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Reminiscences—No. 14.

In the heading of this number, I have purposely left out the words "of Honolulu," for the scenes and events spoken of in the following chapter or two will comprise in brief my "Reminiscences of California," for which country I sailed from Honolulu on the 4th of February, 1848, in the brigantine *Starling*. We were bound for San Francisco—then very generally known by the old Spanish name of "Yerba Buena"—but not fetching there went to Monterey, where we arrived on the 8th of March, *only* thirty two days passage. Gold was discovered near the south fork of the American River in February, but the fact was not publicly known until April.

California in the spring of 1848 was, in every particular, as may be supposed, a vastly different country from what the California of to-day is. Those who came to the country during the first gold excitement of 1849—there are not many now living—can bear witness of the wonderful changes that have taken place in thirty-two years. It is considered a distinction in San Francisco to be known as a "Forty-Niner;" I was a "Forty-Eighter."

Monterey offered no inducements in way of suitable employment, for I was neither a farmer, a *vaquero*, nor a brickmaker—about the only occupations going on—but a printer, so I traveled overland to San Francisco, where a newspaper was printed, *The Californian*, the pioneer paper of the Pacific slope and, together with the *Star*, was the progenitor of the present *Alta California*. The paper was first started at Monterey, when that place was occupied by the American naval forces, Dr. Colton, a naval surgeon, as editor and Robert Semple, a printer, being the founders. For a time, it was printed on an old font of Spanish types that had belonged to the Catholic mission, and there being no letter w in the font, two v's were put together, until a couple of cases, Long primer types were got from Honolulu. In the summer of 1847 the material was taken to San Francisco and shortly after, Mr. B. R. Buckelew became the proprietor. He was a watch-maker by trade, from Pennsylvania, and, like many another mistaken soul before him, and since, had an itch for writing and thought that the editing of a newspaper was merely recreation. He had in his employ a runaway sailor, who had somewhere learned a smattering of the art of typesetting; and the press was a "Ramage," a wooden affair, of the style in vogue when Ben. Franklin was a printer boy in Boston a hundred and fifty years ago. The *Star*, as I have related before in these Reminiscences, was founded by Sam. Brannan and edited by Edw. C. Kemble, the types and press having been brought out in the ship *Brooklyn*, in 1846, with the company of Mormons of which Brannan was the leader.

San Francisco—or Yerba Buena—in April, 1848, was only a village of some two or three hundred buildings, most of which were mere board shanties or adobe houses. The largest structure was the "City Hotel," opposite the Plaza and on the corner of Clay and Kearney streets, a wooden building of two stories. On the opposite corner was the "Portsmouth House," also a hotel. Other prominent buildings which I remember, were the stores of Howard & Mellis, on Montgomery street not far from the corner of Clay; Wm. H. Davis, on the corner of Clay and Montgomery; Sherman & Ruckle's, directly opposite the last, on the east side of Montgomery—which side was the beach then, washed by the waters of the bay—J. H. Parker, Clay street; Ross's, corner of Montgomery and Jackson street; A. J. Ellis's Jackson street; and Dickson & Hayes', Washington street. The town nestled in a small valley, rising gradually from the beach between an immense bluff, afterwards known as Telegraph Hill, over five hundred feet high, with precipitous sides to the water from 20 to 100 feet, and Rincon Point, rising about fifty feet, while in the rear was a range of hills some five hundred feet high. The inhabitants numbered about five hundred, four hundred of whom were whites, with a fair sprinkling of women, and not far from one hundred Hawaiians and Indians. The town was governed by an Alcalde and a Town Council, elected by the people. The former office was held at the time of my arrival by one George Hyde, but at an election held soon after Dr. T. M. Leavenworth was chosen Alcalde. He was *ex-officio* the Magistrate, and held his court, (with seldom anything to do) in a room of the City Hotel. Among the prominent residents, besides the merchants already named, were Captain Leidesdorff, Hiram Grimes, Captain Folsom, Sam. Brannan, a Mr. Merritt, Mr. Clarke (after whom Clarke's Point was named) C. V. Gillespie, F. Vioget, J. D. Hoppe, T. Harrison,—and others whose names I cannot recall.

