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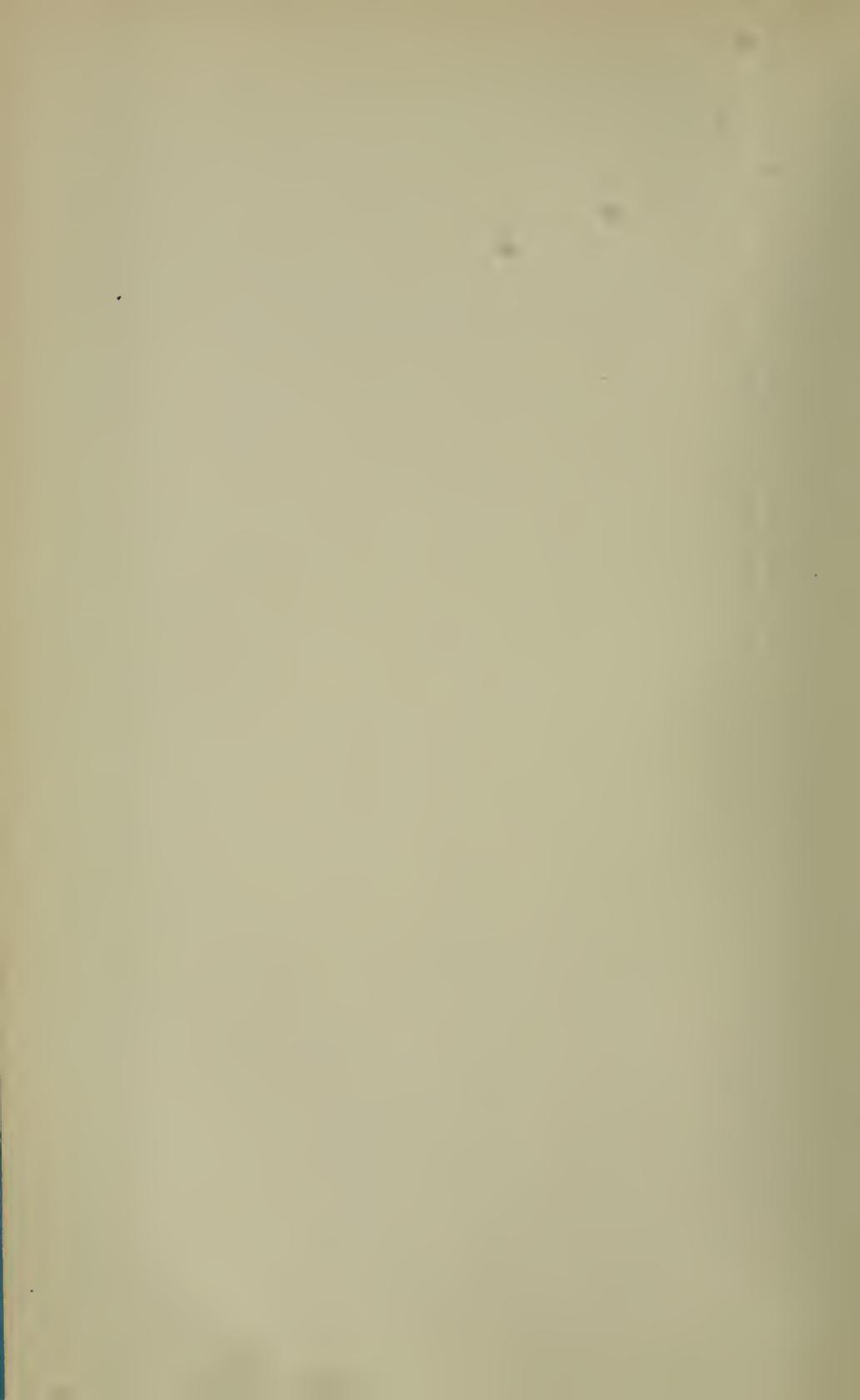
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Langsdorff's Narrative  
of the Rezanov  
Voyage ..

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B e m e r k u n g e n  
auf einer  
Reise um die Welt

in  
den Jahren 1803 bis 1807

von

G. H. von Langsdorff,

Kaiserlich - Russischen Hofrath,

Ritter des St. Annen - Ordens zweiter Classe, Mitglied mehrerer Akademien und  
gelehrten Gesellschaften.



Zweiter Band.

---

Mit siebenzehn Kupfern.

---

Frankfurt am Mayn,  
Im Verlag bey Friedrich Witmanß.

1 8 1 2.

**VOYAGES AND TRAVELS**  
IN  
**VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD,**

DURING  
THE YEARS 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, AND 1807.

BY  
**G. H. VON LANGSDORFF,**

AULIC COUNSELLOR TO HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA,  
CONSUL-GENERAL AT THE BRAZILS, KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF ST. ANNE, AND MEMBER OF  
VARIOUS ACADEMIES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES.

---

**P A R T II.**

CONTAINING  
*THE VOYAGE TO THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND NORTH-WEST COAST OF AMERICA,*  
AND RETURN BY LAND OVER THE  
*NORTH-EAST PARTS OF ASIA, THROUGH SIBERIA,*  
TO  
*PETERSBURGH.*

*Illustrated by Engravings from Original Drawings.*

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\* \* \* THE REPORT OF NIKOLAI PETROVICH REZANOV to Count Nikolai Petrovich [Romanzov], the Russian minister of commerce at Saint Petersburg, of his voyage in 1806 from Sitka, Alaska, to Nueva California, — "the first footstep of a Russian on the soil of Nueva California." The MS. translation of the report in the Academy of Pacific Coast History at Berkeley has been thoroughly revised, its omissions supplied, and its many inaccuracies corrected. A limited edition of two hundred and sixty numbered, signed, and registered copies. Price \$15, net. Langsdorff was the physician of Rezanov.

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THE PRIVATE PRESS OF THOMAS C. RUSSELL  
1734 NINETEENTH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



LANGSDORFF'S  
NARRATIVE OF THE REZANOV  
VOYAGE TO NUEVA CALIFORNIA  
IN 1806

*This Book*

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GEORG HEINRICH VON LANGSDORFF  
(1774-1852)

*The PRIVATE PRESS of THOMAS C. RUSSELL, San Francisco*





GEORG HEINRICH VON LENZHOFF  
(1740-1804)

*Portrait of Georg Heinrich von Lenzhoff, 1740-1804.*

LANGSDORFF'S  
NARRATIVE OF THE REZANOV  
VOYAGE TO NUEVA CALIFORNIA  
IN 1806

BEING THAT DIVISION OF DOCTOR GEORG H. VON  
LANGSDORFF'S BEMERKUNGEN AUF EINER REISE  
UM DIE WELT, WHEN, AS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, HE  
ACCOMPANIED REZANOV TO NUEVA CALIFORNIA  
FROM SITKA, ALASKA, AND BACK

AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
REVISED, WITH THE TEUTONISMS  
OF THE ORIGINAL HISPANIOLIZED,  
RUSSIANIZED, OR ANGLICIZED, BY  
THOMAS C. RUSSELL

ILLUSTRATED  
WITH PORTRAITS AND A MAP

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
THE PRIVATE PRESS OF THOMAS C. RUSSELL  
SEVENTEEN THIRTY-FOUR NINETEENTH AVENUE

1927

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I N S C R I B E D T O  
T. C. VAN NESS, JR.  
C O U N S E L O R A T L A W  
S A N F R A N C I S C O



## THE PRINTER'S FOREWORD

**M**ERELY TWO PAGES form the Printer's Foreword to The Rezanov Voyage to Nueva California in 1806. Langsdorff's narrative of that voyage, as printed in English and published in London in 1814, being a hack-translation, had been revised with the aid of several German scholars, and it only remained, before beginning composition, to consult Rezanov's "letter" (properly a "report") in Tikhmenev's Historical Review. This examination, as stated in the Foreword to Rezanov's Voyage, "led quickly to the decision that the report should be printed first." And this is how it came to be so printed. Many matters that might have been set forth in the Foreword to Rezanov were held over for Langsdorff. How these should be presented was being considered, when, suddenly, the attention of this Press was called to an attack upon the Rezanov Voyage as printed. This determined the plan of this Foreword.

