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TOWANDA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1847.

It is not always May.

BY LORREKLOW.

The sun is bright—the air is clear—
The daffodils are in bloom—
And from the stately elm I hear
The blushing plovers spring.

So blue yon winding river flows,
It seems an outlet from the sky,
Where, waiting, till the west wind blows,
The freighted clouds at anchor lie.

All things are new; the buds, the leaves
That gild the elm-tree's nodding crest,
And even the nest beneath the eaves—
There are no birds in last year's nest.

All things rejoice in youth and love,
The fulness of their first delight!
And learn from the soft heavens above
The melting tenderness of night.

Maiden that read'st this simple rhyme,
Enjoy thy youth, it will not stay;
Enjoy the fragrance of thy prime,
For, oh, it is not always May!

Enjoy the spring of love and youth,
To some good angel leave the rest;
For time will teach thee soon the truth,
There are no birds in last year's nest.

Internal Evidence.

A man of subtle reasoning asked
A peasant, if he knew
Where was the internal evidence
That proved his Bible true!

The terms of disputation art
Had never reached his ear—
He laid his hand upon his heart,
And only answered—"Hear!"

Interesting Letters from California.

Climate, Soil, Productions, Commerce, Resources, Statistics, &c., &c.
MONTREY, California, Nov. 1, 1847.

To the Editors of the North American:

GENTLEMEN:—In wishing to give you all the true information in my power respecting California, I cannot avoid mentioning its productions of many various kinds of exquisite fruits. In fact, California from one end to the other, is capable of being metamorphosed into a perfect orchard.

There are twenty-one Missions in Upper California, and each of them have one or two large orchards, consisting of from four to ten acres of land. All of these orchards are full of fruit trees, of different kinds and classes, and notwithstanding they have had no care taken of them for the last six or eight years, many of them are not so much as fenced in, and they yield fruit in abundance, and to my certain knowledge, not one of these trees have been pruned, or attended to in any manner whatever (unless to strip them of their fruit) for the space of ten years.

Besides the orchards, which contain apples and pears of various kinds, peaches, pomogranates, plums, nectarines, and in the more southern part of the Territory, oranges in abundance. They have each, with the exception of two missions, one or two large vineyards, which produce both the blue grape and the Muscatel to the highest perfection; the vines some individuals take the trouble to prune every year, and in the month of September gather the rich clusters, which very amply rewards them for their trouble.

Santa Barbara, though the soil is not so fertile as the more northern parts, is a complete garden, almost every house having its orchard, and most of them a vineyard; the town of the Angels surpasses Santa Barbara in its productions of fruits, on account of the facility with which it can be watered. The same may be said of the Puebla de San Jose, except where vineyards have been spoken of.

Gooseberries and currants can scarcely be said to have been introduced into this country, there being as yet but a very few vines, which are in the possession of one or two private gentlemen, who are cultivating them with great care; perhaps they do not amount to thirty bushes or vines in all California. Like most other things, with a little industry, intelligence and care, California would be one of the first fruit countries in the world.

Here are likewise sylvan fruits in abundance, such as raspberries, strawberries, whortleberries, blackberries & various others, which in many parts are highly flavored. In short, I truly believe that from the general fertility of the soil, and the difference of climate, that almost every kind of fruit may be produced and brought to perfection in this country; because what one part of it will not produce, another part will.

Nov. 3.—An extensive commerce between this country and the Sandwich Islands has been opened within the preceding two or three years, but like every thing else here, it has not been carried on to one-fifth part of the extent it might be were the inhabitants inclined to industry. Lumber is now annually shipped from this place to the Sandwich Islands; inch boards are sold here at fifty dollars per thousand feet, and all sorts of lumber from one inch thick upwards, at forty dollars per thousand, cubic measure; methinks I hear you say, what an enormous price! yet still, before timber began to be sawed here, which was in 1829, Boston ships used to sell the most ordinary kind of inch lumber from eighty to one hundred dollars per thousand feet.

