

chales de la marina,' etc., which literally is 'the most ancient of all the naval officers,' etc., a translation at which we made some fun."

ARMY LIFE DURING THE GOLD EXCITEMENT.

Sherman continued in California until the end of 1849. During the time the Mexican War, in which, much to his chagrin, he took no part, was brought to a close, gold was discovered, and this newly acquired territory entered upon its career of prosperity. Army life in the midst of these transitions was not an enviable one. The monthly pay of a soldier was one-half of the daily pay of the citizen by whose side he worked, and to prevent desertion was impossible. The pay of an officer was, too, a scant pittance in view of the price of everything. By commutating his rations in kind Sherman was, however, enabled to get along, and during a two months' leave earned \$6,000 surveying, besides making a profit of \$1,500 out of an investment of \$500 as partner in a store. What is now San Francisco was then known as Yerba Buena. A naval officer, we are told,

"Lieutenant Washington A. Bartlett, its first alcalde, had caused it to be surveyed and laid out into blocks and lots, which were being sold at \$16 a lot of fifty varas square; the understanding being that no single person could purchase of the alcalde more than one lot of fifty varas, and one out lot of a hundred varas. Folsom, however, had got his clerks, orderlies, &c., to buy lots, and they, for a small consideration, conveyed them to him, so that he was nominally the owner of a good many lots. Lieutenant Halleck had bought one of each kind, and so had Warner. Many naval officers had also invested, and Captain Folsom advised me to buy some, but I felt actually insulted that he should think me such a fool as to pay money for property in such a horrid place as Yerba Buena, especially ridiculing his quarter of that city, then called Happy Valley."

That Benicia has the best natural site for a commercial city, I am satisfied; and had half the money and half the labor since bestowed upon San Francisco been expended at Benicia, we should have at this day a city of palaces on the Carquinez Straits. The name of "San Francisco," however, fixed the city where it now is; for every ship in 1848 '49, which cleared from any part of the world, knew the name of San Francisco, but not Yerba Buena or Benicia; and, accordingly, ships consigned to California came pouring in with their contents, and were anchored in front of Yerba Buena, the first town. Captains and crews deserted for the gold mines, and now half the city in front of Montgomery street is built over the hulks thus abandoned.

Of the discovery of gold we have this account:

I remember one day, in the spring of 1848, that two men, Americans, came into the office and inquired for the Governor. I asked their business, and one answered that they had just come down from Captain Sutton on special business, and they wanted to see Governor Mason in person. I took them in to the Colonel, and left them together. After some time the Colonel came to his door and called to me. I went in, and my attention was directed to a series of papers unfolded on his table, in which lay about half an ounce of yellow gold. Mason said to me, "What is that?" I touched it and examined one or two of the larger pieces and asked, "Is it gold?" Mason asked me if I had ever seen native gold. I answered that, in 1844, I was in Upper Georgia, and

there was some native gold, but it was much finer than this and that it was in veins, or in transparent quills; but I said that, if this were gold, it would be easily tested, first by its malleability, and next by acids. I took a piece in my teeth, and the metallic lustre was perfect. I then called to the clerk Biden, to bring in axe and picket from the back yard. When these were brought I took the largest piece and beat it out flat and beyond doubt it was metal, and a pure metal. Still, we attached little importance to the fact for gold was known to exist at San Fernando, at the south, and yet was not considered of much value.

The time seemed opportune for leaving the service; several offers of employment and partnership presented themselves, and Sherman's written resignation was at one time prepared, but vetoed by General Smith, who wanted him for his Adjutant General because of his familiarity with the country and knowledge of its then condition. Gibbs was then his aide de camp and Fitzgerald, Quartermaster. They had a general mess, and their efforts at housekeeping were simply ludicrous. One servant after another, whom General Smith had brought from New Orleans, with a solemn promise to stand by him for one whole year, deserted without a word of notice or explanation, and in a few days none remained but little Isaac. The ladies had no maid or attendants; and the General, commanding all the mighty forces of the United States on the Pacific coast, had to scratch to get one good meal a day for his family! He was a gentleman of fine social qualities, genial and gentle, and joked at everything. Poor Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Ogden did not bear it so philosophically.

"I confess," says Sherman, "that the fidelity of Colonel Mason's boy, 'Aaron,' and of General Smith's boy, 'Isaac,' at a time when every white man laughed at promises as something made to be broken, has given me a kindly feeling of respect for the negroes, and makes me hope that they will find an honorable 'status' in the jumble of affairs in which we now live."