In the English translation of Rezanov's report by Ivan Petrov (not "Petrovich," as his name is spelled by the Gamaliel making the attack), omissions are made that have misled historians, one of which – that proving conclusively that Rezanov was acting in good faith with Doña Concepción – is noted in the Foreword to Rezanov, and also therein is noted a raw translation of the doña's merry description of Nueva California. To these may be added another, "You no understand me good, governor also order me ask you." (See Rezanov, p. 20.) This indicates the sort of work writers using Rezanov's report in English have had to struggle with for the past half-century. The Petrov MS. is in the library of the Academy of Pacific Coast History (Bancroft Collection) at Berkeley, and there had been no printed rendition of Rezanov's report, in English, prior to that issued from this Private Press.

Our Gamaliel, referred to above, is at much trouble to describe the circulars issued from this Press, and, inspired with the courage of ignorance, illiteracy, and lack of understanding, he creates as pretty a mess as his worst enemy could desire. Thus –

In due time there appeared a "preliminary descriptive circular" of the volume. The verso of the title-page of this pamphlet enquires, in syllables

not unworthy of the tabloids: "Would Rezanov have wed her?" and supplies "What the historians have to say" (which is practically nothing) and also "What Rezanov himself has written," to wit: "The Report of Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov to Count Nikolai Petrovich, the Russian Minister of Commerce." The circular exhibits, among other sample pages, Bret Harte's poem, "Concepción Argüello."

The disgusting typographical style of the preceding paragraph does n't hold a candle to its inaccuracy and misconceptions. Our Gamaliel has inverted the order of the circulars issued, and this Press issued no such circular as that entitled in the first line. The pages of the poem mentioned are not in the same make-up as those in the book; hence they are not sample pages. The correct title of the poem is "Concepcion de Arguello." Gamaliel is more familiar with tabloids than with notices of the issue of books, and he brands himself with the mark of his caliber. His remark as to the heading, "What Rezanov himself has written," conveys no idea of what is said thereunder. As to "What the historians have to say," this presents an opportunity to refute his statement, and to quote a few opinions.

DOCTOR JOSIAH ROYCE: CALIFORNIA (AMERICAN COMMONWEALTHS)

Rezanov himself describes the affair, in his reports, as a purely business-like stroke of diplomacy, whereby he gained the decisive official help of the Argüello family. Whether he was sincere in his love or not, Doña Concepcion was in hers. She died, as nun, at Benicia, in 1857.

DOCTOR CHARLES E. CHAPMAN: HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA — SPANISH PERIOD

On March 1, 1807, at Krasnoyarsk, he died. Rezánof's constancy, therefore, was never tested. There is no evidence as to how he felt toward Concepción after he left Alta California.

IRVING BERDINE RICHMAN: CALIFORNIA UNDER SPAIN AND MEXICO

Whether later he [Rezanov] would have performed with her his nuptial contract (with naught for Russia to be gained thereby) is open to question.

FR. ZEPHYRIN ENGELHARDT: SAN FRANCISCO, OR MISSION DOLORES

. . . a slip of a girl, who as the daughter of a mere lieutenant would hardly have been admitted into the proud circles of the richest court in Europe.

HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT: HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA

Let us hope that he was true to his Californian love, that his purpose was strong to claim his bride, that his promised diplomatic sacrifice of himself in matrimony was yet a sweet dream as he was whirled over Siberian snows, that no adverse influence was in wait at the imperial court to shake his purpose, for his constancy was never to experience a final test. His constitution had been weakened by the hardships of the preceding year, and he was unable to endure his long winter journey. He was seized with a violent fever and was

carried into a Yakhout hut. Recovering, he pressed on for twelve days, when exhaustion caused him to fall from his horse. The combined effects of the fall and the fever kept him for some time bedridden at Yakutsk, whence he started too soon, but succumbed at Krasnoyarsk, where he died on March 1, 1807.

The Bancroft extract above sets forth the painful facts of the death of Rezanov, and accentuates Langsdorff's desertion of him at Sitka; but of course the final hope expressed is sheer nonsense.

Our Gamaliel details at great length his "baffling search for the source of Mr. Russell's translation," which was not given in the circulars, not being deemed an essential. "An inquiry at the library of the Academy of Sciences at Leningrad" resulted in a reply that was "far from clearing up the mystery of the report." But —

A copy of Mr. Russell's publication [i.e., *The Rezanov Voyage to Nueva California in 1806*] arrived — and the puzzle was unraveled. A statement on page 7 [viii] gives away [sic] the fact that the text was translated from volume 2 of Tikhmenev's well-known history of the Russian-American Company [setting forth the Russian title of the history]. With some effort the original of Mr. Russell's text was discovered among the appendices.

It should be stated here that the entire Russian title-page of the history is printed on page viii, with an English translation. If the work is a "well-known history" of the company, where is there a more likely place even to begin the search? A list at the end of volume 2 supplies the information. Bancroft's references to the voyage were thrown away on our Gamaliel. The same may be said of Doctor Royce's opinion, printed in a circular issued from this press, under the heading, "What the Historians have to Say." This would incidentally have aided him. Royce properly uses the word "reports." But why did he not first inquire of this Press?

Doctor Langsdorff, in the Introduction to the second volume of his *Voyages*, page 5, says, —

I shall also here follow, without any exception, the universally received mode among the Russians, of reckoning according to the Julian [i.e., o. s.] computation of time, by which I hope the better to avoid errors.

There is much confusion among the authorities as to dates. Langsdorff speaks of the arrival off the fort at San Francisco "on the morning of the 28th of March, after a voyage of thirty-two days." This, according to his own computation on page 17, post, would give April 8, 1806, *n. s.*, which date is added on page 37,

but not bracketed. Rezanov, as printed in Tikhmenev, speaking of the previous day, gives the 24th, o. s. A distinguished authority on the "missions" gives April 8th in one volume, and in another the 6th. Bancroft says the Spanish archives do not give the exact date. Tikhmenev is passed without comment.

Our Gamaliel's troubles did not end with his discovery of the source of the Rezanov voyage. He is provoked because Spanish terminology is used in the translation of Rezanov, and phrases, polite enough in Russian, are given in Spanish because of their colloquiality in English; but he should not have misspelled the Spanish words in his criticism. There are a few notes at the end of the Rezanov voyage. One of these concerns Rezanov, — his life at court, connection with the Russian American Company, the Krusenstern expedition, etc., — but the date of his birth is not given, nor the family name of the Russian minister of commerce, to whom Rezanov addresses his report in true Russian form.

Even an undemanding reader would be nonplussed not to find in this sketch so relevant a detail as the date of the man's birth. Further, we are informed that Rezanov's letter was addressed to the Minister of Commerce, but we never learn his name, a fact which is the more surprising since he was the famous statesman and patron of arts and sciences, Nikolai Petrovich Rumiantzov, founder of the Museum in Moscow which bore his name until the death of Lenin when the Rumiantzov Museum was transformed into the Lenin National Library. The letter is addressed familiarly to Count Nikolai Petrovich, and the editor seems to have taken Petrovich for Count Rumiantzov's family name.

Now, why did n't our Gamaliel give us this missing date? Our Russian translators did n't find it, nor did other Russians. As to the Russian minister of commerce, he was merely such to this Press, and it would be a poor Life of his royal master that did n't mention him. Lenin and the museum at Moscow have nothing to do with Rezanov or his voyage. It is even a far cry to the first Kotzebue voyage, 1815–1818, undertaken at the expense of the count. But, primarily, learn from Gilbert's *Russia Illustrated* that —

The Russians very rarely call one another by their family names, or, in addressing any one, give him the title by which he is known to foreigners, the baptismal name being generally used with the addition of that of the father. When, for instance, the person addressed is called Feodor (Theodore), and his father Ivan, the former is called Feodor Ivanovich, i. e., Theodore,

John's son [Theodore Johnson]. A lady named Maria, and her father Ivan, is called Maria Ivanovna. The Russians commonly have no more than one baptismal name. Women are not called after the mother, but after the father.

A matter of much wonderment and a puzzle to our Gamaliel is, how Rezanov came to be given the rank of "count" in the title-page etc. He says that it "was evidently the work of the English [sic] translator who exalted the Russian with a stroke of the pen." It was not the work of any of the Russian translators. A Russian exile it was, who said he had found authority for the accuracy of the tradition in California that Rezanov was a count. He did not mention either Bret Harte or Gertrude Atherton. The former, it is surmised, merely carried on the tradition in California that Rezanov was really a count; but the German "von," in the name in the poem, is Bret Harte's dainty whim, —

Count von Resanoff, the Russian, envoy of the mighty Czar.