Now, sir, here is a country (the northern part of it) which produces a kind of timber, the rarest in the known world to work, and in immense quantities. I mean what is here called red wood; it is a species of the pine, and grows of an average of two hundred feet high. This wood is not subject to the worms, perhaps on account of the bitterness, as I have

heard some naturalists say; neither does it speedily rot. I have some of it taken out of the old buildings in the mission of San Carlos, which was built about 1775, and it appears in every respect as sound as the day it was hewn out of the tree. It makes most excellent shingles, perhaps the best in the world. The first houses that were shingled in California were shingled in the year 1831, and the shingles do not appear to be injured by time or the weather, even in the slightest imaginable degree; for house building it is invaluable.

Nov. 5.—The whole coast of California abounds in most exquisite fish, of many kinds, but although a small codfish, of which there are plenty all over the coast, sells for a dollar, still a meal of fish is very rare on shore; for no other reason but because no person will take the trouble to catch them; and I have known in time of lent, a small boat to go out fishing, and one hour after its return the owner of it has sold from twenty to thirty dollars worth of fish, and this after about seven hours' fishing.

In the winter season, every rivulet that leads into the sea abounds in salmon, and salmon trout. Many of these are taken in nets, and they certainly are of the very finest kind.—Here are likewise numerous kinds of shellfish all along the coast, besides hair seals, and the valuable sea otter; and in the months of September and October, a person may sit in the balcony of his house in Monterey, and see the great whale killed, with all the maneuver of the people employed in killing it, from the moment of lowering the boats into the water, to their return to the vessel, with the huge leviathan in tow.

Flax grows to an extraordinary length in this country. I have sown it several times in small quantities in a garden, and being well aware that the tiling and the ordering of it would be very profitable to any person who would undertake to cultivate it in a proper manner, I cannot but hope that some of the many emigrants who are daily arriving will place their particular attention on this branch of agriculture. The best time for sowing it, from San Luis Obispo to the northward, is in April; and in the middle of September the flax will be fit to pull. And the best manner of sowing it is in rows, about fourteen inches apart, and never dropping more than two seeds together; otherwise, when it gets an inch high, it is necessary to thin it, by pulling up some of the stalks, which may be transplanted, and by these means produce flax equal, if not superior, to that of any other part of the world.

California likewise abounds in game. Deer of different descriptions are plentiful in all parts of the territory. Elk, in the San Joaquin valley, are very numerous. The natives go out in the months of March, April, May, and also vast numbers of them. They are then very fat. As soon as the elk is caught and killed, they take off the hide and tallow. The former is tanned for shoe leather, and the latter is brought into the settlement, and used for making soap.

Between the months of October and March, geese, ducks, curlew, &c., are to be seen in immense flocks, feeding on the plains, or darkening the air with their numbers. The grisly bear is here to be found in all places where there is not much passing and re-passing of human beings. They are not so dangerous as they have been represented. I have been a great deal among them, and I never saw a single instance of a bear attacking a man, unless it had previously been molested, or it had been surprised on a sudden.

Nov. 6.—In the year 1825 California was overstocked with horses, and horned cattle, and sheep; and the natives considering horses of less value than sheep or horned cattle, killed off many thousands of the former that might be left, and pasture for the other kinds. They would make large pens near some wood, and then twenty or thirty men would muster, and drive in horses and mares by hundreds; and after picking out such of them as they considered to be of the best quality, they lassoed and strangled the remainder.

In the year 1827, Capt. Jedediah Smith came into this country overland from St. Louis, and bought three hundred and ninety seven head of horses and mules, of the best kind that could be found in the country; and only one horse amongst them cost as high as fifteen dollars—the average price he paid for them was about nine dollars.

In 1829 some New Mexicans came here, and bought many hundreds of mares, at the low price of fifty cents each, and among them were some very splendid animals, the following year, the wild Indians began to steal horses from the settlements, and between these, and the New Mexican traders, the settlements have been left literally without a horse to saddle.