RETURN FROM CALIFORNIA.

On the 2nd of January Lieutenant Sherman embarked for New York in the steamer Oregon; passage \$200, via Panama.

"We reached New York about the close of January, after a safe and pleasant trip. Our party, composed of Ord, A. J. Smith, and Rucke with the two boys, Antonio and Prufrio; put up at Delmonico's, on Broadway, Green; and, as soon as we had cleaned up somewhat, I took a carriage, went to General Scott's office in Ninth street, delivered my despatches, was ordered to dine with him next day, and then went forth to hunt a few old friends and relations, the Scotts, Hoyts, etc., etc. On reaching New York most of us had rough soldier's clothing, but we soon got a new outfit, and I dined with General Scott's family, Mrs. Scott being present, and also their son in law and daughter (Colonel and Mrs. H. L. Scott.) The General questioned me pretty closely in regard to things on the Pacific coast, especially the politics, and startled me with the assertion that "our country was on the eve of a terrible civil war." He interested me by anecdotes of my old Army comrades in his recent battles around the city of Mexico, and I felt deeply the fact that our country had passed through a foreign war, that my comrades had fought great battles, and yet had not heard a musket shot. Of course I sought it the last and only chance in my way, and that my career as a soldier was an end. After some four or five days spent

in New York, I was, by an order of General Scott, sent to Washington, to lay before the Secretary of War (Crawford of Georgia,) the despatches which I had brought from California. On reaching Washington, I found that Mr. Ewing was Secretary of the Interior and I at once became a member of his staff.

And here we may add, continued a member of his family ever since, Miss Ewing not long after becoming Mrs. Sherman.

Six months later Sherman attended General Taylor's funeral as a sort of aide de camp, at the request of the Adjutant General of the Army, Roger Jones, whose brother a militia general, commanded the escort, composed of militia and some regulars. Among the regulars he recalls the names of Captains John Sedgwick and W. F. Barry.

The years from 1850 to 1855 were divided between Missouri, Louisiana and California. In September, 1850, after a leave of absence, Sherman joined his company—(Light) Company C, Third Artillery, Bragg's, stationed at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. The other officers of the Company were 1st Lieutenant Hackett Brown, and 2nd Lieutenant Jas. A. Hardie:

"New horses had just been purchased for the battery, and we were preparing for work, when the mail brought the orders announcing the passing of the bill increasing the Commissary Department by four captains, to which were promoted Captains Shiras, Blair, Sherman, and Bowen. I was ordered to take post at St. Louis, and to relieve Captain A. J. Smith, First Dragoons, who had been acting in that capacity for some months. My commission bore date September 27, 1850. I proceeded forthwith to the city, relieved Captain Smith, and entered on the discharge of the duties of the office. Colonel N. S. Clarke, Sixth Infantry, commanded the department; Major D. C. Buell was Adjutant General, and Captain W. S. Hancock was regimental quarter master; Colonel Thomas Swords was the depot quarter master. Subsequently Major S. Van Fleet relieved Colonel Swords. . . . We continued to reside in St. Louis throughout the year 1851, and in the spring of 1852 I had occasion to visit Fort Leavenworth on duty, partly to inspect a lot of cattle which Mr. Gordon, of Cass county, had contracted to deliver in New Mexico, to enable Colonel Sumner to attempt his scheme of making the soldiers in New Mexico self supporting, by raising their own meat, and in a measure their own vegetables. I found Fort Leavenworth then, as now, a most beautiful spot, but in the midst of a wild Indian country. There were no whites settled in what is now the State of Kansas. Weston, in Missouri, was the great town, and speculation in town lots thereabout burnt the fingers of some of the Army officers, who wanted to plant their scanty dollars in a fruitful soil."

In September, 1852, Sherman left for New Orleans, to relieve Major Waggaman, against whom complaint had been made for what was regarded as Nepotism. General D. Twiggs was in command of the department, with Colonel W. W. S. Bliss (son-in-law of General Taylor) as his Adjutant General. Colonel A. C. Myers was Quartermaster, Captain John F. Reynolds aide de camp, and Colonel A. J. Coffee Paymaster.

"General Twiggs was then one of the oldest officers of the army. His history extended back to the War of 1812, and he had served in early days with General Jackson in Florida and the Creek campaigns. He had fine powers of description, and often entertained us, at his office, with accounts