhere; and is infinitely superior to that of his own country. Nothing is wanted but intelligent persons to make wine of an excellent quality, which would readily find a market in Mexico, and the neighboring countries where the vine is not cultivated.

The climate is well adapted to the olive, which is quite abundant, and when well prepared, not inferior to that of Europe. In some parts of the country rice may be raised, and cotton and tobacco thrive to perfection. The natives understand well enough the art of cultivating them, but are too indolent to pay that strict attention which they require. Many kinds of fruits are produced in their gardens, such as apples, peaches, plums, oranges, citrons, limes, pomegranates, figs, &c. and in fact, every attempt towards agriculture has succeeded.

In the spring of the year, during the months of May and June, the plains and hills are variegated with flowers, and the whole country becomes a garden. It is one of the most enchanting sights imaginable to look upon its extensive prairies, carpeted, as they are, with millions of beautiful and fragrant blossoms; so arranged in nature's grand kaleidoscope as to call forth admiration from the beholder, and his reverence and love for the great author of such magnificence. The air becomes perfumed with their sweetness, and as the heavy tramp of the traveller's steed presses upon them, an exquisite fragrance rises, which is borne away by the winds to the hills and mountains, to mingle with the sweets which they inhale. Indeed there is more loveliness and beauty in such a scene, than my humble self can delineate. I recollect a spot in the rear of the Mission of San Gabriel, where the flowers are of so rich a vermilion, as to be seen distinctly from the ship's place of anchorage at San Pedro, from whence they appear like a velvet covering to the earth. This is a distance of over thirty miles, and it may seem to the reader almost incredible, but nevertheless it is the truth, and may be witnessed, year after year, without any decrease in beauty.

The hills and the woods abound with many kinds of wild fruits, among which are gooseberries, blackberries, whortleberries, strawberries, &c. The latter vary in their appearance and flavor, according to their locality; those found in the northern parts of the country being inferior in size, but sweeter. Raspberries are also to be met with, in quality equal to the English ones; but the most abundant of all is the mora or blackberry.

The soil of California is rich, and aided by the mild temperature of its climate, extremely productive for all kinds of grain; admitting of two crops in one season. From the parallel of San Luis Obispo, northward, the highlands are topped with pines, while the green plains beyond them are plentifully supplied with oak; the former, in some sections of the country, growing to an immense size, with long cones hanging from their branches, containing PINONS or seeds, which are collected by the Indians at their proper season, and become an important article of their food. Other classes of trees are found in the forests, of which the ash, beech and maple, comprise the greater portion.

The feature of the mountains extending through California, gives a dreary aspect to the country, till arriving near the confines of Monterey, where they are wooded, and less accompanied with the volcanic appearances. Their average height is about twenty-two hundred feet, rising in some places almost directly from the sea, so as to leave but a narrow strip between them and the beach. The woods are abundant in wild game, and the rivers and bays supply the inhabitants with fish of many kinds.

California, viewed as a maritime station, has not its equal on the whole western coast of America. Her principal ports, which are San Francisco and San Diego, afford the most secure anchorage for the largest fleets, with facilities for establishing wharves, docks and arsenals. The former harbor is so situated as to require but little labor to make it one of the strongest fortified places in the world; for the rocky cliffs which form its narrow entrance, combined with other prominent locations within, seem as if intended by nature for defence. There are numerous small islands scattered about the bay, and one of them affords an abundant supply of fresh water, and convenient locations for heaving out vessels for coppering or for repairs. The Blossom, a British sloop of war, was grounded here some years ago, and thoroughly overhauled.—

A harbor possessing such advantages, must, or ought to, attract the attention of the United States Government; and if the importance of her commercial interests in the Pacific Ocean requires a place of shelter for her thousands of vessels, which are yearly floating upon those waters, then let San Francisco be the one, in preference to any other port! How can it be acquired, will be the inquiry, or negotiated for, while we are, as it were, waging war against Mexico, thus shutting out all means for negotiation? My answer is, that California will negotiate for herself soon, and perhaps ere now she has dared to proclaim her independence, and may be at this moment prepared for any arrangement with the United States. Let our government look to this important issue, and secure, if possible, such an acquisition as San Francisco would become to our glorious republic.

Gold and silver mines have been found in California, from which considerable quantities of ore have been obtained; and recently, during the present year, one of quicksilver has been discovered. The last is now worked on a small scale, and produces one sixth of metal from the ore. Any quantity of copper ore can be had in the Bay of Todas Santos, which requires skilful miners only to make it profitable.

The arrival of Captain Freemont in California, must soon cause a vast change in the commerce of the country, and perhaps, ere long, our enterprising Yankees will be flocking there in thousands with team loads of merchandise. The captain has discovered a route which is eight hundred miles shorter than the one formerly travelled by our hunting parties, and the whole distance through has not the slightest obstruction for vehicles.

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP.

BY WILLIAM LEGGETT.

The birds, when winter shades the sky,
Fly o'er the seas away,
Where laughing eyes in sunshine lie,
And summer breezes play.
And thus the friends that flutter near
While Fortune's sun is warm,
And startled if a cloud appear,
And fly before the storm.

But when from winter's howling plains
Each other warbler's past,
The little snow-bird still remains
And chirrup midst the blast. [through
Dove-like that bird, when Friendship's
With Fortune's sun depart,
Still lingers with its cheerful song,
And nestles on the heart.

The late Revolution in Mexico.

The New Orleans Times of the 25th ultimo contains copious extracts from late Mexican papers from which it appears that the revolution in Mexico has not only been completely successful, but consummated with a singular degree of unanimity.