Nov. 8.—Perhaps there is no country in the world, generally speaking, where the inhabitants are so much on horseback, as in California, or where there are better riders—and it may almost literally be said that many of them are born on horseback, as I shall show in the sequel.

We may likewise almost say that they are married on horseback, for the day the marriage contract is agreed on between the parties, the bridegroom's first care is to beg, buy, or borrow, and sometimes steal, the best horse that can be found in his district; at the same time, by some of these means, he has to get a saddle, with silver mountings about the bridle, and the overleathers of the saddle must be embroidered. It matters not how poor the parties may be, the articles above mentioned are indispensable to the wedding.

The saddle the woman rides has a kind of leathern apron which hangs over the horses rump, and completely covers his hinder parts as far as half way down the legs; this, likewise, to be complete, must be embroidered with silks of different colors and gold and silver thread; from the lower part, upwards, it opens in six or eight parts, and each of these

parts is furnished with a number of small pieces of iron or copper, so as to make a jingling noise like so many small cracked bells. I have seen one of these aprons with three hundred and sixty of these small jingles hanging to it.

The bridegroom must also furnish the bride with at least six articles of each kind of woman's clothing, and also buy up every thing necessary to feast his friends for one, two or three days, as the inclinations of the attendants invited or uninvited, may dictate.

The day being named for the celebration of the wedding, the two fine horses are saddled, and the bridegroom takes up before him on the same horse he rides, the godmother that is to be and the future godfather takes before him on his horse the bride, and away they gallop to church.

As soon as the ceremony is over, the new married couple mount one horse, and the godfather and godmother the other horse, and they return to the house of the parents of the bride, where they are received with aquibs, musketry, &c., and two persons station themselves at some convenient place near the house, and before the bridegroom has time to dismount these two persons seize him and take off his spurs, which they hold possession of until the owner redeems them with a bottle of brandy or a dollar.

The married couple then enter the house, where the next relations are all waiting in tears to receive them; they kneel down before the parents and ask a blessing, which is by the parents immediately bestowed; all persons at this moment are excluded from the presence of the parties, and the moment the blessing is bestowed, the bridegroom makes a sign or speaks to some person near him, and the guitar and violins are struck up, and dancing and drinking is the order of the day.

The moment a child is born on a farm in California and the midwife has had time to clothe it, it is given to a man on horseback, who rides post haste to some Mission with the new born infant in his arms, and in company with the future godfather and godmother, who present it to a priest for baptism; the sacrament having been administered, the party return and the child may rest sometimes a whole month without taking an excursion on horseback, but after the lapse of this time it hardly escapes one day without being on horseback until the day of sickness or death.

Thus by the time a boy is ten or twelve years of age he becomes a good horseman, and it is difficult to get him to do any kind of work on foot, and almost any Californian would think less hard of riding one hundred miles than he would of walking four hundred on foot; add to this that most of the labor in California has necessarily been affected by means of men on horseback. The taking care of cattle and horses, tending them, and going such long journeys as they are constantly obliged to travel, has made them expert horsemen to an extraordinary degree.

The horses themselves are of a hardy nature, as may be seen by the inhuman manner in which they are generally treated by the natives. If a man wants to travel from thirty to forty miles from his place of residence, he saddles his horse and mounts him; on his arrival at the town or place of destination, he ties him to a post; he may in some cases give him a drink of water, and should he remain away from home four or five days his horse gets nothing but water, without food at that time, and if he is a horse of the middling class of Californian horses, he will travel those thirty or forty miles back again with the same free gait at which he started on a full belly and good condition; of course this is only in the summer season when the grass has good substance and the horse is in good condition.

