

Santa Barbara, Lieutenant Talbot, with only nine men under his command, was besieged by a large body of the enemy and compelled to evacuate the place. He gallantly forced his way through the besiegers to the mountains in the vicinity, where, refusing to surrender on any terms, he kept the enemy at bay like a tiger in his lair, until they set fire to the groves and bushes around him, and actually burned him out. He then forced a march of five hundred miles through the enemy's country on foot to Monterey, where his arrival caused the utmost joy to all the Americans, with whom he was a great favorite, and who had given him up as lost.

By the terms of the treaty of peace, California came into possession of the United States. Next came the discovery of gold and the rush of emigrants to that country from all parts of the world. Exaggerated stories of the immense mineral wealth of the new El Dorado inflamed the minds of men, and thousands left the slow but sure pursuits of home for sudden wealth in a strange land. With a few the dream has been realized; and although in the aggregate vast sums of gold have been obtained, yet a large proportion of the miners have learned the to them sad lesson that man, in any country, to be truly happy, must earn his living by the sweat of his brow. Through much exposure and suffering, wearied and heart broken, the poor miner has not unfrequently returned from the scene of his brilliant hopes to spend his last hours among his early friends—a sadder but a wiser man.

But to return. On the fifth of May, 1840, we made our adieus to our acquaintance in Santa Barbara, preparatory to falling down the coast. The American visited the sick Englishman, found him breathing faintly, and apparently very near death. But it was necessary to embark, and leave the dying man in the kind care of his nurses, who, I have no