

A ROMANTIC CAREER.

Sketch of the Life of General Sutter, the Man who Won the California Gold was First Discovered. The following interesting account is given of General John Augustus Sutter, who died in Washington, a short time ago: General Sutter, whose original name was Suter, was born at Kandern, Baden, February 15, 1803. In his childhood he evinced an aptitude for the military profession, and his ambition was gratified by his parents, who were undoubtedly well off. He was given a liberal education, and sent to the military school at Berne, Switzerland, where he was graduated in 1839. He went to France and joined the army of Charles X., being commissioned by that king as general. After the revolution of July, 1830, however, he became weary of his military life, and, casting his eyes about for some country in which to seek adventure and fame, he chose the new world as offering the best field for his restless spirit, and emigrated to this country. He had but little ready money, but America was but sparsely settled then, and brains and courage were more in demand here at that time than fortunes. The young emigrant settled first in the western part of Missouri, but as the population of that State increased, he moved further West, always flying before the advance of the pioneers, and determined, as he said once, in telling his story, to be the pioneer of pioneers. He finally, in 1837, reached what is now New Mexico, and established himself at Santa Fe, where he began trading with the Indians. His gentle manners and strict honesty in dealing with them soon won the hearts of the savages, and General Sutter prospered in his business with them. He learned their language, took an interest in their welfare, and taught them many useful things. The result was that they confided in the man who trusted in them, and told him of the wonderful beauty of the country across the Rocky mountains, the fertility of its soil, and the mildness and salubrity of its climate. Fired by these reports of his dusky friends, General Sutter finally determined to cross the Rocky mountains, and in 1838 he passed over into California, which then was under the control of the Mexican government. General Sutter first went to Fort Vancouver, and from there, spurred on by the restless spirit of adventure which characterized him, he sailed to the Sandwich Islands. He saw little chance to win either fame or fortune among the idle and unambitious Kanakas, and he soon left the islands, sailing for Alaska. From here he engaged in a trading trip down the Pacific coast, and this voyage ended July 2, 1839, by his being shipwrecked in the bay of Yerba Buena, now known as the bay of San Francisco. He had saved a little money from the wreck, but not enough to enable him to fit out for another trading voyage, and he wisely resolved to begin over by engaging in agriculture, and working again with his old friends, the Indians. With great difficulty, because of his ignorance of the country and the natives, he penetrated to the interior up the Sacramento river, and arriving at the point where the city of Sacramento now stands, he saw the advantages of the location, and pitched camp at once. He chose a site in the Sacramento valley, about three miles back from the river, one of the most fertile spots in all California, and naming it New Helvetia, settled there with the intention of staying. He put in practice his old tactics in his treatment of the Indians; instead of slaughtering them he made friends of them. He taught them the rudiments of agriculture which were within their comprehension, and also instructed them in their use. In 1841 his remarkably short space of time, New Helvetia was a thriving settlement, and General Sutter, by raising large crops, for which there was always a ready market in Yerba Buena was rapidly becoming a wealthy man. It was the only white settlement in that section of the country, and the influence of General Sutter was felt far and wide. New Helvetia was the stopping place of all white men who crossed the country, and its commander was very popular with the Russians of the North and the Mexicans who surrounded him. In 1841 his influence was such that the Indians had become so great that the Mexican government found it advisable to secure this Swiss farmer as a kind of ally. They made him a formal grant of eleven leagues of land near the junction of the Sacramento and American rivers, on condition that he would keep the Indians in check, and punish them if they interfered with the settlement. By this time he had gathered several white men around him, all of whom worked either for him or on shares on his land. When he received the grant of land, he transformed his farm into a fort, which soon became known all over the country as "Sutter's Fort," and was the halting place of all expeditions crossing the country. It was here that General Fremont was entertained with the lavish hospitality of the frontier at the time of his expedition across the Rocky mountains. The fort was surrounded with a wall of brick twelve feet high, and mounted with twenty-four cannon purchased from the Russians. It was General Sutter's province to protect the entire northern frontier of Mexico, not only from the Indians, but from the marauding bands of trappers and hunters who visited the valley for purposes of plunder, and he did his work so well that the Mexican government felt perfectly secure in that part of the State under his charge. In 1845, in recognition of his eminent services, a further grant of twenty-two leagues of land was made to him. General Sutter was now at the height of his power and glory. He was probably the wealthiest man on the Pacific coast, his landed estate embracing, in round numbers, 150,000 acres. He was military commander and Indian agent of a vast territory, and almost literally monarch of all he surveyed. Houses, shops, mills and other evidences of civilization had sprung up around him, and he was the center of a prosperous community. The Hudson Bay company endeavored to undermine his credit with the Mexican government, in revenge for his having encroached on their trapping business, but the effort failed, and after a long investigation that government pronounced General Sutter vindicated completely, and trusted him more implicitly than ever. From 1845 to 1848 he was a veritable king, and feeling himself at last permanently established for life, this roving adventurer sent to Switzerland for his wife and family, who soon joined him, and prepared to settle down in the home which he had made. All these plans were frustrated by the discovery of gold on his land. In the fall of 1847 General Sutter was building a large mill at what is now