Soon after my arrival I was employed by Buckelew on the *Californian*, and three weeks thereafter he turned the whole concern over to me—in fact, I became the proprietor, for the consideration of $1,500 *on paper*. The terms however, were easy, and if gold had not unfortunately been discovered, whereby everything was revolutionized, I might have done fairly in time. Everybody even then, had great expectations of the grand future that was in store for California. Although the Mexican war was not yet concluded, it was not doubted for a moment that the United States would retain the country. The magnificent bay and harbor of San Francisco, and the beautiful and fertile vallies of the Sacramento, the San Joquin and San Jose, it was felt, could never be again given over to the indolent Spanish-Indian rancheros, but must forever remain in the hands of Uncle Sam, who knew how to develope the dormant agricultural resources of this naturally rich country. And so indeed it has eventually proved, for California has become a great food-producing State after an infliction of many years of "gold fever."

I well remember the first intimation we of San Francisco had of the finding of gold. Two men who had arrived on a boat from Sutter's Fort on the American River, came into Buckelew's shop, and untying a small buckskin package, displayed about a half tea-cup full of shining yellow grains, and requested Buckelew to try it with his "watchmaker's stuff," and tell them what it really was. After repeatedly testing with acid, he declared it to be pure gold. The men declined to say where they had found it, and went away. The story was soon known in the village and the men were plied with questions, but they were very reticent, until evening, when under the influence of City Hotel whiskey they thawed sufficiently to let out the fact that the gold had been found in the bottom of the mill-race on the course of the American River, which was being dug by Capt. Sutter. The water from the river had been run through the race at night, and when it was shut off and had run out in the morning, there were the bright yellow particles of gold "dust" on the bottom.

The result in the town was, that everybody became excited. Nothing could be talked of but gold and gold-mines. Some few pretended to be skeptical, and much sage advise was freely given to those who were making immediate preparations to go to the diggings, about "wild goose chases," "letting well enough alone," etc., but in the end, almost every able bodied man in the town did go. And this last fact was the immediate cause of my own going. Three weeks after the discovery of gold was publicly made known, I was compelled to discontinue the publication of "The Californian," and announced the fact, giving my reasons therefor—the want of readers being the principal one—in an extra slip. This I set up, printed, and carried about town myself, for my printer, roller-boy and carrier had all gone to the mines. And in carrying my extra about town I found but few except women and Indians to take it, and the latter could not read it. So, Othello's occupation being gone, I provided myself with a pickaxe, tin pan, (for washing the soil for gold) and a few necessaries, among which were a bag of flour and some dried beef, and took passage on a launch for the "Embarcadero," on the Sacramento River. This was a point a short distance from the junction of the American River with the former, where boats rendezvoused with freight and passengers for Sutter's Fort and the diggings, and it is now a part of the great city of Sacramento. At the time of my arrival there were no houses on the spot, only a "remada," as the Spanish termed it, a sort of immense booth thatched with leaves, under which freight was stored and travellers "camped down." There were a goodly number of these who spread their blankets under the numerous large oak and other trees of the vicinity, while a few had been thoughtful enough to provide themselves with tents. There was, of course, a drinking booth, where spirits were retailed at 50 cents a glass—the price subsequently rose to one dollar, and then to a "pinch" of gold dust, which often was equivalent to three or four dollars, if the pincher had a big thumb and finger.

The diggings were as yet (in June) confined to the South Fork of the American River, some ten or twelve miles above the Fort, at a place which was named "Mormon Island," from the fact that a company of those people from San Francisco, under the leadership of Sam Brannan, composed the majority of diggers. For this place I proceeded, sending my baggage along by an ox team, which charged at the rate of $12 a ton freight. We called in at the Fort on our way. It presented a busy scene, three sides occupied with stores in which Brannan and others were busy in selling outfits to miners and weighing gold dust in exchange for goods. Coin of course was rare, and the gold was taken at from nine to fourteen dollars per ounce, it being really worth at the mint twenty-one. I met Capt. Sutter (somehow he afterwards got to be called General, probably through the American fashion of indiscriminately bestowing titles,) and took dinner with the old California pioneer and thorough gentleman, in his residence in the Fort. This structure reminded me much of the old Fort at Honolulu, its 20 feet high walls enclosing a square, though differing from the former in being built of mud (adobies) instead of coral. The idea was originally a defense against the Indians, but a more apparently harmless, puny race could scarcely be found than this, the representatives of which, male and female, swarmed in and about Sutter's Fort, and were dependents on the proprietor.