I suppose this will hardly be credited by some of the farmers and horse jockeys in the United States, but it is nothing beyond the truth, and besides, a horse when completely equipped for a journey in this country he carries besides his rider a weight of from fifty-five to sixty pounds of saddle gear, and should the weather be rainy and the saddle get wet, the weight is doubled. It requires two large tanned or hides to fit out a Californian saddle, add to this the wooden stirrups three inches thick, the saddle tree, stout iron rings and buckles, with a pair of spurs weighing from four to six pounds, a pair of goat skins laid across the pommel of the saddle, with large pockets in them, and which reach below the stirrup, and a pair of heavy holsters with the largest kind of horse pistols, and I think it will be found I have rather fell short than exaggerated in my statement of the weight which a horse in this country has to carry on a journey, notwithstanding they travel very freely and are active in their motions.

Nov. 16.—The most beautiful part of California is still occupied by wild Indians. There are no parts in the settlements, nor in the Sacramento valley, equal to those situated on the western side of the snowy mountains. From the head of the river San Joaquin down to the elbow, or as it is called in Spanish, the *junta* and on each side of the river *Merced* and the river *Reyes* lies the most valuable land in California.

From each of these rivers, two of which empty themselves into a lake, produce may be brought into the bay of San Francisco by going to the expense of removing some few impediments, which at present exist in the San Joaquin. The lake has an outlet which is a natural canal of about one hundred miles long and about one hundred miles wide, with a constant depth of from twenty-five to thirty feet. It is uniform in all these dimensions from one end to the other, and the current is so trifling that it is almost imperceptible. The reason of this is that where it enters the San Joaquin which is at the elbow above mentioned, the bed of the river is very high, consequently the water cannot run out of the canal so fast as it runs into the lake from three considerable rivers of which it is formed; and as the high bed of the river prevents the discharge of water from the lake through the canal. In the month of May, June, July and August, the level

ground all around the lake to the distance of eight or ten miles is all overflowed; and then the water is good as the overflow is occasioned by the melting of the snow in the snowy mountain, but in the other months the water of this lake is very brackish and very unwholesome.

On the dryer parts of this immense plain, where the waters which overflow from the lake do not reach, the soil is generally barren, and in some places for miles and miles the ground is so soft and light, that though perfectly dry, a horse will sink up to his knees almost every step; wherever this is the case the ground is completely barren, bearing neither shrub, bush, tree, nor grass or herbs of any kind. The whole of this valley is pastured with cattle, so much so that it is dangerous to be down in the camp on it, without taking the precaution to search well to see if there are any holes, and if none are to be seen, it is necessary to drag some bunch which may be found on many parts of the plain, where the ground is harder, and with it make a large circular fire, and get into the circle where a person may lie with more safety from these deadly venomous animals. I have been travelling over this plain in hot weather, and for the space of ten miles have seen rattlesnakes as thick as we commonly see ground squirrels where they are considered plentiful.

November 26th 1846.—I shall now give you an account with the descriptions of the principal classes of timber in California, beginning with the red pine tree. This tree commonly grows from two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet high. I have measured one when felled that was three hundred and twenty-seven feet from the butt to the point or head; this was by no means an uncommon sized tree, being but nine feet in diameter where it was cut off, and the largest ever I saw measured while standing was forty-two feet in circumference. I have heard of much larger ones, but never saw one; these trees all run very regular in their dimensions from the bottom to the top.—The heart of a young tree begins to turn red at about six years old; the outside from two to three inches in thickness, always remaining white; the bark is sticky and difficult to cut through, even with the sharpest axe; it may well be compared to the husk of the cocoa nut. The leaf and burs are very similar to those of the spruce tree; it contains some resin, and I have seen several trees felled in the spring of the year which have discharged as much as a barrel of water the moment the axe has struck the heart of them.

