A CALIFORNIA JUBILEE.

THE GOLDEN STATE CELEBRATES HER FORTY YEARS OF LIFE.

Her Early History Is a Romance—Three Hundred Years of Spanish Rule Leave No Trace Save Names and a Few Missions—Her Subsequent Growth.

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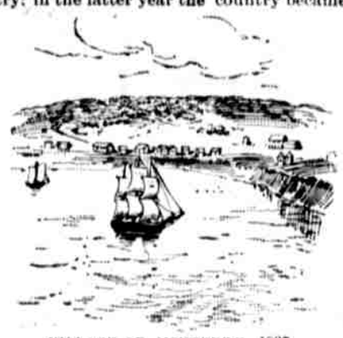
California celebrates the fortieth anniversary of her admission to the union of states, and presents to the world a history as fascinating as any romance, and a table of statistics in wealth and general growth almost as dazzling as any vision in the

MISSION OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY, 1837.

"Arabian Nights." The state is indeed an exception among commonwealths. While its growth in population has not on the whole been so rapid as that of some other states, its history since 1848 presents a general development without parallel. After being for three centuries an unexplored and almost unregarded and waste province of Spain and Mexico, it suddenly became the land of golden promise to millions, and with a scarcely perceptible interval, without the slow process of a territorial childhood, it sprang at once to prominence among the states, like Minerva, full orbed and armor clad from the brain of Jupiter.

The admission of the state, by act of congress signed Sept. 9, 1850, ended the longest session of congress held before the war, and with the other "compromise measures" adopted at the same date put an end to a long and furious sectional controversy, and gave final form to the territorial system of the United States—a form which continued, with changes of boundary only, till most of the territories became states, and still continues with three of them. The region which in 1842 contained a semi-nomadic population of some 30,000 Hispano-Mexicans and perhaps 20,000 wild Indians, was in 1850 a state with nearly 100,000 white citizens; ten years later the number was 379,994, ten years after that 560,000, and at present the total falls but little, if any, below a million and a quarter.

Its material growth has been still more rapid. In 1842-45 it was noted as a remarkable fact if three American vessels arrived in a year to bring "Yankee notions" and a few manufactures from New York and Boston and carry away hides, and the chance arrival of a British vessel was an event of supreme importance. In the four years ending with 1847 about 5,000 Americans "crossed the plains" to the new country; in the latter year the country became

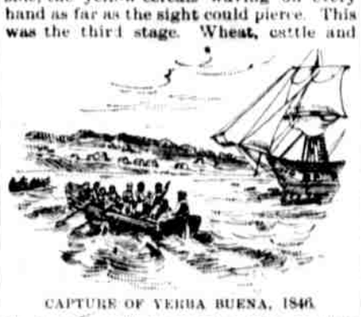


VILLAGE OF MONTEREY, 1837.

the property of the United States, and before the close of 1850 about a quarter of a million of gold seekers had tried their fortunes there. At present the wealth of the state exceeds $2,000,000,000, and is increasing at an accelerated rate.

The gold product, rated at $10,000,000 in 1848 and $40,000,000 in 1849, reached $65,000,000 in 1853; then it was announced that the "best days of placer mining were past," and many predicted the decline of the state. Gold had converted Yerba Buena village into the most lively and interesting city in America. Gold had created Sacramento and many other flourishing places, and all other enterprises were subordinated to gold. It was soon discovered, however, that the wealth of the mines was but as cents to the dollars in the soil. The east was soon astonished to learn that California was self supporting in food products, and in an incredibly short space of time the state, from being the greatest gold region on earth, passed to the condition of the most promising cattle region. Herds multiplied till the rancheros scarcely knew their own for multitude, but this industrial phase was brief, and soon yielded to the wheat era.

In all industrial history there is nothing to compare with the suddenness and completeness of this transition. One year, as it now seems, people were reading in the market reports that Chili flour was $30 per hundred at Sacramento, and the next that native flour was but a third that price; and the many jokes about high prices in California were still current in the comic almanacs when exporters from New York were confronted by the rivalry of California wheat in Liverpool. There was a short, sharp conflict between cattlemen and wheat growers; the No Fence party carried the day, and within five years California astonished the world with her enterprises in farming on a large scale. For hour after hour the traveler could ride on a valley road, with infenced fields on each side, the yellow cereals waving on every hand as far as the sight could pierce. This was the third stage. Wheat, cattle and



CAPTURE OF YERBA BUENA, 1846.

sheep are still important, but another branch of production now excites more interest.