It is not to be denied, however, that anything was welcome that presented an escape from Langsdorff's system of nomenclature.

Before dismissing our Gamaliel it should be said that neither in the Rezanov Voyage to Nueva California in 1806 nor in the Langsdorff Narrative was it ever thought necessary to go beyond the limits thereof. The "furnishing of curious details relating to the life of the Russian settlements in America" this Press must leave to other hands. There is a satisfaction in having been able to present Rezanov as an honorable and a noble man, while at the same time presenting in English for the first time the story of "the first step of a Russian on the soil of Nueva California," and now all that remains to be done is to say something of the author of this Narrative of the Rezanov Voyage to Nueva California in 1806. A short biographical sketch from a German source follows.

GEORG HEINRICH VON LANGSDORFF was born in 1774, at Rhine-Hesse, and died on June 29, 1852, at Freiburg, Breisgau, Baden. He was educated at Buchweiler, Alsatia, and at the Gymnasium at Idstein, Hesse-Nassau. His own account of his life after his graduation at Göttingen as a physician and surgeon until his return to Europe after his desertion of Rezanov at Sitka is printed in this his Narrative of the Rezanov Voyage. At Saint Petersburg he entered the Russian diplomatic service, and went to Brazil as consul. Upon his return to Europe on a leave of absence he endeavored, and not without success, to establish an organization to promote the emigration of Germans

to Brazil, to which country he returned in 1822 with ninety emigrants. He thereupon traveled through Brazil in the interest and study of natural history. Upon his final return to Germany he made his residence at Lahr, in Baden, so weakened by tropical fevers that he was never again able to pursue his studies. In 1831 he removed to Freiburg, where he resided until his decease.

Bancroft, in his *History of California*, has much to say as to Langsdorff and his work, and in a footnote states that –

The best and most complete authority on this expedition and the attendant negotiations is Rezánov [in his report]. Langsdorff's *Voyages* . . . is the other original authority, very full and containing much more information about California than the other work, being in fact second to that work only in its account of the diplomatic relations and negotiations between Rezánov and the Californian authorities. Notwithstanding certain eccentricities of judgment, some amusing blunders arising from ignorance of the Spanish language, and a singularly unprepossessing face as portrayed on the frontispiece of his book, Langsdorff's narrative is instructive and interesting. . . . Tikhménev [in *Historical Review*] is a very good Russian narrative of the expedition, but the author follows Rezánov very closely. [After citing many authors, he says that] other writers mention the subject briefly, taking their information exclusively from Langsdorff. The Spanish archives contain comparatively little about this visit.

This Narrative being a companion to Rezanov's *Voyage*, the typographical style of both is uniform. It was fortunate for this Press that Rezanov was printed first, as the Russian translators incidentally imparted much information as to usages peculiar to their language. Editorial work on books issued from this Press is simply that of a printer. Book-printers are always at their worst when authors adopt mixed styles. "Father Luis Gil y Taboada" is to a book-printer a typographical monstrosity. The Franciscan misionero, religioso, fray, are so called in this volume. So with the titles of civil and military officers; so with place-names. There are also many bracketed changes or additions. Several German translators rendered valuable assistance; and where these were at variance, what seemed the most logical construction is given.

The criticism of Rezanov's *Voyage* is printed in the September, 1927, number of the *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, and is by "Avrahm Yarmolinsky, chief of the Slavonic division." The *New York Times* of October 16, 1927, reviews it with approval, and at great length, but with little understanding; e. g., for "Nueva California," we find "Nuevo, Cal." – but this is merely to begin.



THE DEPOSED      THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR      THE DEPOSED  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR      THE DEPOSED

*Stephanus P. Howard*





Печ Дарлентъ.

*The PRIVATE PRESS of THOMAS C. RUSSELL, San Francisco*

Рис. Смирновъ.

NIKOLAI PETROVICH REZANOV

(1764-1807)

*Николайъ Резановъ*



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LANGSDORFF'S NARRATIVE  
OF THE REZANOV VOYAGE

INTRODUCTORY

GENESIS OF THE REZANOV VOYAGE

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THE INDEX

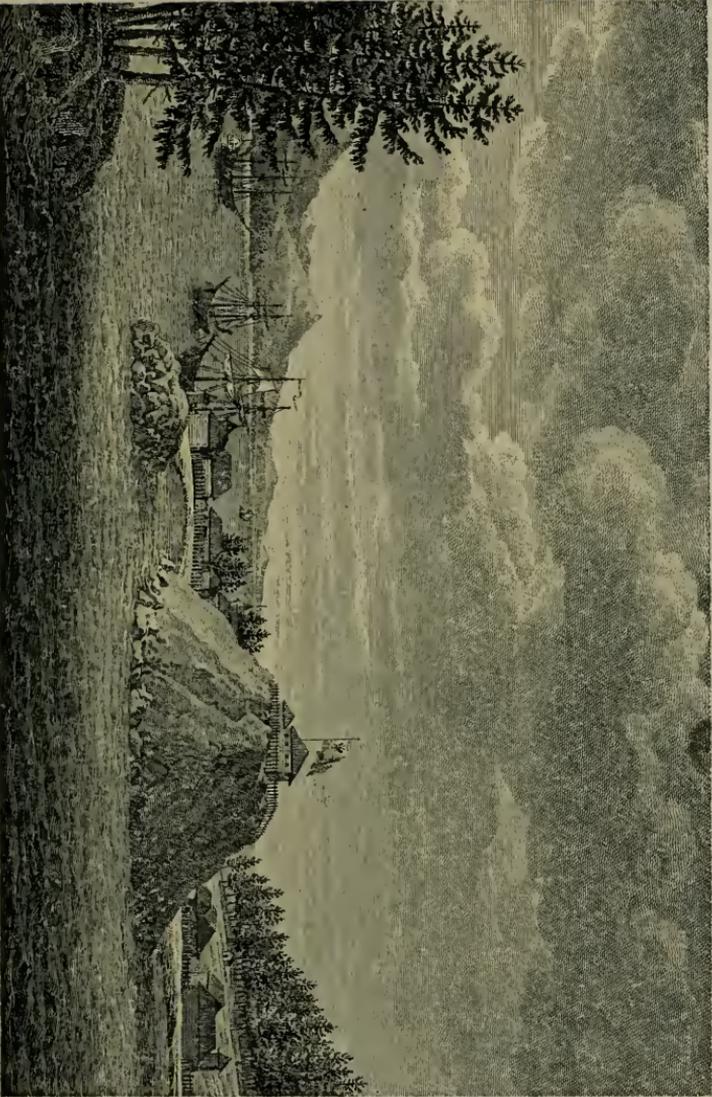
## THE RUSSIAN FORT AT SITKA

AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL-FORT, and to the right, is a bath-house and the living-quarters of the workmen. To the left, and somewhat hidden behind the hill, is a part of the extensive fortified barracks, and next to these, upon the point of land, are the ammunition-magazines. In front of these, in a little bight, is the principal landing-place of the establishment. Behind the hill, and along the shore, are still other buildings, for the Aleutians, also a blacksmith-shop, a locksmith-shop, and shops for other workmen. This plate was not re-engraved for the first English translation.

THE RUSSIAN AMERICAN COMPANY'S COURT AT ECTLA







ORIGINAL DRAWING by G. H. VON LANGSDORFF, and ENGRAVED on COPPER

ETCHED on COPPER - PRIVATE PRESS of T. C. RUSSELL, SAN FRANCISCO

THE RUSSIAN AMERICAN COMPANY'S FORT AT SITKA



I N T R O D U C T O R Y  
G E N E S I S O F T H E R E Z A N O V V O Y A G E

**M**IND of a particular strength and turn is necessary to make traveling useful, says Doctor Langsdorff in the Introduction to his *Voyages and Travels*, and this can only be acquired by beginning to travel early in life. It had been my good fortune to prepare myself for this great one. After I had obtained the degree of doctor of medicine and surgery at Göttingen in 1797, I went with Prince Christian of Waldeck to Lisbon, who went there as general of the Portuguese army.

