

Schoolcraft and Cass's expeditions in 1820 and 1832, were for the discovery of the sources of the Mississippi, and to visit the copper deposits of Lake Superior.

Fremont's expedition to Oregon and California, in 1843 and 1844, made a virtual discovery of Great Salt lake, of the basin of California, and established that there was no principal river flowing into the Pacific besides the Columbia.

The magnificent series of explorations of the United States government for a Pacific rail road route across the continent, on eight parallels of latitude, were as late as 1853 and 1854.

No permanent settlements were made by us west of the Rocky mountains previous to 1834, being those which were commenced in Oregon.

It was in 1827, that the first American entered California across the continent. He was an agent of the American Fur Company by the name of Jedidiah S. Smith. Finding himself in want, he resorted to misrepresentation, so as to secure protection and food from the jealous Spanish settlers. He and his party of forty men were already gold hunters rather than fur hunters.¹

The future of California, its wealth, population and prosperity, either under Spaniards or Americans, was as yet anticipated or prophesied by no one. Two years before the discovery of gold, a writer in the *Southern Quarterly Review*,² predicts for her a future of the greatest inferiority. "Whether California will ever become of any great importance in the history of the world, or advance to any conspicuous position, agriculturally, commercially, or politically, is susceptible of the greatest doubt. In itself, it

¹ E. Randolph's Address, 1860, San Francisco.

² Vol. VIII, 1845.