On the 11th of April, 1873, Captain Metzgar, of the Pacific Mail steam ship *California*, made, at our request, an examination of this bank. At 1 o'clock a. m., in latitude 31° 43′, longitude 118° 51′, he sounded with ninety fathoms of line and found no bottom; at 2 o'clock a. m., in latitude 31° 38′, longitude 118° 45′, there was no bottom with ninety fathoms of line; and at 10 minutes past 3 o'clock a. m., in latitude 31° 33′, longitude 118° 38′, there was no bottom with ninety fathoms of line. These positions are nearly correct, and checked by previous and subsequent observations for the ship's position.

TABLE MOUNTAIN.

Within Mexican territory and ten miles from the sea board is the notable landfall of Table Mountain, lying south fifty four degrees east (S. 54° E.), twenty six miles from the light-house at Point Loma. Its geographical position is latitude 32° 29′ 05″, longitude 116° 51′ 17″. The summit of the mountain is flat and the sides are inclined at an angle of forty five degrees with the horizon. The breadth of its top is sixteen hundred yards and its elevation two thousand two hundred and forty four feet above the sea. A conical mountain appears a little west and southward of Table Mountain, but not quite so high; its sides are also inclined forty five degrees with the horizon. Still further to the west and southward appears an irregularly jagged top mountain, about two-thirds the breadth of Table Mountain and two thousand five hundred and sixty one feet in elevation. The latter mountain has been named Sharp Peak.

These mountains are prominent and noteworthy landmarks, because nothing like them exists on the coast, and they should be visible from fifty to fifty five miles from seaward in good weather. They were remarked by Vancouver, who gives a view of them in his volume of charts. We obtained the accompanying view of them in 1873, when heavy cumulus clouds covered the coast range.

Table Mountain is "La Mesa de la Cima" of Vizcaino, 1602. It is known to the Spanish inhabitants of California as La Mesa Redonda, on account of its almost circular area on top, which is covered with sharp, angular fragments of a reddish rock, whose other characteristics are not given.

Sixteen miles in from the coast line is the great chain of the coast mountains, which reach three thousand two hundred and ninety feet elevation at Double Peak in Mexico, and three thousand three hundred and eighty six feet at a peak three miles north of the boundary line. In clear weather these mountains should be seen farther seaward than Table Mountain and Sharp Peak.

All the coast land north of Table Mountain is comparatively low, and when a vessel is up with the Coronados the northern point of this table-land bears north by east three-quarters east (N. by E. ¾ E.).

DESCANSO POINT AND MEXICAN POINT.

A vessel coming up the Mexican coast on a general course northwest half north to northwest three quarters north (NW. ½ N. to NW. ¾ N.) may pass all the prominent headlands at a distance of five to ten miles. The Coronados Islands are made out at twenty five miles, when a vessel is half way between Point Banda (Todos Santos Bay) and the islets. The deep bight under Table Mountain and Sharp Peak, where the coast recedes five miles to the eastward, is named *Descanso Bay*. At the western limit of this bight is Descanso Point, which is characterized on the chart by a slight hill on the top of the bluff near its extremity. It is in latitude 32° 16′, longitude 117° 01′.

From Descanso Point the coast-line is the edge of a long stretch of mesa running as far north as the boundary line between Mexico and the United States. But for the first thirteen miles this shore line is nearly straight on a northwest three-quarters north (NW. ¾ N.) course to Mexican Point, abreast the Coronados Islands, where the shore changes its trend to north by west three-quarters west (N. by W. ¾ W.) for four and a half miles to the boundary, and continues to nine miles abreast the southern part of San Diego Bay.

The hills immediately behind this narrow mesa rise to four hundred and five hundred feet, and increase inland. Mexican Point shows out very well to all vessels coming from the southeastward; and when it bears north by west half west (N. by W. ½ W.), distant eighteen to twenty miles, it is fairly well above the horizon. At the same time a remarkable feature is seen on the very edge of the high mesa, where a moderately low, broad, and well-defined crater is seen on the ocean slope.