The timber which this tree produces is invaluable for its durability, the worm does not enter it after it has been put to use, though while the tree is standing there is a worm which is very injurious to it, always entering at the bottom of the branches where the knot is almost equal to a flint stone, and always eats upwards, so that a tree is very often found to be sound and good as high up as the first branch, and above that is sometimes found greatly injured by the worm, but whenever the tree is cut down and dried this worm dies, and no other insect ever enters the wood, and if it is properly seasoned before being put to use, I cannot say if ever it rots at all, unless it is put in some places in the ground where it is exposed to the wet and dry seasons alternately, and even then it lasts an immense length of time. I am well acquainted with a rich farmer in this country who built a cattle pen of this wood in the year 1824, and the stanchions, where none of the outside or white part of the tree has been used, are not the least decayed. Several of the old houses in the Mission of San Carlos were pulled down this year for the purpose of getting the timber they contained, and which was red wood, and the beams and lintels were as sound, to all appearance, as the day they were put into these houses, which must have been some sixty or seventy years ago, and yet by driving the plane once over them they showed as beautiful and bright as the day they were cut down.

For shingles this timber has not its equal, either for the ease with which it is worked or for its durability. I have seen a man make by hand, that is to say split, shave and joint, fifteen hundred a day for two months at a time.

This tree is fond of hilly ground; it is seldom found on level places, but in the valleys and on the sides and tops of mountains, it grows in immense groves, and the great demand there is for it both in this country and at the Sandwich Islands, proves the superiority of it to all other kinds of timber on the shores of the north Pacific Ocean. I have called it the red pine, because I have heard many disputes between botanists as to its proper name, and it appears to me to resemble some species of pine nearer than any thing else.

November 26th.—In resuming my discourse on the pine tree, or as it is called here the red-wood tree, it merely remains to say, that from ten leagues to the southward of Monterey up to forty degrees north latitude, California abounds in it, and exportation market has increased to such a degree that the present day a board of this species of wood cannot be bought in Monterey for any price, and several buildings have been stopped this year for want of this class of timber. Since July last there have been no less than five ships in Monterey looking for a cargo of red wood boards, joist or shingles; and none of them were able to procure as much as they required, merely for the want of laborers or capitalists who could turn their attention to this branch of commerce and industry.

Monterey is half surrounded by groves of pines which extend in some places about ten miles back, in others two or three. These are of an excellent quality for ship masts and yards, when cut in the proper season; they are principally a sort of white pine, very tough, and run generally from thirty to one hundred and ten feet high, and from one to four feet in diameter, seldom exceeding the latter; the timber makes excellent flooring, but must be cut in the winter, and must be well seasoned before being used. Across the bay, at Santa Cruz, and to the northward are there immense quantities

of yellow pine. Samples of the red wood and white and yellow pine were last year taken to the Marquese Islands by the French missionary ship Lyon.

There are likewise several kinds of oak in California; the large black oak tree is very plentiful, though the trunks of none of them grow very high, yet there are some few places where the trunk of these trees grow as high as fifty feet clear of branches, but the common growth of them is from fifteen to thirty feet, seldom exceeding the latter clear of branches.

About twelve miles to the southward of Monterey is a large cypress grove; this is another very valuable class of timber, both for its beautiful clear grain, and for its durability; this tree does not grow large here; they run commonly not over seventy or eighty feet high, and at about twenty-five or at most thirty feet from the ground they begin to branch out, consequently the timber above that height is unserviceable.

Buttontwood, willow, poplar, alder, cotton wood and black and white ash, are very abundant all over the country; and some of these grow to an immense size, but are little used except for fencing or building wooden huts in the roughest style. There is likewise a species of shrub oak growing in this country very abundantly, but I know of no other use it can be put to but firewood, and for this purpose it is excellent, though many people say the bark is very excellent for the purpose of tanning; the tree scarcely ever grows eight feet straight up; it very rarely begins to grow crooked from its very root; sometimes it is used to make knees, but I do not believe it is so valuable, and a maggot generally gets into it the first year after it is cut down.

On the borders of the Sacramento river and in the Sacramento valley, besides the different species of timber already mentioned will be found, the walnut, hickory, maple and several other kinds of useful timber. In short, if California was a well watered (though this is not scarce) as it is wooded, it would surpass every country in the known world.

