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CALIFORNIAN.

Vol. 1

MONTEREY, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1897.

No. 98

THE CALIFORNIAN—Is published every Saturday morning.
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EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES

JANUARY 17th 1847.

Sir—You will comply on the part of the United States—with the Articles in the Capitulation, made with the Californians, on the 13th inst., also with the additional article of the 16th.

For the benefit of all the Military Commanders North of this place, I send by the bearer Don Juaquin De La Torre a correct copy of the above mentioned capitulation.

You will please transmit this information to all U. S. Officers in command of Ports and forces to the North."

Very respectfully, yours ob'dt serv't.

1. C. FRÉMONT, Lieut. Col U. S. Army,
Sanitary Commandant of California

CAPT. W. A. MADDOX, Military Commandant
of Middle Department of California.

ARTICLES OF CAPTIVATION made and entered into, at the Ranch of Coweage, this Thirtieth day of January, Eighteen Hundred and Fifty Seven, between F. B. Reading, major; Louis McLane, Jr. commanding 3d Artillery; Wm. H. Russell, Ordnance Officer, commissions appointed by J. C. Fremont, Lieut. Colonel U States Army, and Military Commandante of California, and José Antonio Cantle, Comandante Equidros; Agustín Olvera, Deputado; commissioners appointed by Hoa Andros Pico, Commander-in-Chief of the California Forces under the Mexican Flag.

Article 6th. All Officers, Citizens, Foreigners or others shall receive the protection guaranteed by the 3d Article.

Article 7th. This explanation is intended to be no bar in effecting such arrangements as may in future be in justice required by both parties.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE

CONFIDENTIAL - U.S. & FOREIGN DISSEM. PROHIBITED

That the paroles of all officers, citizens and others of the United States and of naturalized citizens of Mexico are by this foregoing capitulation cancelled, and every violation of said paroles from and after this date are of no further force and effect and all prisoners of both parties are hereby released.

P. B. READING, Maj. Co's. Battalion.
LOUIS McLANE, Com'd. Artillery.
Wm. H. RUSSELL, Ordnance Officer.
JOSE ANTONIO CORRIE, Com'd.
of Squadron.
AUGUSTIN OLIVERA, Sergeant.

APPENDIX.

J. C. FREMONT, Lieut. Col. U. S. Army, and Military
Commandant of California
ANDREAS PICO, Command't of Squadron and Chief of
the National Forest of California

ARTICULOS DE CAPITULACION echo el día trece del mes de mayo de mil ochocientos sesenta y siete por D. José A. de Oñate Com'd'te. de Escuderos y D. Auguste Oñate diputado comisionados nombrados por D. Andrés Pico Com'd'te. en jefe de las Fuerzas de California pertenecientes al Gobierno Mexicano y P. B. Reading, Mayor del Batallón de California y Louis McLane Jr. Capitan de Artillería, y VV. H. Russell Capitan de Ordenes, comisionados nombrados por el Teniente General del Ejercito de los Estados Unidos de Norte America J. C. Fremont militar Comandante del Territorio de California.

Artículo 14. Las comisiones por parte de los Californios se comprometen a) presentar su fuerza al teniente Coronel Fremont entregársela las Armas que tengan del Gobierno y la Artillería y que se retiraran pacíficamente a sus casas conformándose con las Leyes y regulaciones de los Estados Unidos, de Norte América y no volver a tomar Armas durante la presente guerra entre México y los Estados Unidos.