Arrived at Mormon Island, where we found a scattered camp of several hundred men, washing the bars and banks of the stream, myself and two friends—Jacob D. Hoppe and Stephen Harris, both long since deceased—pitched our tent and went to housekeeping. Bright and early next morning (the mornings *were* bright in the interior of California in June) we went down the steep bank of the river, and each selecting what we thought might be a favorable spot, began our experience as gold diggers. So much has been written and printed about the style and manner of life among the early California seekers after the precious metal, that I deem it hardly worth while to bore my readers with a detailed account of my adventures, or of the scenes, sometimes alarming and sometimes amusing, through which I passed. At the Mormon Island diggings, either my unskillfulness or my bad luck was the cause ill-success, for while men that were no more industrious than myself were cleaning up at the rate of six ounces every day, and within a few feet of me, I found, at the end of a fortnight, that about one hundred and fifty dollars worth of dust was all I had realized. One might suppose, under ordinary circumstances, that earning and getting at the rate of $300 per month over expenses was very good pay, and ought to have been stuck to; but the mischief was that others all around me were doing a great deal better, and thus I was an illustration of the postulate, that we are to a great degree fortunate or unfortunate simply by comparison with others. And so I got disgusted with Mormon Island, and hearing that large "strikes" were being made in the dry diggings at Weber Creek, I, in company with one F. A. Beardsley, (who I believe is now living in Contra Costa county) investing our means in a tent and a few "groceries," we seized the opportunity of a number of teams going that way, and struck out for the upper country.

H. L. S.

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Claims against Insurance Companies within the jurisdiction of the above Boards of Underwriters will have to be certified to by the above Agent to make them valid. 842 1y

Insurance Notice.
THE AGENT FOR THE BRITISH Foreign Marine Insurance Company (Limited) has received instructions to Reduce the Rates of Insurance between Honolulu and Ports in the Pacific, and is now prepared to issue Policies at the lowest rates, with a special reduction on freight per steamers.
THEO. H. DAVIES,
830 1y Agent Brit. For. Mar. Ins. Co., Limited

HAMBURGH-BREMEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING BEEN APpointed Agents of the above Company, are prepared to insure risks against fire on Stone and Brick Buildings, and on Merchandise stored therein, on the most favorable terms. For particulars apply at the office of 831 1y F. A. SCHAEFER & CO.

HAMBURG-MAGDEBURG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF HAMBURG.
BUILDINGS, MERCHANDISE, FURNITURE and Machinery Insured against Fire on the most favorable terms.
A. JAEGER, Agent for the Hawaiian Islands.
834 1y

Insurance Notice.
THE UNDERSIGNED ARE PREPARED to write upon Merchandise, per first-class vessels between this and the Coast Ports, covering loss or damage, if amounting to 10 per cent. or more, on the sound value of the whole shipment at port of delivery, upon favorable terms.
BISHOP & Co.
Agents of the Firemen's Fund Insurance Company.
Honolulu, Jan. 30, 1880. 873 3m

FIREMAN'S FUND Insurance Company.
A Leading Home Company.
Assets, June 30th............$767,307.17
Additional Cash Capital (now being called in) 350,000.00
Total Assets............$1,117,307.17
THE FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY basis its claims to the best patronage upon its sound financial condition, reinforced by its accession of capital, giving it over a million dollars in assets; its extensive system of Agencies, insuring it a large premium income, without the necessity of heavy concentration of lines; its adherence to the best principles and practices of Underwriting; by open, fair and clearly expressed contracts, and prompt and equitable adjustment and payment of legitimate losses.
For seventeen years it has been favorably known as a conservative underwriter, and during that time has paid over
$4,000,000 IN LOSSES.
Passing triumphantly through the heaviest conflagrations known in modern history.
BISHOP & Co., Agents,
1 3m Honolulu, H-I.

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.
Established 1836.
Unlimited Liability to Stockholders.
Assets............$31,236,100
Reserve............$ 9,730,000
Income for 1879:
Premiums received after deduction of reinsurance............$ 5,382,295
Losses promptly adjusted and paid here.
1 3m BISHOP & Co., Agents.

UNION INSURANCE COMPANY
OF SAN FRANCISCO.
Marine.
INCORPORATED, 1865
CASTLE & COOKE, AGENTS
871 For the Hawaiian Islands. 1y

Rhenish Westphalian Lloyd INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF M. GLADBACH, Rhenish Prussia.
Aachen and Leipzig Insurance Co., Limited,
OF AACHEN. (AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.)
ALL CLAIMS FOR PARTICULAR AVERAGE sustained by Goods arriving here, and insured in the above Companies, have to be made with the cognizance of and certified to by the undersigned, in order to be valid. J. C. GLADE, Agent.
842 1y

IRRIGATION!
IRRIGATION AFTER THIS DATE is strictly prohibited, except between the hours of 6 to 8 a. m., and 4 to 6 p. m. G. D. FREETH,
Approved: Superintendent of Water Works
[Signed] H. A. P. CARTER, Minister of Interior.
Honolulu, April 19th, 1881 875 3417

PACIFIC RUBBER PAINT,
A full assortment of this celebrated paint and ½ pand 5 gallon packages, all the desirable shades in colors. For sale by BOLLES & Co

Boston Board of Underwriters.
AGENTS for the Hawaiian Islands.
855 1y C. BREWER & CO.