December 1st.—The grisly Bear of California is the most savage animal to be found in it. It is a very dangerous animal when attacked, but in all my travels in California, in the course of which I have seen several hundreds, I have never known a single instance of a bear attacking a man, unless the man has in some way or other molested the bear, either by coming upon him suddenly, or disturbing the animal in some way or other. I have heard of men being attacked by bears or a bear, without the man in the first place having given any provocation, but I have so many reasons to doubt the truth of these stories, that I can almost assert that such is not the case. I have invariably seen them run from a man whenever they could see him or smell him at a distance.

I know perhaps of some twenty or thirty instances of men having been attacked by bears, but in every instance the bear has been provoked in some way or other, or surprised by his adversary.

A full grown California bear, when lying stretched out on his back, will measure from his nose to the claws of his hinder feet about ten feet in length, and they are about five feet round the body. They have great muscular strength, and their color is generally a dirty gray or a dirty dun. The hair is very coarse and about 5 inches long all over the body, and when the animal is surprised or excited, every hair on his body stands on end. They live chiefly on berries, but sometimes kill cows and calves and eat them. In the winter season they live entirely on acorns, which abound in this country, and then they get very fat. I have seen fifteen gallons of oil taken from a fat bear, though this is not common, but 10 or 12 gallons is often taken from them.

The she bear generally brings forth two or three cubs at a litter, but a she bear has never been killed during her pregnancy. The opinion of the people here with regard to this singular circumstance is, that the moment the she bear finds herself pregnant she hides herself away, and never comes out of her hiding place until she has brought forth her young; and that during all this time she is fed by the male. When the female has young ones she is very savage, though not very daring. I have seen the young ones lassoed several times, when the mother would remain at a distance from the horsemen, traversing the ground backwards and forwards, tearing it with her claws and snoring and putting, here eyes red as fire, and every now and then she would dart forward as if with a determination to defend her young, but on any horseman turning his horse towards her, and making a motion with his lasso she would again retreat to a distance.

They are excellent climbers, when the tree they wish to climb is large; they will go up a large oak tree as nimble as a cat, and if they cannot find as many acorns on the ground as they want, they climb an oak tree which they have previously observed to be well stocked with acorns, and go out on the richest branch that is on the tree, and taking hold of the branch with their fore claws, they let their body hang down and keep jerking and shaking the branch until it breaks, when bear, branch and acorns all come down together, and the bear makes his feast. They likewise, when berries are scarce, dig up moles, squirrels, &c. The flesh of the California bear is not good eating, unless it be the feet and the hams. These are excellent, let them be cooked what way they will.

December 2d.—Bear-baiting, bull-baiting and horse-racing were formerly the constant diversions on all great feast days, but have lately been for the most part done away with since the country has been turned upside down by civil contentions.

The two former of these diversions were barbarous in the extreme. When a bear was to be baited with a bull, they were both brought into an area fenced in, about two hundred yards square, and the bear's hind leg was made fast to the bull's fore leg, with a scope between of about twenty-five or thirty feet; the animals were fastened in this manner, if either of them

showed a disinclination to the combat, a horseman would throw his lasso over the bear and drag him toward the bull and they would keep doing this until the bull got exasperated, when he would unassessably kill the bear with his horns.

While they are fighting, the bull always appears to pay the most attention to the defence of his fore feet, which the bear invariably tries to get hold of with his teeth. I have seen a bear get hold of a bull between the horns with his teeth and hold him there with the bull's nose on the ground for the space of ten minutes, and on being hauled off by the horseman, again catch the bull by one of his fore feet and bite it or tear it completely off by the lower joint.

