

and becoming a little tired of the life, they concluded to return to San Francisco. While mining, they had enjoyed camp-life in perfection, with sometimes a scarcity of provisions, which were very poor, even when abundant; but the life was not distasteful, and many pleasant hours were spent there. They thought they had completely exhausted the wealth of their mine; but Sewall has since told me that the same dirt had been worked over several times since, and each time had paid better than the first, so little was mining understood in those days. Returning to San Francisco, he soon obtained a situation with Macondray & Co., one of the leading firms of the city. At first, he was employed in the lumber-yard, taking account of the delivery and buying of the article; but soon entered the store as salesman, where he continued, winning the respect and love of his employers, until 1854.

At this time, all who are acquainted with California history will remember that the moral dangers to which a young man was exposed were neither few nor small; and older, stronger men often fell victims. But, from the first, Sewall had absolutely set his face against these things; and such was the natural purity of his character, his innate love of goodness and truth, that what to many was enticing, to him was disgusting; and few passed through the ordeal of those early California days more free and uncontaminated than he. His good mother's teachings here proved their value: he revered that mother, and did not forget her while away.

His military life commenced as early as 1852; and I think he served in every position, except first lieutenant, from a corporal up to captain, first in the Enreka Light Horse-Guards, and afterwards the First Light Dragoons. In 1854, he returned to his New-England home on a visit; and had so changed during the five years' absence, that even his mother did not know him. He came home *via* Nicaragua; and though the route was in bad condition, and detentions were frequent, he always found something to enjoy, while many were only annoyed.

He returned to California in November, 1854; and, soon after his arrival there, he went with a friend into the tea-business, which was quite successful, and in which he continued to show his abilities as a business-man.

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