Even in my early years I had been fascinated by the study of natural history. Blumenbach's lessons established my love for this science, and Portugal opened a wide field wherein to satisfy my desire for knowledge. . . . In the spring of 1798 I went with Prince Christian on a military tour through several of the Portuguese provinces, but, alas! he did not long survive it. . . .

By the advice of the then Portuguese minister, Luiz Pinto de Souza Coutinho, I determined rather to begin to practice as a physician in the excellent climate and among the social circle of amiable and

polished men that I found at Lisbon, than to return to my own country. I soon acquired so extensive an acquaintance in numerous German, English, and Portuguese houses, and was honored by them with so much confidence in my professional capacity, that I had but little time left to devote to my favorite studies, and examine the many new and unknown creations of nature found there. This induced me to accept an appointment as surgeon-major of the English troops then resident in Portugal, that is, the regiment of Castries, because, having a sufficient salary, I could devote my leisure hours entirely to my favorite pursuits. I accompanied this body in the campaign of 1801, against the Spaniards, but, as we were dismissed in the next year, at the conclusion of the Treaty of Amiens, and sent over to England, I availed myself of this opportunity to visit London and Paris, on my return to Germany in 1803. . . .

The friendship shown me by the first naturalists of France, . . . and the honors conferred upon me at about the same time by the Imperial Academy of Saint Petersburg, . . . gave me so much encouragement that I became possessed of an ardent wish, on my return to Göttingen, to undertake a greater

journey, solely with a view to add to my knowledge of natural history. A more favorable opportunity to accomplish this than by accompanying the first Russian circumnavigator could never have been presented to me.

This of course was the Krusenstern expedition. Doctor Langsdorff sought and obtained the support of several influential people to be permitted to join, but to no purpose. Regrets were expressed that his wishes had not been sooner known. Besides this, a naturalist had already been appointed. But the doctor was not to be denied, and he set out for and arrived at Copenhagen, where the *Nadeschda* and the *Neva*, the only vessels of the expedition, were to stay for a few days.

I went immediately, continues the doctor, to the hotel of Herr Rau, where, to my great satisfaction and delight, I discovered most of the officers of the Russian vessels had taken up their quarters. This circumstance inspired me with new courage, as it seemed to be a happy omen, and the result did not deceive my expectations. I entreated so earnestly of the Count Rezanov, who was accompanying the

expedition in the capacity of ambassador to Japan, to be a sharer in the voyage, that at length, as my petition had the support of the excellent Captain Krusenstern, the actual chief of the expedition, I had the happiness of finding it granted.

Langsdorff, with Count Rezanov and Captain Krusenstern, sailed on the *Nadeschda*. Anchor was aweigh at Copenhagen on September 3, 1803. Calls were made at Falmouth in England, Teneriffe, Santa Catharina in Brazil, the Marquesas, the Hawaiian Islands, Nagasaki (where Rezanov was rebuffed as ambassador). Petropavlovsk had been visited before the visit to Japan, and the *Nadeschada* now arrived on June 5, 1805. Rezanov here changed his plans, and, as the plenipotentiary of the Russian American Company, decided to visit the Aleutian Islands and the northwest coast of America.

The Count Rezanov, not deeming it expedient to journey amongst the rugged, uncultivated, and inhospitable northwest coasts of America without the attendance of a physician, made very attractive proposals to me to accompany him. It remained, therefore, for me to choose between following our

amiable chief, Captain Krusenstern, and return to Europe by sea, . . . or visiting the Russian American possessions, particularly the Aleutian Islands and the northwest coast of America, and then return by land to the Russian capital, over the northeastern parts of America and through Siberia. My choice, determined in many respects by accessory considerations, was to proceed with Rezanov. It seemed a debt due to science to undertake a journey to parts so little known, and which had received so little scientific examination, under auspices that seemed particularly favorable.

The *Maria*, a brig belonging to the company, was lying in the harbor, ready to sail for Kadiak. Count Rezanov and his valet, Langsdorff as his physician, and two young naval officers, – Nikolai Alexander Khvostov and Gavril Ivanovich Davidov, – found accommodations in the brig, which sailed on June 13, 1805, o.s., and visited on the voyage the Russian establishments on the islands.

On August 26, 1805, we arrived without mishap at the settlement of Sitka, and were received in the most hospitable manner by Alexander Andreievich

Baranov, the governor of all the Russian American Company's possessions in the Aleutian Islands and the northwest coast of America. . . .

It appears as if the settlement at Sitka, or New Archangel, would be the ne plus ultra of the Russian possessions upon this coast. I have been assured by persons of credit that the tribes lying to the south and southeast of Sitka are much more numerous, and bear such a determined hatred to the conquering Nanook (Baranov), that it is very probable that a disastrous fate would await him and his followers if he should seek to establish a settlement farther south. It is probable, for the same reason, that the Russians neither can nor will ever try to establish a claim to the islands, coasts, and lands lying south of Norfolk Sound and Cape Chirikov.

The settlement at Sitka, or New Archangel, was, at the time of our arrival, quite in its infancy. For its greater security it had been deemed expedient to bring hither, from the other possessions, many of the most robust promyshleniki and Aleutians. The cape was fortified with large cannon, and some armed vessels of the Russian American Company were stationed before it, while a regular watch was

kept by day and night. Under such circumstances nothing like the ordinary conveniences of life could be expected. The habitations were, for the greater part, unfinished, and consisted of small chambers without stoves, with so meager a thatch that the rains, which we had continually, often penetrated. All the promyshleniki were kept constantly hard at work upon the barracks, warehouses, and other buildings, which were greatly needed.

However agreeable it was to Governor Baranov to have as a guest a plenipotentiary of the Russian American Company, and become acquainted with a person of such high distinction as Count Rezanov, yet as a careful housekeeper he was put to no small embarrassment by the wholly unexpected arrival of so large a train of visitors. It was no easy matter to devise the means of providing winter stores for such increased numbers, especially as the provision for that season had previously been found deficient. This embarrassment became still greater when, a few weeks after, a party of Russians and Aleutians returned from a hunting expedition to take up their winter quarters at Sitka. There were then nearly two hundred people at the settlement, including

the higher and subordinate directors, sea-officers, ship-carpenters etc., promyshleniki, and Aleutians.

Baranov thereupon dispatched two vessels of the company to Kadiak for a supply of provisions.

For several weeks an American ship had been at anchor here, – the *Juno*, of 250 tons, from Bristol, Rhode Island. She had purchased a large cargo of sea-otter skins from the natives of Queen Charlotte Islands, Nootka Sound, Chatham Strait, and other places on the northwest coast. Captain John Wolf, hearing in May of the new Russian settlement at Sitka as being a safe harbor, where wood and water might be procured among Europeans, and where possibly a market might be found for the sea-otter skins, resolved, especially as his ship needed repairs, to run in there.

Governor Baranov and Count Rezanov entered into a negotiation with Captain Wolf for the sale of his ship, with rigging, provisions, and everything appertaining to her. The sale was soon concluded for sixty-five thousand piastres, or Spanish dollars, in a bill of exchange on Saint Petersburg. Besides this, he was to have the little ship *Yermak*. . . .

By this purchase the Russian American Company obtained an excellent swift-sailing vessel, with a rich lading of useful supplies for trading with the natives of the northwest coast, consisting of a great quantity of linen and woolen cloth, kitchen utensils, knives, axes, hatchets, firearms, etc. But particularly a large supply of excellent provisions was got, by which all fears of the probable famine were removed. In fact, it was principally for the sake of this supply that the purchase was made. . . .

Command of the *Juno* was given to Lieutenants Khvostov and Davidov, and she was sent to Kadiak and returned with dried fish, whale-fat, train-oil, sarana-root, etc. There being a deficiency of women at Sitka, a number of women were brought, under an order sent to Governor Banner of Kadiak. From such an order being acted upon, it is very obvious that the Aleutians are perfect slaves to the Russian American Company. No Aleutian of Kadiak would ever voluntarily remove to Sitka. Very few of those transported thither ever return. . . .

The situation of the settlement became more and more critical every day. Almost all the works were at a standstill, and scarcely any of the *promyshleniki*

could be said to be free from disease. It then became absolutely necessary that some measures be taken to stop the progress of the scurvy, if possible. The subordinate overseers had, however, so abused the confidence which had been freely placed in them by Baranov and Rezanov, and for some months so wasted the stock of provisions while making merry with their favorites, that even if the best disposition in the world had been manifested to aid the sick, the means were scarcely now to be obtained.