Should the first bull not kill the bear, which he is sure to do if it is an old mountain bull, a second one is brought in, and sometimes a third, but the bear never has fair play; as he is made fast by the hind leg, he gets entangled and often loses what would be a mortal grasp to the bull; but as the bear is destined to be killed whether he conquers or not—the people, as they have no feeling for dumb animals of any kind, take a delight in torturing him. To be sure the bull does not fare much better, for it seldom happens after he is let loose that he is able to go a mile before he is overtaken by some men who are always lying in wait for him, and his hide is taken off and his carcass thrown to the dogs.

Bull-baiting with horsemen is another barbarous diversion, of which the natives of this country are very fond, but neither in this does the animal get any fair play. Before he is let loose in the ring his horns are sawed off; he is then allowed to get on his legs in the midst of from fifty to one hundred men on horseback, who ride before and behind him, with their blankets or ponchos on their arms, holding them out ready to blind the bull with them should he make after them. If it were not for the precaution which they take in cutting off the bull's horns, many a noble creature would be slain on these days. The principal feat in this cruel diversion consists in taking the horse as close to the bull's head as possible and watching his motions, and as the bull makes a spring, to clear the horse by a dexterous and agile movement, which most of these people know how to make in a most admirable manner.

This is all that Californian bull-baiting consists of—being nothing more than a worrying of the animal until he is completely exhausted, when he is turned out to lose his life and his hide, and another one is brought in to share the same fate, in the same manner.

The owners of these bulls of course are the owners of their hides, but they must be extraordinarily vigilant if they get one hide out of four that are taken off.

December 3d.—There is a diversion very much in vogue among the natives of this country, called "Drawing the Cock." This is amusing so far as showing off the horsemanship of the Californians, but as there is a degree of cruelty attending it, a humane person cannot derive much pleasure from the exhibition.

A live cock is taken and buried in the ground on some level spot up to his neck, and a prize is put up for the person who draws him out of the ground from his saddle—the horse being at the same time at his greatest speed. Any person whatever may contend for the prize, and I have on some occasions seen from ten to twenty cocks drawn from the ground in this manner as fast as they were buried.

In performing this feat, a horse that has good government in the mouth is necessary. The cock being placed about seventy-five yards from the place where the horse starts, the rider gives him the spur, and when he comes within about 10 yards of the cock he takes hold of the horse's mane with one hand, and as he hangs himself over, with the other hand makes a grasp at the cock, which a good rider will seldom fail in drawing from the ground. The cock he likewise claims as his prize, and generally twists his neck as soon as he gets him.

There is yet another diversion which the Californians are very fond of, and will leave any kind of business they may have on hand to attend to; this is throwing a bull or a mare by the tail—a parcel of men will get together and go to some place where there are a number of wild bulls, the wilder and more fierce the bulls are the better they are for the purpose.—For this as well as all other diversions they take the best horses they can find, and having arrived at some place where there are plenty of cattle, they part out the largest bull they can see, and start after him; as soon as they overtake him a scuffle ensues for the first hold of the tail; and he who gets it takes a turn over his right hand, guiding his horse with the left; he then places his right hand above his right knee; so getting the tail of the bull under his knee; as soon as he has, the tail well secured in this manner, he guides the horse off the bull, which is on his right, to his left, and by a sudden prick of the spur increases the velocity of the horse so suddenly, that the bull is thrown over and over; and I have seen the largest kind of a bull rebound two feet from the ground, the rebound being occasioned by the force of the fall. The harder the animal runs the easier he is to be thrown.

It is not strength of arms that is necessary to throw a heavy animal in this manner; it is art. It is principally necessary to know what impulse to give the horse, and at what moment, and in what position to place the body, so as to assist the horse and give more force to the arm.

I have seen high wagers bet at this amusement, and it engages the attention considerably, particularly as there is no great degree of cruelty attached to it; to be sure the falls the bulls get may bruise them a little, but it is very seldom they get seriously hurt, perhaps not more than one time in a hundred. I don't know but the man has the worst of it, for he is sure to get his right hand skinned, often to the bone, but that he thinks nothing of—he is on horseback and he is happy.