The same paper mentions the receipt of a letter from the city of Mexico, dated on the 8th, which makes no allusion to the imprisonment of Gen. Paredes. For this reason, and because it believes that Paredes left the capital on the 31st for the North, at the head of 4,000 troops, and must have been pretty far advanced on his way when the revolution broke out, it is inclined to doubt the correctness of the information heretofore received as to the imprisonment of that officer. All other accounts, however, go to confirm this intelligence.

In the same letter above alluded to, it is stated that some of the disaffected citizens of Monterey, in conjunction with a few inhabitants of American origin, who were aided by the crew of the U. S. sloop-of-war PALMOUTH, took possession of the city, hoisted the American colors, and proclaimed the Californias annexed to the United States.

The subjoined extract exhibits the manner of conducting a bloodless revolution in the Mexican Republic, such as has just taken place. The reader must premise, that on the 3d ultimo, as soon as news reached the city of Mexico of the declaration, or, as they call it, *proclamacion*, at Vera Cruz, the troops of the party opposed to the then existing Government adopted a preamble and articles similar to those promulgated at the latter city, in which the causes and objects of the revolution are set forth; and that these proceedings have been politely communicated, through Gen. Salas, the chief of the revolutionists, to Gen. Bravo, the acting President of the Republic.

From the "Republicano," of the city of Mexico, August 6.

EVENTS OF YESTERDAY AND OF THIS MORNING.

Since the 3d instant, repeated notices have been given to the Government, but in the most respectful terms, and almost in the tone of entreaty. Both these communications and private letters, addressed to Senor Bravo and Senor Quijano, by the General-in-chief of the pronounced forces in the citadel, remained either unanswered or were answered in an evasive manner by asking for time, and seeking to gain time. The last time fixed upon for

giving a definitive answer was two o'clock in the afternoon of this day, (August 5th.) The General-in-Chief of the citadel waited until after that hour, and having received no answer, arranged his columns for the attack; but when they were about to execute the movement, the Generals D. Martin Carrera and D. Jose Urrea presented themselves on the part of the Government, and stated that Gen. D. Benito Quijano was empowered as General-in-chief to treat with the pronouncers, if both parties should appoint commissioners to meet at a designated place. The General-in-Chief of the pronounced forces drew up a new communication with this view, stating that the commissioners appointed on his part would attend before five o'clock in the afternoon in the convent of San Francisco, where they would await those appointed by Gen. Quijano. The commissioners of the chief of the *pronunciamento* attended according to appointment; but those of the Government, after the lapse of more than an hour, had not made their appearance.—In consequence of this, and of Gen. Quijano's having sent a new communication, stating that a *junta* of war would meet at seven o'clock in the evening, and that a reply would be given in the course of the night, the General-in-Chief of the pronounced forces determined to wait no longer, and commenced his march with two strong columns, composed of some infantry, a body of cavalry, and some light pieces, which, being arranged in the most efficient manner, advanced without meeting any impediment until they surrounded the palace, the forces occupying it being confined within the limits of the principal square.

At this stage of affairs, General Quijano promised that his commissioners would attend at nine o'clock at night, in house No. 10, in the first street de Plateros, occupied by Dr. D. Pedro Vanderlinden, the director of the military board of health. In fact, almost an hour before the appointed time, Generals Carrera, Urrea, and D. Ramon Morales appeared as commissioners of the general commanding the forces of the Government, and on the part of those of the citadel, Generals De Pedro Lemus, D. Antonio Vizcaino, and D. Ramon Pacheco, honorary intendant of the army. A long discussion was entered into, which lasted until half past one in the morning, and the result of which was that the General-in-Chief of the forces of the Government was to accede to the plan proclaimed in the citadel, and every article of it; it being further determined, on the part of the pronouncers, that, in consideration of the deference and respect for the national will manifested by Senor Bravo, as well as in testimony of the respect due to his former services, he should be allowed, while in the capital, the distinction of a guard of honor, such as the ordinance assigns to captains-general; that neither he nor his ministers, nor the chiefs, officers, and troops who have supported his cause, should be molested; and that, immediately upon the ratification of the plan, the Government should cease its functions, the troops defending the palace to remain under the orders of Senor S. I. S. The latter occupied the palace at three o'clock this morning. The chiming of bells, the beating of drums, and music of the military bands, *vivas* from a large concourse for General Santa Anna, which is invoked in the plan, and a salvo of twenty-one guns from the battery of the citadel, at daybreak, were the first celebration of this event. As yet no Government has been organized, and the General-in-chief of the pronounced forces is to continue in command until the arrival of General Santa Anna, who is expected within a few days.

SANTA ANNA was received at Vera Cruz with every demonstration of enthusiasm and joy. He arrived on the 16th ultimo, on board the English merchant steamer Arab, accompanied by his own family, and Gen. Almonte, the ex-Minister Rejon and Haro y Tamarez, Senor Boyas, ex-Deputy from Yucatan to the Mexican Congress, and several other individuals. The Picayune says:

"Upon the appearance of the Arab off Vera Cruz, Commodore CONNER repaired on board the steamer PRINCETON, and an attempt was made to intercept the Arab; but the morning was calm and she slipped into port without hindrance, with her valuable freight. Opinions differ as to the intentions of the Commodore towards Santa Anna, some believing that he had no desire to intercept him. On this subject we learn by letters received by the U. S. brig Perry, at Pensacola from Havana, that before Santa Anna left Havana, our Consul, Col. Campbell, had a conversation with him to the following effect: Col. C. inquired if the General was in favor of the war with the United States. To which the General replied, 'You know how it is; if the people of my country are for war, then I am with them; but I would prefer peace.' Before leaving Havana, he requested and received from Colonel Campbell a letter of introduction to Commodore Conner. He also took with him a valuable box of cigars, intended as a present for the Commodore. Upon arriving off Vera Cruz, he took good care to waste no time in the presentation of his letter or cigars."