Philadelphia Board of Underwriters.
AGENTS for the Hawaiian Islands.
855 1y C. BREWER & CO

WILDER & CO.,
Agents for the Hawaiian Islands,
—OF THE—
Mutual Life Insurance Co.
OF NEW YORK.
Largest, Safest and Most
ECONOMICAL LIFE INS. CO. IN THE WORLD!
Assets...(1880)...$90,000,000
ALL CASH.
Now is a Good Time to Insure
None but First-class risks taken.
873 3m

THE
New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.
OF BOSTON, MASS
INCORPORATED, 1835.
The Oldest Purely Mutual Life Insurance Co. in the United States.
Policies Issued on the most favorable Terms.
Example of Non-Forfeiture Plan
INSURED AGE, 35 YEARS—ORDINARY LIFE PLAN:
1 Annual premium continues Policy 2 years 3 days
2 Annual premiums continue Policy 4 years 12 days
3 Annual premiums continue Policy 6 years 27 days
4 Annual premiums continue Policy 8 years 46 days
5 Annual premiums continue Policy 10 years 56 days
Assets, : $18,500,000!
Losses Paid through Honolulu Agency, $49,000
CASTLE & COOKE, AGENTS
871 FOR THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS 1y

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE Insurance Company
Of London and Edinburg.
FIRE.
Established 1809.
Resources of the Company as at 31st December, 1880:
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL— Paid up........£ 500,000; Uncalled........1,500,000; £2,000,000
FIRE FUND— Reserve....£844,576 19 11; Premium Reserve....317,057 16 10; Balance of Profit and Loss Acc..39,608 9 2; £1,201,243 5 11
REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1880—Fire Premiums and Interest, £1,013,900 9.
E. HOFFSCHLAEGER & CO.,
865 50 Agents for the Hawaiian Islands

TRANS-ATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF HAMBURG.
Capital of the Company & Reserve..Reichsmark 6,000,000
" their Re-Insurance Companies " 101,650,000
Total............Reichsmark 107,650,000

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF HAMBURG.
Capital of the Company & Reserve..Reichsmark 8,830,000
" their Re-Insurance Companies " 35,000,000
Total............Reichsmark 43,830,000

SCHWEIZERISCHE LLOYD RUCK VERSICHERUNGS GESELLSCHAFT OF WINTERTHUR.
Capital of the Company............francs 5,000,000
THE UNDERSIGNED, GENERAL AGENTS of the above three companies for the Hawaiian Islands, are prepared to insure Buildings, Furniture, Merchandise and Produce, Machinery, &c., also Sugar and Rice Mills, and vessels in the harbor, against loss or damage by fire, on the most favorable terms.
851 1y H. HACKFELD & CO.

GERMAN LLOYD Marine Insurance Company of Berlin.
FORTUNA General Insurance Company of Berlin.
THE ABOVE INSURANCE COMPANIES have established a General Agency here, and the undersigned, General Agents, are authorized to take Risks against the Dangers of the Seas at the Most Reasonable Rates, and on the Most Favorable Terms.
867 1y F. A. SCHAEFER & CO., General Agents.

Guava Jelly,
MANUFACTURED OF
REFINED A. NO. 1 SUGAR
—BY—
F. HORN,
Pratical Confectioner & Pastry Cook
BAKERY
Pioneer Steam Candy, Factory
Lemon and Tamarind Syrups always on hand
Tamarinds
Put up in A. No. 1 Refined Sugars, highly recommended for Sea voyages.
American, French, English
—AND—
German Pastries
Made to Order at short Notice
Wedding Cakes Ornamented
In the highest Style of Art.
Rich fresh home made Chocolate Creams, Cocoanut and Cream Candies.
No. 71 Hotel Street bet. Nuuanu and Fort
878 1y qr

THOMAS LACK,
MACHINIST,
No. 40 Fort Street.
Will attend to all orders in the
CLOK, GUN & GENERAL REPAIR LINE.
He will give special attention to cleaning, repairing and regulating Sewing Machines, and all other kinds of Light Machinery and Metal Work of every description. Blacksmithing, etc.
Also, on hand and for sale cheap,
A Variety of Sewing Machines
Guns, Pistols, Shot, Ammunition,
Machine Oil, Needles, &c., &c., &c.
Sewing Machine Tuckers, Binders, and all other extra and duplicate parts of machines supplied on short notice. Best Machine Twist.
Sole Agent in this Kingdom for
The Florence Sewing Machine, from $40 to $80.
White Sewing Machine, from $45 to $75.
Home Shuttle Sewing Machine, from $18 to $45.
Including all extras. 860 1y