Although Sloat's landing in Monterey, July 7, 1846, was a conquest in which no shot was fired, and there was rejoicing when the American flag replaced that of the Bear Flag Republic in Sonoma, events in the south took another course. Commodore Stockton had sent Fremont and his battalion to San Diego to take the field against the Californians. Fremont marched north to Los Angeles without incident, and met Stockton who, with Larkin as passenger on the flagship, had sailed south with fighting forces. On August 13, 1846, in deceptive quiet, the American flag was raised in the Plaza of the City of the Angels. There was no enemy in sight. Confident, Stockton left for the north with most of his marines, leaving Captain Gillespie in command with a minimum fighting force. No sooner was the fleet well out than the resourceful Californians made a surprise attack on the American quarters. Gillespie resisted for several days, but hopelessly outnumbered, capitulated and was permitted to withdraw to the coast to ship north. Not, however, before his courier made a dangerous non-stop ride to Monterey to report the turn of events to Consul Larkin. Reinforcements were sent and fighting resumed, spreading north even close to Monterey. Resentment and hostility toward American forces had erupted into war. Larkin, rashly leaving Monterey to go to Yerba Buena where his daughter was dangerously ill, was captured and made prisoner near Natividad by the Californians. (By January 13, 1847, the Californians were defeated, and a peace treaty ended Mexican rule, and Larkin was to return to Monterey.)

But before this, in Monterey, there was concern about how to reconcile the natives and keep peace. The idea of a newspaper as one means was born. The following account (parts of which appeared in the **Monterey Peninsula Herald**, February 4, 1979), by **Noticias** correspondent J. Clifford Gallant, is of that first California newspaper and of the old printing press involved.

THE WEST'S FIRST PRESS AND NEWSPAPER IN MONTEREY

On August 15, 1846, less than a month after Commodore Sloat had appointed Walter Colton, chaplain of the naval vessel *Congress*, as Monterey's new alcalde and judge, a newspaper, the **Californian**, was published in Monterey. Colton and Dr. Robert Semple were listed as editors.

Colton, a Vermonter and ordained Congregational minister, had served as naval chaplain in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. When relations with Mexico reached a crucial state, he was ordered to the *Congress*, then bound for the Pacific. Semple had been involved in the Bear Flag revolt at Sonoma a month before the forces under Sloat landed at Monterey. A native of Kentucky, his six-foot, seven-inch frame towered over most of his contemporaries. As a youth he had been apprenticed to a printer. Not satisfied with setting type, he tried other occupations, finally becoming a dentist.

It is thought that the newspaper was Semple's idea and that he induced Colton, who had been editor in Philadelphia of the **North American**, to become his partner. He noted that the naval authorities offered him the use of Zamorano's equipment, and "Parson Colton, who is practiced in the chair editorial is highly pleased and offers his talents and the warm support of the Commodore."

He later wrote that it was his opinion that "a well conducted paper at this time would do more to conciliate the natives and unite the foreigners residing in California than any other step which can be taken." This was the opinion of the authorities.

The first issue of the **Californian** written by Colton and Semple was printed in English and Spanish. Semple set the type. Production was under extremely difficult conditions. Colton wrote in his diary on August 15: "Today the first newspaper ever

published in California made its appearance . . . The press was old enough to be preserved as a curiosity; the mice had burrowed in the (ink) balls, there were no rules, no leads, and the types were rusty and all in pi (mixed up). It was only by scouring that the letters could be made to show their faces. A sheet or two of tin were procured, and these, with a jack-knife, were cut into rules and leads. Luckily we found, with the press, the greater part of a keg of ink; and now came the main scratch for paper. None could be found, except what is used to envelop the tobacco of the cigar smoked here by the natives . . . It is in sheets a little larger than the common-sized foolscap. And this is the size of our first paper, which we have christened the **Californian**."

He also wrote, "He (Semple) created the materials of our office out of the chaos of a small concern, which had been used by a Roman Catholic monk in printing a few sectarian tracts."

Herbert Fahey, printing historian, and the late Harry Downie, Carmel authority on California missions, dispute this statement. These experts credit Augustin Vincente Zamorano with bringing the first printing equipment to Alta California.

The most important story of the first issue of the **Californian** was that President Polk had proclaimed war on Mexico. That story had been on its way to California for almost three months, but Colton said it reached the public for the first time "through our sheet." He continued: "A crowd was waiting when the first sheet was thrown from the press. It produced quite a little sensation."