These many calamitous circumstances at length aroused Rezanov, and he formed the plan of a new expedition to be undertaken by the *Juno* for procuring a supply of fresh provisions. Northernmost of the Spanish possessions on this part of the globe was San Francisco, on the coast of New Albion, and this was the place fixed upon in which to procure the supplies. From an economical point of view, the Sandwich Islands might perhaps have proved more suitable for the purpose, but political reasons led to the choice of San Francisco.

The ship *Elisabeth* was sent to Kadiak to bring the priest, Rezanov hoping that through him the religious Spaniards might be better dealt with.

THE FIRST CHAPTER  
SITKA TO PUERTO DE SAN FRANCISCO

**T**HE SHIP JUNO, with Count Rezanov, Langsdorff, and a scurvy-stricken crew of promyshleniki, sails from Sitka for the Puerto de San Francisco – Mount Saint Helen's – Cape Disappointment – The Columbia River – Rezanov's plans for settlement etc. there – Failure to enter river – Gray's Harbor – Cabo de Mendocino – Punta Barro de Arena – Los Farallones del Puerto de San Francisco – Punta de los Reyes – The fort at the entrance to the puerto – The challenge, and order to anchor.

## K O L O S H O F S I T K A D A N C I N G

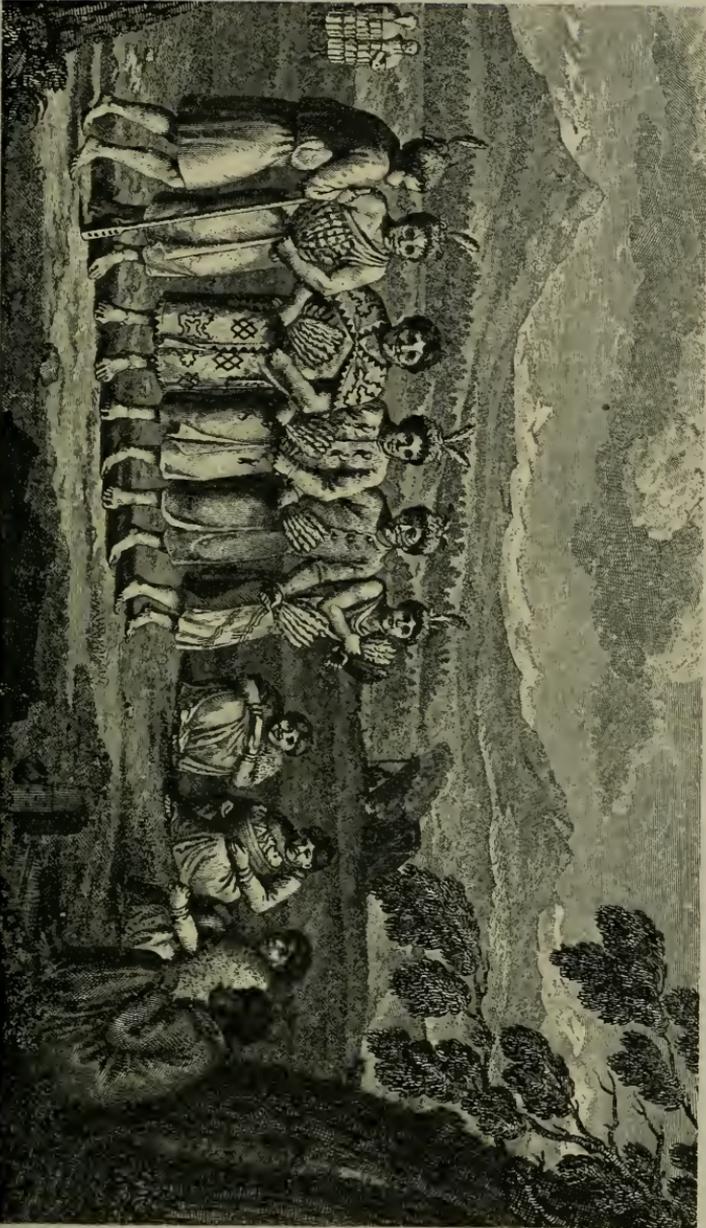
EACH KOLOSH DANCING is dressed in a simple sort of frock purchased from United States merchant ships. The tail of a white-headed eagle is held in the hands of each. The ermine-skin around the head, and upon the garment, is a mark of wealth and luxury. The first dancer at the left holds in his right hand a stick ornamented with the teeth of the sea-otter, and with this stick he beats time. Some of the dancers have their heads powdered with the small down-feathers of the white-headed eagle. The women sit by the dancers and sing. They have their very extraordinary ornament to the under lip. To the right, in the background, is a Kolosh movable hut.

COLONN OF CITRA KARTIKA



## COLOURS OF SITHA DANCING

These Sikkim dancers, dressed in a long, loose of front, powdered from  
Caucasus, were dressed in white. The cut of their bodice (single) is the  
usual of the region. The arms were raised, the feet, and upon the garment, was  
a row of small, round, white, and blue stones, as the left hand, right hand,  
and a chain of small, round, white, and blue stones, and with a white leather  
strap. Some of the dancers had their hands powdered with the small, round,  
white, and blue stones. The women, set by the dancers and sing-  
ers, have their hair in a bun, and a white underlip. To the right  
of the background is a golden, ornate, but.



ORIGINAL DRAWING by an UNIDENTIFIED ARTIST, and ENGRAVED on COPPER

KOLOSH OF SITKA DANCING

ETCHED on COPPER - PRIVATE PRESS of T. C. RUSSELL, SAN FRANCISCO



## THE FIRST CHAPTER

### SITKA TO PUERTO DE SAN FRANCISCO

**T**OWARDS the end of February, 1806, eight out of the one hundred and ninety-two Russians living at Sitka had died, and sixty others were ill with the scurvy, and unfit for service. In consequence, active preparations were finally begun for the previously considered voyage to New Albion.

The Juno was soon ready to sail, and although the priest coming from Kadiak had not arrived, anchor was weighed on February 25, o. s., or March 8, n. s. All on board, members of the expedition, left with joyful hearts their wretched winter quarters, and before nightfall the hated Norfolk Sound was lost to sight.

Before entering upon an account of this voyage it will be proper to make some preliminary remarks. The sailors of the Russian American Company are men who formerly occupied very different stations in life, and have been principally mentioned in this narrative as promyshleniki. These people had been engaged in different occupations during the winter, on a meager allowance, and were now, after a long

absence, returning to service at sea, unfamiliar with its duties. Hence few were competent as sailors, and most were so scurvy-stricken and incapacitated that Lieutenants Khvostov and Davidov showed the utmost anxiety on that account. They asked for only twenty men, selected from the most healthy in the settlement, though the ship *Juno* required the services of at least thirty skillful seamen. The well-founded representations of these brave officers had, however, even after much heated argumentation, no effect. Instead, thirty-three others were detailed, and of these only eighteen were in any degree fit for service. The rest were so diseased and enfeebled that, instead of being able to assist, they themselves needed assistance. Besides this, by the noisome odor of their breath they would pollute the atmosphere of the ship and help to consume the small supply of stores provided for three months' service.

Thus manned, the *Juno* put to sea. On the second day out of port we had a fresh north-northeast wind, and most of the men on board, who for a long time had not been accustomed to sea-life, lay seasick in their berths. The weather was cold and clear during the first days of the voyage, but soon afterwards the

pleasing effect of the advance into a milder climate was felt. This was particularly grateful to the sick.

As early as the 3d of March, when in latitude  $51^{\circ}$  N. and longitude  $132^{\circ}$  W., the thermometer showed  $14^{\circ}$ . There was but little sea-life seen. We saw, now and then, stormy petrels, albatrosses, and sea-mews.

On the 6th we observed a phenomenon in the north-northeast, that resembled a waterspout very much. A black cloud approached the surface of the sea, from which a pillar seemed to rise perpendicularly until it reached the cloud. Whether this was merely an effect of the light, or whether it was really a pillar of water, we could not make out at so great a distance, it being between three and four nautical miles from us.