KNOWLES' STEAM AND VACUUM PUMPS
THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE JUST received per Amy Turner, from Boston, a full assortment of these celebrated Pumps, which are guaranteed to be cheaper and better than any other style of pump imported. We call the attention of planters particularly to the Vacuum Pump, which is less complicated and more serviceable than other pumps.
873 3m 15 tf C. BREWER & CO.

The Germania Market
HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY RENOVATED, and is now constantly in receipt of the best of
BEEF, MUTTON, VEAL AND LAMB,
From Choicest Herds.
Pork Sausages, Bolognas, Head Cheese, German Sausages, &c., always on hand, as also the best of Poultry and Fish.
Our Meats are all cut and put up in Eastern style. All orders faithfully attended to, and delivered in any part of the city.
45 6m RAUPP & SCHRADER, Proprietors.

COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON, IN barrels and half barrels. For sale by BOLLES & Co.

HOLLISTER & CO
BEG LEAVE TO
INFORM THE PUBLIC
That they have moved into their
NEW AND COMMODIOUS STORE,
In the Fire Proof Building
NO. 59 NUUANU STREET.
Three doors below their old stand, where may be found the most complete assortment of
Drugs, Chemicals & Toilet Articles
IN THE CITY.
Among a few of their Specialties may be found a Full Stock of
The Crown Goods
CONSISTING OF
Perfumes, Soaps, Cosmetics,
AND THE CELEBRATED
Opaline Face Powder.
These Goods received the highest award at the late Sydney Exhibition over all other competitors.
A LARGE ASSORTMENT
OF JOHN GOSNELL'S
Hair and Tooth Brushes,
Cameline for the Complexion and Teeth,
LUBIN'S AND PINAUD'S
Soaps Cosmetics and Face Powder,
CELLULOID TRUSSES
Especially adapted to this climate.
A Full Line of
Humphrey's Homeopathic Specifics,
Carbolic Acid and Chloride of Lime, for disinfecting purposes,
Agents for P. Lorillard & Co's Celebrated Tobaccos, and Drawing Room Tobacco and Cigarettes,
Buchanan & Lyle's Tobaccos,
Which we have lately introduced here, and which is rapidly growing into favor and demand.
WM. S. KIMBALL & CO'S VANITY FAIR
TOBACCO AND CIGARETTES.
Which are so well known all over the world as to ndeed no comment from us.
Goodwin & Co's Old Judge
TOBACCO AND CIGARETTES
ALWAYS IN DMANDE!
Among our One Hundred brands of CIGARS, we would call especial attention to the
'Hon. Bardwell Slote,"
The Favorite Red Brand, Pedro Murias
The Fragrant Stump.
They also continue to manufacture
Soda Water in all its Branches
Together with their
Belfast Ginger Ale.
870 30

WILDER & CO.
Importers and Dealers in
LUMBER
—AND—
BUILDING MATERIALS!
OF ALL KINDS.
JUST RECEIVED
—EX—
LATE ARRIVALS!
—SEVERAL—
LARGE AND WELL-SELECTED CARGOES
—OF—
NORTH-WEST LUMBER,
COMPRISING
ALL THE USUAL STOCK SIZES
—IN—
SCANTLING,
TIMBER, PLANK, BOARDS,
FENCING AND PICKETS
ALSO, ON HAND
A Most Complete Stock of
V FINE ASSORTMENT OF WALL PAPER
LATEST STYLES.
NAILS, LOCKS,
BUTTS, HINGES,
BOLTS, SCREWS, Etc
DRY REDWOOD!
Scantling; Plank, surface and rough
Boards, surfaced and rough; Battens, Pickets, Rustic, Lattice, Clapboard.
ALSO, IN STOCK,
Paint and Whitewash Brushes,
WHITE LEAD,
WHITE ZINC,
PAINT OIL,
METALLIC AND OTHER PAINTS!
Glass,
Salt,
Firewood.
DOORS SASH BLINDS
ALL SIZES,
Of Eastern and California Make.
FOR SALE IN QUANTITIES TO SUIT
AND AT
LOW PRICES
3m s73

Extra Mess Beef
FOR SALE, BY BOLLES & Co.