Colton said this first number, although small in dimensions, was "full of news as a black-walnut is of meat."

Typical news items were:

"We understand that Captain Fauntelroy was to leave quarters at San Juan yesterday evening for another Indian excursion to the mountains."

"The last news from Capt. Fremont, he had procured horses to mount his company, and was marching towards Castro's headquarters."

"Our own town is entirely quiet, and the old inhabitants are becoming satisfied with the new state of things."

Little local news was printed, since the "word-of-mouth telegraph" made these stories old by the time the weekly **Californian** came off the press. Subscription rates were \$5 a year and 12½¢ a copy.

Fortunately for the **Californian**, another man, in the armed services stationed in Monterey, had previous printing experience. Colton wrote, "My partner . . . has been absent several weeks. All the work of the office had devolved upon a sailor who has set type for a whole paper, with fingers stiff as the ropes around which they have coiled themselves."

Semple's absence from Monterey was due to his involvement with Gen. Vallejo and former U.S. Consul Larkin in the founding of the city of Benicia, which they thought would become the metropolis of San Francisco Bay.

He must have given some obscure reason for his absence, because Colton noted, "My tall partner is back at last . . . I excused his long absence and cheerfully endured all the toil of getting out the paper, with only the assistance of a type-setting sailor, under the vague impression that he was hunting up a wife. But he has come back as single as he came into the world. Whether his solitude is a thing of chance or necessity, I have not inquired."

The type-setting sailor was Joseph Dockrill who was given his discharge to work on the paper. Not to be outdone, the Army found a soldier-printer, Benjamin Park Kooser.

Western newspapermen at this time allowed their personalities and prejudices full

swing. This is exemplified in the attack the *San Francisco Star* made on its contemporary. "We have received two late numbers of the **Californian**, a dim, dirty little paper, printed in Monterey, on the worn out material of one of the California war presses. It is published and edited by Walter Colton and Robert Semple, the one a lying sycophant and the other an overgrown lickspittle."

"Dim, dirty little paper," or not, they were able to get readers; the August 22, 1846 issue announced that "Mr. Wm. H. Davis, has been appointed our agent for the Sandwich Islands."

News items, no matter how old, were printed: "August 29, 1846 — THE MORMONS FOR OREGON — The following curious letter has been received by Col. Wentworth of Illinois, a member of Congress:

Nauvoo, Ill., Dec. 17, 1845

Sir — On the event of an act of Congress for the erection of those forts on the Oregon route, suggested in the President's message, we should be pleased if you would exert your influence in our behalf, as we intend to emigrate west of the mountains in the onsuung season. Our facilities are great and we are enabled to build them at a lower rate than any other people. I have written the Secretary of War on the subject and shall be pleased by your cooperation also, for transportation of the mail.

Yours, &c,
Brigham Young
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints."

Addresses were not necessary in the Monterey of 1846. Note Hartnell's ad. The lack of type is obvious, see a capital C being used in place of an O.

"Nctice The subscriber offers his services to the public as a *general translator* of all languages spoken and written in California. Office at his home in Monterey.

W.E.P. Hartnell

Was the area as peaceful as we have been led to believe, or did this order printed in the November 7, 1846 issue come from an over zealous officer?

"Headquarters, Monterey, Oct. 17th 1846

ORDERS — From date, no person will be permitted to pass in the streets of this town on horseback after sunset, or to pass on foot after drum-beat, at 8 o'clock, P.M. till sunrise, without my written permission.

Wm. A.T. Maddox, U.S. Marine
Corps
Military Commandant of the Middle
Department of Calif.