On the following day, in latitude  $48^{\circ}$  N. and longitude  $127^{\circ}$  W., we saw more sea-birds than usual. Having light variable winds and unsettled weather, with continual variations, we proceeded very slowly on our course. On the 10th, in almost a dead calm, an Aleutian bidarka, that we had brought with us from Sitka, was lowered, so that we might make war more easily upon a number of stormy petrels (*Procellaria grisea*). This lasted several hours, and

resulted very favorably for us. Towards the evening of the 10th the wind changed to south-southeast, accompanied by a drizzling rain, or wet fog. This continued for two days, and had a very bad effect upon our sick.

On the 13th the weather cleared again, and having a favorable north and northwest wind, we directed our course toward the river Columbia, which we expected to be able to visit without any loss of time. This visit was for the purpose of refreshing our sick crew, and to examine more closely the harbor, that might be rendered of substantial importance to the Russians living in the north.

On the 14th, at daybreak, with a particularly clear horizon, we had the pleasure of seeing the greatly desired coast of New Albion. To the south were high chains of hills; to the north was low land. Directly in the east the landscape spread out to a considerable extent, and terminated, in the background, in a very high, round, snow-covered peak. This was Mount Saint Helen's, in latitude  $46^{\circ} 9' N.$  and longitude  $238^{\circ} 4' W.$  (Vancouver's Voyage, vol. 2, p. 243.)

We should have presumed that we were near the debouchment of a great river even without the use

of astronomical instruments, as the sea had a foul, dull, reddish appearance, and the water appeared to contain much clay. We saw Cape Disappointment, in latitude  $46^{\circ}10'$  N., and as the favoring northwest wind continued, we expected to cast anchor soon. We had already, in anticipation, feasted on the wild ducks and geese which we saw massed together.

Count Rezanov had already formed his plans for the removal of the Russian settlement to the river Columbia, and was now planning to build a shipyard there. But all our hopes and schemes came to naught by the gradual shifting of the wind to the southeast. Squalls followed, and the horizon was hazy with rain-clouds. Hence it was impossible to entertain further the idea of entering an unknown harbor.

Besides geese and ducks, the sea-fowl now seen included pelicans, stormy petrels, albatrosses, and sea-mews.

The wind abated as evening approached, and by carrying very little sail we decided to remain overnight in latitude  $46^{\circ}$ . At dawn we again approached the harbor or mouth of the river seen the previous day. The chain of hills that we had then seen, with

the peak that rose very high above the others, and that might have served as a guide, was now hidden in fog. This was also the case with the landscape in the foreground, and with the green cape, sparsely covered with wood, that we had decided was Cape Disappointment. The strong surf on the northern and southern points of land, the low wooded coast to the south, the landscape stretching so far back, or the harbor, resembled so much the mouth of the Columbia, seen yesterday, that no one on board had the slightest doubt that it was one and the same, and we tried to head for the northern promontory.

When near the point we at once descried a wide sand-bank of considerable extent, such as that laid down by Vancouver, a navigator unusually exact. It not being possible to sail around this bank, the anchor was dropped, about noon, in seven fathoms of water, upon a firm sand. Thereupon taking an observation, we saw with no little astonishment we were in latitude  $46^{\circ} 58'$ . It seemed to us altogether incomprehensible that the sea-current should have carried us so far north, and we considered it highly probable that in the night one of the promyshleniki might have steered falsely.

To ascertain our exact situation, it was decided that in the afternoon one sailor and two Aleutians should be sent in a three-seated bidarka to make a more accurate examination of the harbor. I asked that this duty be given to me. Consent being had, I took my seat in the bidarka. When we left the ship it was agreed that we should return, at the latest, at six o'clock in the evening, and in case of darkness setting in, that a large lantern should be hung out on the mainmast.

We now followed, at a safe distance, the loud and foaming surf of the northern point, and soon had a view of the southerly side. The passage between the two points was in width about a nautical mile, and, as far as we could perceive, was free from surf, and navigable. Thereupon we rowed through the surge, directly eastward, the waves rolling over the banks on either side, northerly and southerly, on our front, towards the mouth of the harbor.

We found about five and a half fathoms of water, by the lead, in the narrowest part of the channel, which, by degrees, as we went forward into the bay, increased to six, seven and a half, and nine fathoms. At length, a little before six o'clock, we reached the

inner shore, when, looking around me, I identified the place with Captain Whidbey's Gray's Harbor, in latitude  $47^{\circ}$  N., longitude  $123^{\circ} 53'$  W., described in Vancouver's *Voyage* (vol. 2, p. 358).

On both sides, along the sandy shore, lay trunks of trees, and a desolate country, which was bounded by a green hill that stretched inland about half a German mile. To the northwest, in the vicinity of a wood, smoke ascended in several places, indicating clearly that the country was peopled. Climbing a sandhill near the shore, I fired two shots from a gun, in an attempt to attract the attention of the natives in the vicinity, and invite them to visit me. But the distance was most probably the cause of our failure to get any response. From the hill spoken of I had a good view of the surrounding country. The channel between the sand-banks appeared to be wider than that described by Captain Whidbey, and the inner southern basin of the harbor more open; but the direction of the sandy shore possibly may have been changed by storms and high tides since the captain's visit. On the southern side of the harbor there seemed to be safe and good anchorage, and the mouth of a small river. Judging from

the number of whales seen here, I decided that the water must be of a great depth, and that fish were present in great numbers. There were numerous sea-fowl and sandpipers (*Tringæ*). I formed, from observations made on shore, the opinion that the ebb and flood of the tide is very considerable at full moon. The northeastern bay, in the interior of the harbor, described by Captain Whidbey, is almost entirely choked up with sand at present. At about twenty paces from the shore, where I landed, the depth of water was between four and a half and five fathoms.

It was now six o'clock in the evening, and the day almost at an end. Therefore I could stay no longer, particularly as it was necessary to go through the channel before dark, after which we should have to row about thirty versts farther, through the high unknown shores, to reach the ship, lying at anchor in the open sea. A gust of wind, or nasty weather, might oblige the commanders to weigh anchor, and our situation, in that event, would become very critical.

We had hardly passed the outer surf when darkness set in, and the moon, which we had relied on

to light the way, was completely overshadowed by black clouds. Coincident with this a strong wind from the southeast arose, and the Juno, partly from the distance and the darkness, and partly from the high waves and the low build of the bidarka, was not to be seen. Rowing with all our might toward where we thought she must be, about eight o'clock in the evening, with the horizon perfectly dark, we saw the flash of a cannon-shot, although the great distance prevented our hearing the report.

This might truly be called a joy-fire. Repeated every half-hour, it served to direct our way. The signal was answered each time by a musket-shot from me, but not a flash was seen by those on the ship. And we were as little able, on account of the rolling waves, to see the lantern on the mainmast until we were within a few versts of the ship. At length, about half-past nine, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, the force of the wind and the foaming waves, besides the necessity of making a circuit to avoid the surf, we arrived safe and well aboard the ship, to the great joy of our shipmates, who had given us up as having become a prey to the fury of the waves or of the savages on shore.

The anchor was weighed immediately upon our arrival. The wind being very fresh and favorable, we ran sixty-six and a half miles in seven hours. All night long it blew from the south-southeast, and on the next morning, the 16th of March, a storm arose, which did not abate until the evening. This was succeeded by a calm, and we were worn out by the violent pitching and rocking of the ship. The same unfavorable south-southeast wind returned and continued on the following days, preventing our progress southward. On the 18th, in latitude  $46^{\circ} 40' N.$ , we saw thousands of sea-fowl in flocks. These, combined with whales in large numbers, made the sea quite alive. The whales were probably following the herrings in their migration.

On the 19th the weather was cloudy, rainy, and foggy, and it was not until the evening of that day that the adverse southeast wind, that had so long afflicted us, began to abate. The horizon became clearer, and again we could see the adjacent coast stretching to the east. To the southeast lay the hills that we supposed to be near the Columbia River. To the northeast, behind a long chain of hills, rose a lofty snow-covered peak. Its highest point was of

a very irregular form, the effect, probably, of former volcanic action. This was, without doubt, Mount Rainier, which Vancouver observed at the distance of one hundred geographical miles. Proceeding slowly forward with a gentle wind, we had, early in the morning of the 20th of March, the pleasure of seeing clearly the pleasing country along the shore. To the east lay the coasts of shoalwater; to the south-southeast, the high mountains which we took for Cape Lookout. Between them lay the northern promontory at the entrance of the river Columbia, called Cape Disappointment. Southeast of this lies a peak, the form and figure of which varies so much according to the distance and the direction from which it is seen, that it may very easily be mistaken by any one desirous of making it a landmark. The walls of the crater, which are observable at its outer point, form four pyramids, one of which often so conceals another that sometimes two and at other times three are seen, rarely one only, or all four at once.

