

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### Rare Books

John Howell Books has just issued Catalogue 33 a list of rare books and manuscripts English literature of voyages travels and early chronicles of California and Western Americana and history of science which includes a number of very valuable items concerning the history of Monterey. Warren Howell owner manager of this fascinating bookstore at 434 Post Street in San Francisco has presented us with a copy and we hasten to tell our readers about the catalogue's contents.

Under title "The Territory of California Now Belongs to the United States" is a description and history of the first Californian Extra printed in Monterey September 5, 1846 and valued at \$45 00.

The Californian, first newspaper in California, had been established just three weeks before the extra was issued. The press on which it was printed had been the first press in California coming to Monterey in 1834 and on this press California's first printer, Agustin V Zamorano, had printed. The first printing of the historic proclamation of Commodore Stockton announcing that the Territory of California was no longer Mexican but American.

In the proclamation Stockton tells of his entry into Los Angeles. Then to the people of California he declares:

"The flag of the United States is now flying from every commanding position in the territory and California is free from Mexican domination. The Territory of California now belongs to the United States."

This is a notable California document Mr. Howell writes that there are but four copies including the copy described in the catalogue known to exist. It is printed in both Spanish and English.

Also listed is "The First Rules of Practice in California" or "Rules of Practice in the Supreme Court of California," eight volumes sewed as issued, San Jose 1850, valued at \$275. The books are in excellent condition according to Mr. Howell.

"The Discovery of Gold in California," by Manuel Castanares, a document in fine condition, printed in Mexico in 1845, is valued at \$750. It contains the first published mention of the discovery of gold in California.

Another valuable book listed in the catalogue tells in detail of the first entry of an American ship into California. It is Peron's "Memoirs de Capitaine Peron" in eight volumes, printed in Paris, in 1824. Mr. Howell writes that they are fine copies. Peron was chief officer of the Otter, Captain Ebenezer Dorr master. His account deals with California and the northwest coast Captain Dorr sailed into the Port of Monterey on October 31, 1796. The Otter was the first American vessel to touch at a California port. It was a northwest trader which had run out of provisions and Dorr concluded to stop at Monterey to secure supplies if possible before proceeding to China. These books are valued at \$235

Another notable California document is S. W. Kearney's "Proclamation," printed in Monterey March 1, 1847. Printed in both English and Spanish it is valued at \$25.

Kearney, as senior officer of the land forces, replaced Stockton the senior naval officer, and this is his "inaugural" address. These are two of the earliest statements, this one by Kearney and that of Stockton referred to above, made on the scene of American policy toward California and the Californians.

"When Mexico forced a war upon the United States, time did not permit the latter to invite the Californians as friends to join her standard . . ."

". . . the Star Spangled Banner floats over California and as long as the sun continues to shine, so long will it float there, over the natives of the land, as well as well as others, who have found a home. . ."