Full page advertisements were unknown, but one of the enterprising merchants of Monterey ran regular ads, such as,

CASH STORE. Just received by *Park Don Quixote*, an assortment of DRY GOODS and GROCERIES, CHEAP FOR CASH, ALSO, a few ENGLISH SCHOOL BOOKS.
MILTON LITTLE"

Although there is no record of disputes between the partners, Colton must have resented the absence of Semple who was away much of the time. Added to his duties as Alcade of Monterey, Colton was appointed judge of the Admiralty Court. These responsibilities and his desire to rejoin his family in New England may have decided him to sever his connection with the weekly paper. In May of 1847, he turned the paper over to Semple, who forseeing the future importance of San Francisco, moved the paper to that city a few weeks later.

There was no mention of the contemplated move in the last issue printed in Monterey.

When making a judgement as to the effectiveness of this small paper in a territory that was soon to be admitted to the Union as a state, the opinions of those living at the time must be considered. Kremble, a newspaperman and a historian, wrote in the **Sacramento Union** in 1858, "From first to last it was a timid obsequious flatterer of the naval authorities in this country, never raising its voice in disapprobation of their acts."

Other authorities agreed that this charge was true at the inception of the news organ, but that in its later issues it redeemed itself.

When the **Californian** left Monterey, the community was without a newspaper for some years. Many attempts were made to establish papers, but it was not until the **Monterey Cypress**, later the **Monterey Peninsula Herald**, was established in 1907, that a permanent newspaper was available to area residents.

The old press, regarding which conflicting opinions about its identity are referred to above, involves Don Augustin Vicente Zamorano and a press known by his name.

Augustin Vicente Zamorano, who is believed to have been responsible for the first printing in Alta California, came to Monterey in 1825. This frontier village of about one hundred whitewashed adobe dwellings, many of them in squalid condition, clustered around the Presidio and Custom House, was surrounded by the bay and the pine forest.

With no stimulating intellectual life available to him, Zamorano, a sophisticated, cultured man, often must have yearned for the Mexico City he had left behind.

Born in Florida and active in the revolt against Spain, he came to the capital of Mexico's Northern California province as executive secretary to the governor and commander of the province's most important military base, the Presidio of Monterey. During the absence of the governor, he acted in his stead for one year.

His biographer, George L. Harding, described him as having many accomplishments, not being limited to the political and military training of most men in his position. An artist, he painted a self-portrait for his wife, which fortunately was photographed, since it was destroyed in a fire shortly after the turn of the century.

The press that was to become known to printing historians as the Zamorano press did not arrive with him, but rather it is thought that he brought a seal press from Mexico together with enough type to print headings for legal papers. Some examples of this work have been preserved. The printing of books had to wait a few years.

In 1833, Zamorano was able to fulfill his desire to produce books, etc. The ship *Logoda* arrived from Boston with a press and type as part of her cargo, and for \$460 Zamorano was the owner of this equipment. The following year must have been a training one, since he was not a printer and none lived in Monterey.

Did he train a local person to operate the press, or was he able to persuade a native of Mexico proper to come to this outpost on the Pacific Coast? There is no answer to this question, but it is known that broadsides and books came off the press in the next few years, and that they were of poor quality.

Zamorano was forced into exile in 1836 by the successful revolt against the provincial government. The revolutionaries were led by Juan Bautista Alvarado and Jose Castro. The printing equipment was confiscated by the insurrectionists.

Between the exile of Zamorano and the arrival of the Americans in 1846, the printed word had a precarious existence, due to the unstable government.

The first man to operate the press under the new 1836 government was Santiago Aguilar who was educated for the priesthood, but not ordained. A year later he was

removed, accused of political plotting; the press was sent to Sonoma, the headquarters of Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, military commander of California. It is suspected that Jose de la Rosa was employed by Vallejo to print proclamations.

The press was then returned to Monterey where Henri Cambuston, a Frenchman and teacher with Manuel Castaneres, the clerk of the Custom House produced a few pieces of printing. They were later replaced by Jose de la Rosa, the last printer under Mexican rule.

It is unknown why the press was retired to storage, but it had been there for some time when discovered by Colton and Semple. In the pre-war period, Thomas C. Larkin, U.S. Consul and a correspondent to the **New York Sun** wrote: "There is a printing press belonging to the government. As it was old when imported ten or twelve years ago, it has not improved since." This was the press that was to print California's first newspaper.

