

AN OLD REPORTER.

He Still Lives in Monterey County.

PAPER AND EDITOR ARE DEAD

The First Press Was Brought From Spain in 1830—The Paper Used Was Foolscap.

The only living member of the original staff of the first newspaper ever printed in California resides about five miles from Monterey in the Carmel Valley. His name is Swan, and every one calls him "Pioneer" Swan, partly to please him and partly because he deserves the title. Few men are interesting at 86, but "Pioneer" is still bright and clear in his memory and not entirely without ambition. If you ask him, he will tell you with evident relish, about some highly interesting interviews of his reportorial days. Great men were



"Pioneer" Swan, the First Reporter in California.

more approachable than reporters, and reporters were not so plentiful. Among the men that Swan interviewed were Sherman, Fremont and other lesser lights of California history. The old gentleman also likes to refer to the fact that he served on the first jury ever summoned in California, doubtful though the honor may be. It came about in this way. The Alcalde of Monterey, as of the other Mexican towns, had almost supreme power, and was jealous of it. In July, 1848, the Rev. Walter Colton, who was chaplain of the frigate Congress, was appointed Alcalde of Monterey. Colton was very conscientious and a firm believer in trial by jury. Early in his administration a dispute arose between an Englishman named Isaac Graham and a Frenchman, Carlos Eussillon, who was accused by Graham of stealing lumber. Colton summoned a jury, which consisted of one-third Americans, one-third Mexicans and one-third Californians. The witnesses represented half a dozen different languages, and all the testimony had to be interpreted to some portion of the hybrid jury. Swan, who was one of the Americans, says the trial lasted all day, and the jury returned a verdict which was quite in accordance with its queer make up. Of course, the verdict was a compromise. By it the defendant was acquitted of intentional theft, but he was ordered to pay for the lumber, while the plaintiff was directed to pay the expenses of the trial.

The small beginnings of this first newspaper in California are quite curious as related by Swan. The original press was imported from Spain by Jose Figueroa, the sixth Governor of California under Mexican rule. Figueroa, whose term of office expired early in 1835, imported the press with the intention of printing his



THE CUARTEL AT MONTEREY WHERE THE PRESS WAS FOUND

official reports. His gubernatorial career, however, was brief and stormy, and he never found time to collect his materials, much less print his reports; so the machine was consigned to a storeroom in the old cuartel, which was the Mexican soldiers' barracks in Monterey. There it lay, together with a keg of ink, covered with rubbish and undisturbed, until 1846. This was the year when Colton became Alcalde, and, with characteristic American restlessness, commenced to stir things up in the sleepy old town. The first thing that he did was to commence an investigation of all the Government property. Among this property was the cuartel, and here he found the old press. Being a man of literary tastes and some experience, he decided to start a newspaper and utilize his discovery. First, he selected a partner, Robert Semple, and then began a search for the requisite materials. There was ink and a press, but the ingenuity of the pair was taxed to restore the rules and the press and lost during its years of idleness.

In Colton's diary there is a description of the paper. Under the date of August 15, 1846, he writes: "I by the first newspaper ever published in California made its appearance. The honor, if such it may be, of writing the prospectus falls to me. It is to be issued every Saturday and is published by Semple & Colton."

"Little did I think when I relinquished the editorship of the North American in Philadelphia that my next feat in this line would be off here in California."

"My partner, Semple, is an emigrant from Kentucky who stands 6 feet 8 inches in his stockings. He wears a buckskin dress, a foxskin cap, is true with his rifle, ready with his pen and quick at the type case."

"He created the materials of our office out of a chaos of a small concern which Jose Figueroa intended to use in printing official reports."

"The press is old enough to be preserved as a curiosity. The nice had burrowed in the balls, there were no rules nor leads, and the types were rusty and all in lead. It was only by scouring that the letters could be made to show their faces."

STRANGE SIGHTS.

To Be Seen in an Arizona Canyon.

WONDERS ON ALL SIDES.

A Waterfall That Comes From the Face of a Solid Rock.

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado is looked upon as the great natural wonder of Arizona, and it deserves all that can be said of it in the way of grandeur and vastness. But there is a smaller canyon in the Territory much more interesting in many ways that is seldom heard of. This, however, is not strange, considering the fact that a survey has never been made of it and but one photographic instrument ever carried within its rugged walls; and that was only a small hand-camera, and that the place referred to is what is known as Sabine Canyon, and it is a rift in the southern side of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The mouth of the canyon is about twenty-five miles northeast of Tucson, Ariz., and the road to within a few miles of it is as smooth as an asphalt pavement.