It might almost be said that Californians woke up one morning and found their state famous on account of its fruits. The Spaniards had planted the grapevine and left it to take care of itself. It had done fairly well; but from the days of Philip II to the days of Castelar the Spaniards were the last people in the world to apply experience to the benefit of others. In the early mining days peaches were accounted cheap at "three for a dollar," and wild grapes at fifty cents a pound. The experiment of culture was tried. The result was a discovery as important as that of gold. Every other fruit followed rapidly, and California was soon prosperous in her fourth stage—the stage of grapes, wine and raisins, oranges, lemons and many other delicate fruits. Lumbering was of some importance from the first, and manufacturing is fast arising to importance, for cotton, jute, hemp and ramie can be grown in abundance, and wool is already a leading product. It would be rash to set a limit to the future growth of such a state.

The early history of California is economically of little importance, but of great interest. Cortez conquered Mexico in 1519-21, and within a dozen years the Spaniards were building ships at Acapulco. Between 1535 and 1550 they explored the entire coast as far as Cape Mendocino, and in 1542 or '43 Don Juan Cabrillo entered the Bay of San Francisco. Drake was there in 1579, Gali in 1584, Cermenon in 1595 and Vizcaino in 1602-3. Then the wonderful Spaniards of the Sixteenth century died and left no worthy successors. There was a paralysis of two centuries, and, save a few missions near the coast, the beginning of this century found California just as Vizcaino left it. This is all the more remarkable since Sir Francis Drake had published his reasons for believing there was gold in the mountains, and the Spaniards had explored all their more eastern territory for that metal.

Soldiers, Franciscan missionaries and cattle growers contributed a slowly increasing population till 1842. The Russians left a small colony, and perhaps 5,000 Americans located there in four years. Then came the Mexican war, and California was formally "seized" in January, 1847. Gold was discovered in 1848, and civil organization became a necessity. Military Governor Gen. Riley issued a proclamation for the election of delegates. They met at Monterey Sept. 1, 1849, soon framed a state constitution, and when the Thirty-first congress met, the following Decem-

A FLOAT IN THE JUBILEE PROCESSION, 1890.

ber, William M. Gwinn and John C. Fremont presented themselves as the first senators from California. Many yet living remember how the country was convulsed during the "long congress." President Taylor died July 9, 1850. His successor soon declared for the "compromises," and the long fight was ended Sept. 9, 1850, by the signature of President Fillmore to the act admitting California. J. H. BEADLE.

NOTED AS A REVIVALIST.

Something About Mrs. Maggie Van Cott and Her Work.

Although for twenty years Mrs. Maggie Van Cott has been a successful revivalist she has never sought ordination nor any recognition whatever, save such as came to her naturally as the result of her work. The beginning of her labors was in 1867, when a series of meetings was being held at the Duane Street Methodist church in New York city.

Mrs. Van Cott was invited to this meeting to sing. She had never, up to that time, heard a woman speak in public, save on the stage of a theatre, and believed that no woman of refinement would do so. However, inspired as she believes by the divine spirit, she spoke at this meeting in a most impassioned manner.

Mrs. Van Cott says of this beginning of her work: "It certainly was the inspiration of the holy spirit, for I had no gift of utterance, was full of timidity and fear, and had not been fitted in any way for such effort."

For nearly two years after this she conducted nightly meetings while devoting her days to the requirements of the business which her husband's death had imposed upon her. Two years later the accident of insufficient light caused her to enter a pulpit for the first time. From that

MRS. MAGGIE VAN COTT.

time on, more than twenty-two years ago, she has held an average of 782 meetings each year. During this time over 63,000 men, women and children have professed religion as a result of her preaching.

Mrs. Van Cott was born in New York city in 1830, and is of Scotch and English extraction. Her maiden name was Newton, and she is descended from the English house of that name.

ANTOINETTE VAN HOESEN.

Rapid Transit in Cities.

The cities of the United States having over 100 miles of rapid transit lines—horse, electric, cable and steam (elevated and surface)—are as follows: Baltimore, 105; Boston, 200; Brooklyn, 164; Chicago, 184; New Orleans, 104; New York, 177; Philadelphia, 283; St. Louis, 118. But two of these have elevated roads, Brooklyn and New York. There is, however, a short elevated line in operation at Kansas City.

Another Boy Evangelist

James Cook is the name of the latest addition to the ranks of boy preachers. Like Sam Jones and many other evangelists, he is a product of the south, his mother now being a resident of Clem, Ga. "Jimmy," as he is called, is but 13 years old. His recent sermons in Cincinnati created a sensation.

The largest gun ever made has just been finished by the Krupps. It is made of cast steel, weighs 235 tons, has a caliber of 13½ inches and a barrel 40 feet long. Each discharge costs $1,500, and two shots can be fired in a moment. The gun belongs to Russia.

THE SONG OF A STREAM.

Written expressly for The American Press Association.

Music by JOHN de WITT.