Unfortunately, on November 13, 1851 the press was burned in Columbia in an act of barbarism.

J.C.G.



Woodcut of Augustin Vincente Zamorano
by Mallette Dean. Taken from a self-portrait.

* * *

Among those members to whom in our Association's 50th Anniversary Year we wish to pay tribute are Donald Munro Craig, whose researches yielded further information about Monterey's first newspaper, and Mayo Hayes O'Donnell, who was closely identified with our present **Monterey Peninsula Herald**.

Donald Munro Craig was a native San Franciscan with a life-long interest in California history. He taught Spanish for years at Carmel High School, and was editor of the first **Noticias**, in March 1957. He continued as editor until his death just before the December issue in 1968. Many were his contributions to the **Noticias**.

It was he who through extensive research established the identity of "W.G.", a correspondent who in 1846-47 was sending an extraordinary series of "letters" from Monterey to editors of the Philadelphia newspapers, **The North American** and **U.S. Gazette** and **Journal of Commerce**. The "letters" reported on political events and gave lively, informative accounts to easterners of far-off California's industries, social life, and customs.

The unidentified author "W.G." who thus recorded the California scene was none other than Alcalde Colton's secretary, William Robert Garner. This story, the life and

times of Garner, and his "letters" were put together by Mr. Craig in a book, *Letters from California*, published by the University of California Press in 1970, unfortunately after Mr. Craig's death. The book is a major contribution to local history.

As Mr. Craig writes, the vocation of Walter Colton was, aside from his ministry, writing. He had published travel books in 1835 and 1836, and in 1846 was gathering material for his *Three Years in California*, now a history classic. Colton spoke no Spanish, and knew little of California life, history, or culture so he chose as clerk, translator, and mentor in California matters William Garner who had earlier been selected secretary for the *Cyane's* pursar, Rodman Price. (He was one of two *alcaldes* Sloat had first appointed but who really never functioned as such before leaving.) Colton was appointed July 28, 1846.

In addition to choosing Garner as his secretary, Colton arranged to have him correspondent for the eastern papers who had requested one. His articles or "letters" were sent under "W.G." authorship.

William Garner also contributed to the short-lived **Californian**, as Mr. Craig found. On September 17, 1847, it was Garner's article which announced in Spanish the results of the *ayuntamiento* or city council election in which Colton received a slim but effective plurality and became the elected, not appointed, *alcalde* and judge. In the same issue an article in Spanish in Garner's style "advised the carefree Californians to stop 'borrowing' horses and slaughtering other people's cattle and to seek honest employment." A November 28 issue beginning "O, mis amados paisanos" was Garner's appeal to the California guerrilleros to lay down arms and accept amnesty. Thus, to this extent the new newspaper was being used as an instrument to promote peace between American and Californians, as Semple had hoped.

A Christmas number of the newspaper was an open letter by Garner to fellow parishioners of the Monterey San Carlos Presidio Chapel to help pastor Padre Doroteo Ambris out of his state of poverty. Garner led the appeal for subscriptions by putting up \$2.

Hartnell had been the translator of official documents, but he left for Honolulu in December. Garner became the Spanish editor.

Colton and Garner often wrote about the same events, each giving his own account and impressions about such subjects as, for example, a California *pastorela*. Garner apparently wrote the *Los Pastores* article which appeared in the **Californian** January 2, 1847.

Both men tended to write in similar style. Colton often used material verbatim from Garner's lively observations on California life that went east in the form of "letters."

Garner, the expatriate Englishman whose life in California from 1825 on was as whaler, lumberman, rancher, miner, long-time Monterey resident, participant in revolutions, sheriff of Monterey, and secretary to Colton, was killed in the Sierra Nevada in 1849 by an Indian arrow.

D.T.

NEXT ISSUE:

Tribute to Mayo Hayes O'Donnell by Ted Durein.

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