The size of Sabine Canyon ranks with the Yosemite and Kings River canyons, but it has many features distinctively its own. It has no steep precipices like El Capitan and the natural beauty of grass and flowers, common in Yosemite during the summer, are absent. But Sabine Canyon has cliffs that make one dizzy to look up at, and surprises await the explorer at every side such as no other canyon of the country can boast of.

The great peculiarity of Sabine Canyon is the variety of vegetation that can be found within its walls at any season of the year. From the mouth of the canyon to the place it ends there is a difference of 6000 feet in elevation and as a consequence the vegetable growth comprises nearly everything known to botany. At the lower elevations giant cacti, palms and even the wild lemon grow in profusion. At the top nothing can be found but snow plants and lichens. In the summer the snow plants disappear and the lichens have a struggle for existence in the barren soil and rocks.

Sabine Canyon is about twelve miles long and has a general direction from northwest to southeast, but twists and spreads out among the hills, so at certain places it seems to go in every direction. In one place the canyon is three miles wide, and at another not more than 1000 feet.

It is not likely that Sabine Canyon will ever become a popular resort, for it is a journey of hardship to go even a few miles into it. It is also hard to find the way. Leaving Tucson the road to Agua Calientes is followed for twenty miles and then a trail is struck which leads to a certain point, marked by a peculiarly shaped cactus, this road must be left and a poorly defined trail followed over the desert. At places this can hardly be discerned on the sand and rocks, and when the low hills are reached nothing can be seen of it. Hills of sand and gravel stretch on every side, and even in the winter months the heat is unbearable. Travel is slow, and after leaving the road it takes at least three hours to reach the place called the canyon's mouth, which looks like a collection of peculiarly shaped mountains.

To reach this spot is a good day's journey, and at another not more than 1000 feet. It is not likely that Sabine Canyon will ever become a popular resort, for it is a journey of hardship to go even a few miles into it. It is also hard to find the way. Leaving Tucson the road to Agua Calientes is followed for twenty miles and then a trail is struck which leads to a certain point, marked by a peculiarly shaped cactus, this road must be left and a poorly defined trail followed over the desert. At places this can hardly be discerned on the sand and rocks, and when the low hills are reached nothing can be seen of it. Hills of sand and gravel stretch on every side, and even in the winter months the heat is unbearable. Travel is slow, and after leaving the road it takes at least three hours to reach the place called the canyon's mouth, which looks like a collection of peculiarly shaped mountains.

General public attention was thus attracted to the controversy, and the sentiment of the Government was expressed eventually to pass a bill for reduced postage. The rate under 250 miles was made 5 cents, while over that distance it was 10 cents, and these figures were gradually reduced until the present low rates were established. At present the old system seems incredible, and yet it might have held much longer had it not been for the efforts of James W. Hale, whose independent mail service was discontinued only when the close competition of the Government made it unprofitable to maintain it.

The author of cheap postage in Great Britain received a gift from the people of sum money equal to half a million dollars, but James W. Hale's reward came only from his own strenuous efforts.

It may be added that Mr. Hale's achievements were not limited to America. He inaugurated a cheap mail service to Europe and also originated the postal money order system, which was made part of his independent mail service, and thousands of dollars were transferred at the low charge of 5 cents for each remittance, without regard to amount.

Mr. Hale's death occurred about three years ago, after an illness of but three days. He bore the distinction of being the first man in the city of New York just previous to his death.

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A CANINE MARVEL.

He Performs Wonderful Memory Feats.

CAN REASON FOR HIMSELF.

Victor Knows Every Card in the Pack, Makes Change in Money and Calculates.

"Victor, come here." The command startled a handsome bull-terrier that had been resting under his master's chair, and he walked out in a semicircle and looked up inquiringly directly in front of Otto Weismann, who spoke to him. It there is anything in facial expression the brute's face plainly said, "Well, what do you wish?"

"Here, Victor, show the gentleman what you can do. Sit down, stand, over, walk this way. Now turn around to the gentleman."

The dog did everything as directed, although this was his introductory performance, and it ended with a bow. He is an extraordinarily intelligent animal, with a pedigree in a prize family and a medal-winner himself. His breed, associated with ideas of ugliness and vicious temperament, has a splendid specimen of refinement of blood in Victor; limbs slender, well-knit and slightly muscular, body similar in form to a fox terrier, though larger and stronger, and a head full of intelligence and spirit. His owner has such a high regard for him that the dog is personal friend, companion, attendant and frequently court fool on special occasions when entertaining the household in a circus in himself—actor, acrobat, clown and when not performing for the amusement of his master's friends he can be useful as well as ornamental. When he looks at his master's hand he can tell the figures of a deck of cards, and appears to possess an understanding that belongs



Victor Poses for His Picture.

only to maturer years, even in the human species. His sire is Orndorff's Crie and his mother is Queen, both pure-blooded terriers. In the last breed show he won third prize in the puppy class. What impresses one most forcibly is his wonderfully intelligent face and bright clear eyes. All the minor tricks, such as rolling, walking on two feet, sitting on chairs, jumping, etc., he will run through without stopping, or as fast as orders can be given. His record for a running long-jump in twenty-one feet, and in a room he will leap through a man's arms as high as the average man's breast. All these tricks Victor showed in a few minutes, while he appeared to enjoy the fun. Then Mr. Weismann told him to do more difficult tasks.