To our great regret, we soon lost our favorable wind, and were once more driven north by a gentle southeast and south-southeast wind, furthered by a

strong southerly ocean current. Towards evening a calm set in, and that we might not lose at night by the ocean current all that we had gained in the day, towards seven o'clock Lieutenant Khvostov cast the anchor in twenty-three fathoms of water. Several kinds of whales then disported themselves around the ship. On some of them the back fins were larger than any I had ever yet seen. During this calm the clouds scattered in several directions, and high waves rushed forcefully from the west, although for several days the wind had come from the southeast. We lay quietly at anchor all night, and on the morning of the 21st directed our course towards Cape Disappointment, with a light breeze from the west and northwest.

It was of no little moment to us that we should land, if possible. Many of our sick, from the nature of the food aboard the ship, and from the want of antiscorbutics, daily became worse, and visibly lost their strength, so that our commanders considered it as an absolute duty to put into the first port they could reach with safety. No hope of restoring the sick seemed to remain, except by the wholesome animal and vegetable foods that we hoped to receive

on land. We rejoiced, therefore, at the prospect of being near the Columbia River, and sailed toward the east, and afterwards, in order to avoid the strong breaking of the sea around the north promontory, we steered more to the south, where the smooth surface of the water led us to presume that there must be a good passageway. About two o'clock we had doubled the north promontory, and about five, to our consternation, we clearly saw that the eastern horizon was marked by a violent surf because of the continuing northwest wind, and that we had been driven by a strong current too near the south point, or Cape Adams, having missed the proper channel. We were therefore obliged to cast anchor not far from the surf, in three fathoms of water, being in the utmost danger of running aground upon the sandy shore. As the wind increased exceedingly at almost the same time, Lieutenants Khvostov and Davidov deemed it advisable to get away as quickly as possible from this shallow water, and to embrace every advantage offered by the continuance of the favorable northwest wind. They therefore proposed to Count Rezanov that it was better not to lose any more time, but to abandon the idea of entering the

Columbia, and with the fresh and favorable wind sail at once to the Puerto de San Francisco, where we should be among civilized people, and no doubt find provisions in abundance, and everything the sick needed for their recuperation.

On the 22d one of the many scorbutic patients, who had been forced upon us at Sitka, died, and fifteen more of the promyshleniki lay sick in such a pitiable state that it seemed as if six or eight must inevitably perish should we not soon reach a port. Under these conditions, the continuing northwest wind was a source of hope and comfort to us, and inspired us with courage, and in every one of us a pleasing hope arose of finding himself soon on shore in a more southerly and hence in a milder climate. We were then in latitude 42° N.

The death mentioned had for those surviving the agreeable sequence that Count Rezanov thought he might venture to be less sparing in dispensing his stores, and he gave the entire crew a good bowl of punch, made with the brandy of the Russian American Company. This I endeavored to render as palatable as possible by the addition of vitriolic acid and sugar-syrup. This beverage was universally

much appreciated, and those in health found it no less a comfort than those who were sick.

The following day – the 23d of March – we were, according to an observation taken at noon, in latitude  $40^{\circ} 8' N$ . Towards evening we could discern, in the clear southeasterly horizon, a high promontory, which we supposed to be Cabo de Mendocino. The sea was unusually lifeless. Scarcely even a bird was to be seen. As night set in, we perceived, in the water near the ship, a ribbon-like object, perfectly clear and transparent, having the exact form and figure of a fiery serpent. It was probably composed of a number of *Salpa* or *Mollusca*, of a particular species mentioned by Peter Forskal as hanging together in so extraordinary a manner.

On the 25th a southeast wind, with fog and rain, kept us back to the distance of about three miles from Cabo de Mendocino. This promontory and the surrounding slopes are high and precipitous. Only in the rugged clefts and narrow valleys was there any appearance of timber, and that was thin. The hills were mostly covered with a growth of fresh grass, but no smoke was observable anywhere, nor were there any other signs of the habitations

of man. The steep declivities would offer but little that could contribute to man's support; hence it is not probable that the country is inhabited. About noon of this day we saw for the first time large flocks of wild geese flying northward. Towards evening the wind veered again more to the west. Thus we were enabled once more to proceed on our course.

On the following morning – the 26th of March – we found ourselves near a low point of land in the southeast. We supposed this to be [Vancouver's] Punta Barro de Arena. By our observation at noon we were in latitude  $39^{\circ} 18'$ . It was warm and dry, although the eastern horizon was for the greater part enveloped in fog. Later in the day we could at times see a precipitous shore. In the background were high mountains, partly snow-covered. In the afternoon a golden-winged woodpecker (*Picus auratus*, Linn.) flew on board, seemingly hoping to find there a place of refuge, but, instead of this, met its death, as, because of its beauty and rarity, I could not forbear sacrificing it, and preserving it as an object of natural history.

The wind freshening so much in the night, we were obliged to take in sail. Early in the morning

[of March 27, 1806], we saw, lying to the south, the group of rocks called Los Farallones del Puerto de San Francisco, and to the east the promontory of Punta de los Reyes, in latitude  $37^{\circ} 59'$ , near which lies the Puerto de San Francisco.

We were at this time carried by the current two miles to the south inside of an hour. Steering now directly for the puerto, we had much satisfaction in proving the correctness of Vancouver's charts and views, which left nothing further to be desired. His soundings will serve every navigator as a safe guide in running into the puerto even in the dark. We, however, deemed it more prudent to cast anchor, for the night, between two and three miles distant from the mouth of the puerto, in four and a half fathoms of water, and at daybreak of the 28th we headed for our destination. At about nine o'clock we reached the southeastern point of the puerto, on which, while yet at a considerable distance, we had perceived a fort. Upon approaching this fort we were challenged through a speaking-trumpet, and asked who we were and from whence we came. In consequence of our answer, we were ordered to cast anchor near the fort.

## THE SECOND CHAPTER

SAN FRANCISCO - PRESIDIO - MISIÓN - INDIANS

**A**RRIVAL at the Puerto de San Francisco - Reception upon going ashore - The comandante of the Presidio and his officers - The Franciscan padre - Converse in Latin - El Presidio de San Francisco, described - The dinner with the happy Argüello family - The beautiful Doña Concepción - La Misión San Francisco de Asís, described - The misioneros and Indian neófitos - Misión government - Protection by presidios.

## EL PRESIDIO DE SAN FRANCISCO

THIS IS THE FIRST VIEW OF ANY PART OF SAN FRANCISCO. The boat in the foreground is made of tules tied together, and is the work of the Indians and used by them. The group of high hills in the distance embrace the two peaks called by the Spaniards *Los Pechos de la Choca* (= the breasts of the Choca), but now called the Twin Peaks. The road running towards the shore leads to *El Pozo de los Marineros* (= the deep water of the mariners, i. e., anchoring-ground), now called the Presidio Harbor, probably the place where the *San Carlos* anchored in the late evening of Saturday, August 5, 1775, the first ship to pass through the strait now known as the Golden Gate. This now historic plate was evidently not deemed worthy of re-engraving for the first English translation of Langsdorff's *Voyages and Travels*.







ORIGINAL DRAWING by an UNIDENTIFIED ARTIST, and ENGRAVED ON COPPER

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EL PRESIDIO DE SAN FRANCISCO



## THE SECOND CHAPTER

### SAN FRANCISCO-PRESIDIO-MISIÓN-INDIANS

**H**ARDLY had we arrived at our destination on the morning of March 28, 1806, o. s., April 8, n. s., after a voyage of thirty-two days, when fifteen horsemen came out of the fort [El Fuerte de San Joaquín de] San Francisco, and advanced at full gallop to the shore near our place of anchorage. They demanded, by calls and signs, that we send a boat ashore, and manifested much impatience while we lowered one, and Lieutenant Davidov and myself went therein to the shore.