Coloma, on the American river. He had labored at work cutting logs, and early in the winter of 1848 he had begun constructing an extensive mill-race. Among his laborers was a man named Marshall, who was engaged in superintending the work. In February some children picked from the dirt thrown from the race some shining particles, and carried them to Marshall to look at. He recognized them as gold, and rushed to the fort in a state of intense excitement to communicate the discovery to General Sutter. He warned the general to keep the secret, but with his characteristic frankness and generosity he made it known to several of his friends, and through them it was published to the world. In that same month of February, 1848, the Mexican war closed, and California was ceded to the United States. A tremendous rush for the new gold-diggings followed. The soldiers of the two years' war and adventurers from every State in the Union poured into the new El Dorado. General Sutter was unacquainted with our laws, or he might have protected himself by taking up mining claims, and realized from them more than the original value of his property. Instead of doing this he sat still while the army of gold-seekers squatted upon his land. They staked off their claims, taking his houses, mills, everything that he possessed, and he had absolutely no redress. They took his cattle for food, destroyed his crops digging for gold, and in three short years this Ceresus of the Pacific coast was almost as poor as he was on the day when he first set his foot on the soil of Missouri. During the Mexican war, the Mexican government, realizing the advantageous position of Sutter's fort, had sent an ambassador to the general, offering him \$100,000 in cash, besides valuable lands further south, for the establishment of New Helvetia, including the fort. This offer was declined, because General Sutter had many Americans in his employ and in the settlement, whom he refused to turn over to the tender mercies of the Mexicans. His sympathies and active operations were on the side of the United States in the struggle, and his fort became the nucleus for American military operations in that section, so that General Sherman had good cause to say of him, as he did a short time since, that "to him more than to any single person are we indebted for the conquest of California and all her treasures." By the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which ceded California to the United States it was expressly stipulated that the owners of property therein should retain the same without being subjected to any contribution, tax or charge whatever. One board of land commissioners, appointed for the investigation of land titles in California, confirmed Sutter's claim to the two tracts granted him by Mexico. The squatters appealed to the United States district court, which affirmed the decision of the board. The squatters again appealed to the supreme court, and that tribunal affirmed the grant of eleven leagues, but reversed the two previous decisions as to the larger grant of twenty-two leagues. General Sutter, meantime, had sold much of the large tract, giving warranty deeds, and to make the good used up the smaller grant, and he found himself utterly poverty-stricken. The State of California granted him an annuity of \$3,000, and upon this he lived until it was withdrawn a few years ago. Since then his friends have been trying to secure a grant of \$50,000 from Congress to indemnify him for his losses, and it was this business that called him to Washington. A thoroughly heart-broken man, and retired with his family to Lily Poma, where he has resided with his aged wife and two grandchildren ever since. He has been president for many years of the "Old Californians," who celebrated the discovery of gold in California by an annual dinner in New York city.

Four Rich Men. The Liverpool Courier gives some rather interesting particulars as to the four men who are supposed to be the most wealthy living. Of these the poorest is the Duke of Westminster, whose income is set down at \$3,000,000 a year. Taking it at that sum, the amount which the duke can spend without trenching on his capital is \$10,000 a day, \$450 an hour, and \$7 50 a minute. The next man in ascending the scale is Senator Jones, of Nevada, whose income is valued at exactly \$5,000,000, giving him the right to spend, if he likes, \$10 a minute out of revenue. The head of the Rothschild family comes next, with a yearly income of \$2,000,000, and the expenses which he can defray thereout are, of course, double as great as those of the senator. At the top of the list comes Mr. J. W. Mackay, with a revenue of \$10,750,000, which enables him to disburse \$35,000 a day, \$1,500 an hour, and \$25 a minute. The fortunes of the other three are insignificant if compared with this gentleman's wealth. For they were the growth of many years, either of successful toil or lucky speculation, or both combined. But Mr. Mackay, as the Courier remarks, was thirty years ago a penniless boy in Ireland. Sixteen years ago he was bankrupt; and now he is the owner of the richest silver mine that has ever been discovered. There is, therefore, hope for all the penniless boys in "ould Ireland." We commend to them the example of Mr. J. W. Mackay, who, it appears, is now only forty-five years old, and if he goes on at the same rate as during the last sixteen years, will have ample time to treble his fortune and possess an income ten times as large as that of the Duke of Westminster. Already the capitalized value of his property is set down at \$75,000,000, against the modest \$80,000,000 of the duke. Such figures are pleasing to the eye and ear, but the Liverpool Courier does not by any means vouch for the accuracy of the totals it publishes.

A Comical Scene in the House of Commons. Parliamentary etiquette forbids any one to pass between a commoner on his legs and the speaker whom he is addressing. New members are naturally apt to forget the theory that when a man is making a speech in the house of commons he is addressing, not the assembly of 400 or 500 gentlemen who surround him, but the wig and gown in the canopied chair. The consequence is that new members when they want to move about, or to have no scruple in passing between the chair and the member addressing it. Thereupon the house is filled with howls of execration, which are not lessened, since it often happens that the object of rebuke, delightfully unconscious of offense, placidly continues his journey wondering what the unfortunate member on his legs could have said to excite this outburst of anger. Recently an outrage unparalleled in parliamentary history sent a thrill through the house. Mr. Leahy, a member from Ireland, was speaking, and he felt the necessity of refreshment, asked a gentleman standing a few feet nearer the chair, to fetch him a glass of water. The new member, in his good-natured haste to make himself useful, not only crossed between Mr. Leahy and the speaker, but attempted to push between the member and the back of the bench before him. Now, Mr. Leahy is a man of great frontal development. The result of the new member's endeavor to be useful was that he got wedged in between the back of the bench and Mr. Leahy's stomach, where he literally stuck if he had discovered him he might have attempted to pick a pocket.

A young lady graduate was surprised on going into the country to find that beans were vegetables and grew in pods. She thought they were something akin to pork.—Boston Transcript.

An unfortunate Indianapolis man, who lost several toes by a car wheel, was consoled by an Irishman near by with: "Whist, there, you're making more noise than many a man I've seen with his head off!"

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