"Bring me your tail, Victor."

The dog began moving round in a circle, grabbing at his tail, which had a knack of keeping out of the way of his mouth. He understood the problem of making ends meet without having to snap his teeth and hurting himself, and Victor kept on circling, gradually bringing the two extremes together. At last he caught his tail very gingerly by a few hairs. But he had to walk across the room to where his master stood in one corner, which feat he accomplished by moving as a clyde does, in a roundabout way, until he put his head and tail in Weismann's hand. A similar trick was performed with difficulty, as the dog took one hind leg between his teeth and took it to his master by moving on three feet.

"What do you do if there's a crowd, Victor?"

Victor wagged his tail, trotted under Weismann's legs and squatted down in perfect security from the crowd. After these tricks came exhibitions of memory and what would certainly suggest reasoning powers in the dog. "This is where he shines," remarked the owner. "My friends



Victor Poses for His Picture.

ought to work both ways. Sados Peak—Have you been vaccinated? Toby Shewen—Yes, I was vaccinated when I was a boy. It took beautifully. "Don't you think you'd better have it done again? The human body, you know, changes every seven years. You are not the same person you were when a boy."

"That's true, and smallpox is a terrible disease. I think I've heard you say you had it once."

"Yes, I had it when a boy."

"Then, to be absolutely safe, don't you think you'd better go and catch it again? You're not the same person you were when a boy, you know."

Generally speaking, rivers flowing into the Mississippi River from the East have a slope of about three inches to the mile. Those from the West have an average descent of about six inches to the mile.

Victor appeared discouraged as he set about this trick with a worried look. He

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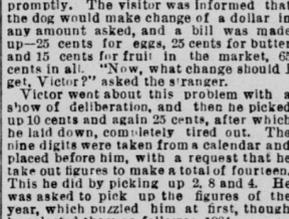
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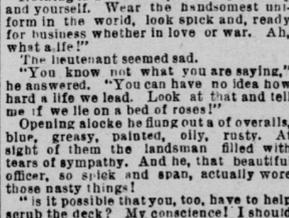
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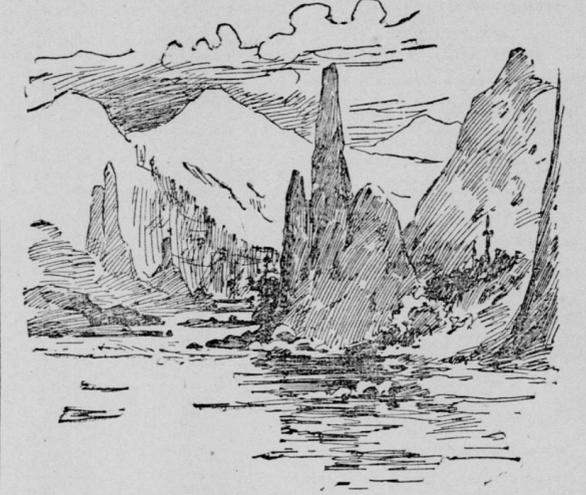
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GROUPS OF NATURAL STONE SPIRES.

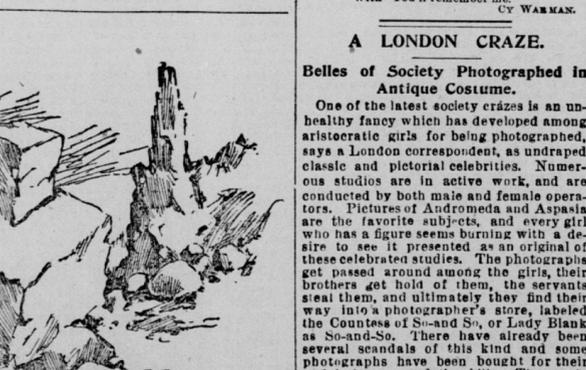
few hundred feet a steep wall of rock is met that renders it necessary to climb along the side of the canyon. This is very difficult and also makes the ascent in elevation very rapid. In less than five miles the tropical plants have entirely disappeared and other vegetation becomes more plentiful.

