

ting. Their hair was worn after the fashion of a pitch mop, and had some resemblance also to a crow's nest. Their bodies were glazed with filth and their ugliness such, that they would have been thought plain in an assembly of Hottentots. In fact they were the lowest and most rusty link I had ever seen, in the chain of mankind.

Having filled our casks at a fountain of the purest waters that ran swiftly across the beach (and that I dream of to this day when athirst and asleep), we sailed for the Bay of Saint Quentin. This was our head quarters for hunting ; and our first duty, and you may be sure it was also our pleasure, was to discharge the Russians and Indians from the ship; which by washing, scraping, liming and fumigation, we rendered habitable. We next examined the good Californian beef, which had not taken the salt, and was spoiled. To be thus deprived of prog disturbed our equanimity; such is the dependence of mind upon matter.

Southeast from the anchorage fourteen leagues, and from the continent two and an half, is Rock Redondo; and as the hunters found many otter in the vicinity, this was the place of deposit for skins. The rock produced no water, and we had to send weekly supplies for two hundred and fifty men.

Six leagues northward from our anchorage, and not far inland, are saline ponds which afford large quantities of salt, and I was one of the crew that went up to them for supplies. At night we arrived at the ponds and slept under a tent made of oars and sails. In the morning, as I was removing the tent, I saw something stirring in the folds, which was a rattle snake five feet long and large enough to swallow a cat. He was the largest I had seen, furnished with excellent teeth, and a rattle fit for a watchman. We killed about twenty more upon