The local color in cliffs and rocks also changes, losing a great deal of its hardness and taking on grays and greens. About half-way up the canyon a strange balanced rock is seen. It consists of two rocks, really, the lower one being a cube of 150 feet. It is a solid stone, having square corners and tipped so that its upper surface is inclined at a steep angle. On this surface



VIEW NEAR THE CANYON'S MOUTH.

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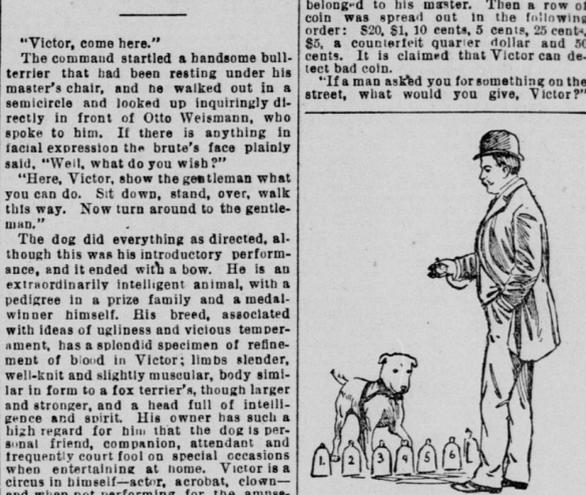


STONE BALANCED ON INCLINED SURFACE.

ney from Tucson, and man and horse will be glad to rest the night.

It is best to start early the next morning and travel up the canyon before it gets hot and then rest again until the cool of the afternoon.

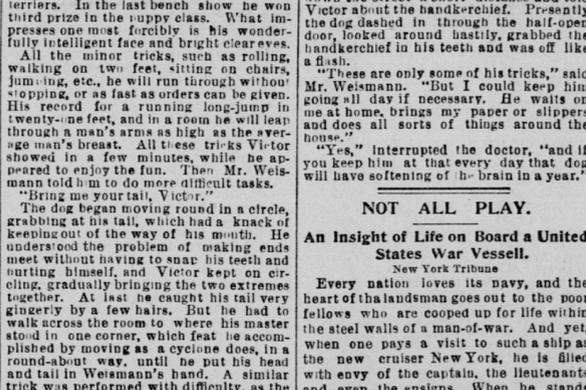
Within a mile from the canyon entrance the wonders of the place become visible. Rocks of peculiar shape rise hundreds of feet into the air like church steeples. A group of three of these are at least 1000 feet from the wall of the canyon, and the tallest is nearly 700 feet high. They come to the ground abruptly and do not cover a space of seventy-five feet square. So



GROUPS OF NATURAL STONE SPIRES.

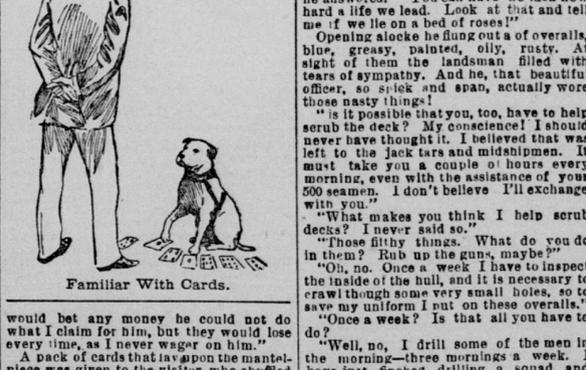
few hundred feet a steep wall of rock is met that renders it necessary to climb along the side of the canyon. This is very difficult and also makes the ascent in elevation very rapid. In less than five miles the tropical plants have entirely disappeared and other vegetation becomes more plentiful.

The local color in cliffs and rocks also changes, losing a great deal of its hardness and taking on grays and greens. About half-way up the canyon a strange balanced rock is seen. It consists of two rocks, really, the lower one being a cube of 150 feet. It is a solid stone, having square corners and tipped so that its upper surface is inclined at a steep angle. On this surface



VIEW NEAR THE CANYON'S MOUTH.

wide, and at another not more than 1000 feet. It is not likely that Sabine Canyon will ever become a popular resort, for it is a journey of hardship to go even a few miles into it. It is also hard to find the way. Leaving Tucson the road to Agua Calientes is followed for twenty miles and then a trail is struck which leads to a certain point, marked by a peculiarly shaped cactus, this road must be left and a poorly defined trail followed over the desert. At places this can hardly be discerned on the sand and rocks, and when the low hills are reached nothing can be seen of it. Hills of sand and gravel stretch on every side, and even in the winter months the heat is unbearable. Travel is slow, and after leaving the road it takes at least three hours to reach the place called the canyon's mouth, which looks like a collection of peculiarly shaped mountains.



STONE BALANCED ON INCLINED SURFACE.

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