Here we were received by a Franciscan padre and several military officers, when a fine-looking young don, not otherwise distinguished from the others but by a singular garb, was presented to us as the comandante of the establishment. Over his uniform he wore a sort of mantle of striped woolen cloth, which resembled very much the coverlet of a bed, with a slit in the middle, through which his head passed, the longer part covering the breast and back, the narrower part the shoulders. He, as well as the other officers, wore peculiarly embroidered boots, of a particular make, with unusually large

spurs. Most of them also had wide, full cloaks. As neither Lieutenant Davidov nor myself understood Spanish, the conversation was carried on in Latin, between me and the Franciscan padre, this being the only medium by which either one could make himself intelligible to the other.

The first inquiry made was as to who we were and whence we came. The reply was, that our ship belonged to a Russian voyage of discovery, and that the commander thereof, His Excellency the Count Rezanov, was on board; that our intention had been to go to Monterey, as the seat of government, but that we were delayed by contrary winds, and that, owing to insufficiency of provisions, we had been under the necessity of putting into this port, as the nearest we could make. We therefore solicited the comandante's permission to purchase the needed supplies, and to make necessary repairs to our ship.

The reply was made, that a long time had elapsed since the comandante had received information as to our expedition, which was accompanied with an order from the Spanish king, that if the ships put into this port they were to be received in the most amicable manner and provided with everything

needed; hence all kinds of supplies that the country and the season afforded were entirely at our service. It was also called to our attention that the advices received further stated that when the expedition sailed from Kronstadt it was composed of two ships, the *Nadeschda* and the *Neva*, the former under the command of Captain Krusenstern, and the latter under Captain Lisiansky, and they asked what had caused so great a change, as that the Chamberlain Rezanov (whose name they seemed to be familiar with) had now come with only one ship, and that one neither of the two mentioned, and under the command of different officers.

To this we replied, that the original ships of the expedition were, from various causes, compelled to return to Europe from Kamchatka, and that His Majesty the Czar of Russia had ordered the Count Rezanov to proceed with the ship *Juno*, under the command of Lieutenants Khvostov and Davidov, for the purpose of examining the establishments of the Russian American Company in the Aleutian Islands and the northwest coast of America, from whence we had come to this harbor. This answer seemed to be satisfactory to them. They promised

all necessary assistance, and entreated that Rezanov come ashore, saying they would remain and wait for him and conduct him to the residence of the comandante at the Presidio. Upon this we at once returned to the ship with this gratifying invitation. Being joined by the chamberlain and Lieutenant Khvostov, we went to the Presidio, as each military establishment in California is called.

On our way to the Presidio we were told that the comandante permanente, Don José Darío Argüello, was absent, and that his son, the Alférez Don Luis Antonio, with whom we were then conversing, was comandante temporal until the return of his father. In a little more than a quarter of an hour we were at the Presidio, and here we were received in the most hospitable manner by Señora Argüello, esposa of the comandante permanente, and her family.

The whole establishment of [the Presidio de] San Francisco externally has the look of a German farmstead. Its low one-story buildings surround a somewhat long quadrangular court. The house of the comandante is small and mean. A whitewashed room, half of the floor of which was covered with straw matting, had but little furniture, and that of

an inferior quality. The furnished half served as a reception-room. The welcome over, refreshments were served, and we were invited to partake later of as good a dinner as their kitchen and larder would provide. It was not long before dinner was ready, and once again, after long privation, we enjoyed an excellent repast, and, to our great surprise, the poor quality of the house-furniture considered, in a rich service of silver tableware. This precious Mexican metal can be found in even the most remote Spanish possessions. Mutual esteem and harmony glowed without diminution in the conduct of this kindly family, who knew scarcely any other diversions or pleasures than those resulting from family joys and domestic happiness.

Their simple, natural cordiality captivated us to such a degree that we forthwith desired to become acquainted with each individual member of the family, and to learn the name of each one, having at once formed a strong attachment for them, and becoming interested in their personal welfare.

The Señora Argüello was the mother of fifteen children, and of these thirteen were living at this time. Some of the sons were absent upon military

duty, and the others were at home. Of the grown-up unmarried daughters, the Doña Concepción most particularly interested us. She was distinguished for her vivacity and cheerfulness, her love-inspiring and brilliant eyes and exceedingly beautiful teeth, her expressive and pleasing features, shapeliness of figure, and for a thousand other charms, besides an artless natural demeanor. Beauties of her kind one may find, though but seldom, only in Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

Don Luis Argüello, the son and substitute of the *comandante permanente*, imparted to us the news that England had declared war against Spain, and told us that when they had first seen our vessel that morning, she was supposed to be English, and an enemy. He now expressed his gratification that he was mistaken.

In the afternoon he dispatched a courier to the *gobernador* at Monterey, announcing our arrival, and requesting further instructions in regard to us. Count Rezanov also sent a few lines by the courier.

Besides Padre José Antonio Uría, who received us this morning at the shore, we were introduced also to Padre Martín Landaeta, and from both we

received an invitation to visit Misión San Francisco de Asís the following day. This is an ecclesiastical establishment, lying a short German mile eastward from the Presidio. We returned to the ship in the evening, much delighted with the day passed.

On arriving we received the pleasing report that the comandante of the Presidio had sent far more supplies than our debilitated promyshleniki could consume in several days. Among the supplies were four large, fat oxen, two sheep, onions and garlic, lettuce and cabbage, as well as several other kinds of vegetables.

At eight o'clock on the morning of the 29th the saddle-horses were waiting for us at the shore, as agreed upon, to carry us to the Misión, and Padre Uría himself had come to conduct us. The Count Rezanov, Lieutenants Khvostov and Davidov, and myself, were in this pleasure-party. As we had to pass the Presidio on our way, we called there, just to bid good morning to the Argüello family, and were served with chocolate, after which we rode onward to the Misión. The road thither is through loose sand, and is not good for either walking or riding. The surroundings are mostly bare, and the

hills, covered in places with low shrubs, afford but little of anything interesting. Birds were almost the only things that attracted our attention, and I saw several kinds unknown to me. There were also a few rabbits and hares.

In about three quarters of an hour we arrived at the Misión. Padre Martín Landaeta, whom we had seen at the Presidio yesterday, received our party at the door with a third religioso, the Padre Ramón Abella, to whom we were presented, and we were tendered a hearty welcome and conducted at once to the church, where a short prayer was offered. We were shown all that was deemed worthy of our attention in the chapel and sacristy; but these were merely ecclesiastical paraphernalia. Our cicerone, Padre Uría, who, generally speaking, seemed to be a man of sound and accurate judgment upon most matters, understanding that I was a naturalist, took me by the hand when we were in the chapel and forced upon my attention a painting representing the *Agave Americana*, Linn., from the middle of which, instead of a flower-stalk, rose a holy virgin, by whom, as he assured me, many extraordinary miracles were wrought. His story was related with

such an air of belief and certainty that, through an assumed appearance of courtesy and admiration of this phenomenon, I thus expressed my envy of the painter who had witnessed it with his own eyes.

Shortly after this we were taken to the residence of the religiosos, which had several spacious apartments. Refreshments of several kinds were served, and afterwards we were shown the other buildings of the establishment, with everything appertaining thereto worthy of notice.

The name "misi6n" indicates an ecclesiastical establishment having for its object the propagation of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. In the misiones founded in the peninsula of Antigua California, as well as those in Nueva California, there are commonly two or three padres, who are protected in their holy work by the presidios, that is to say, the military government of the country. The padres in Nueva California are all frailes of the Franciscan order. Each of these frailes, before he comes from Spain to this part of the world for the purpose of Christianizing the benighted natives, must enter into an engagement to remain here ten years, upon the expiration of which it is optional

with him whether he shall remain or not. On his voyage hither, as well as on his return if he should so decide, he is maintained solely by the Spanish government, and has nothing to think of but his Bible and prayer-book. None of these misioneros can acquire any property, so that it is impossible for one of them even to entertain the idea of enriching himself. Everything that the frailes can save or gain goes into the chest of the misiones. Hence, in case of their return to their native country, they are as poor as when they left it.

The number of misioneros brought every year from Europe to Vera Cruz is supposed to amount to three hundred. Each has an allowance of four hundred piastres annually, which is devoted to his own needs, and those of the community to which he belongs. Payment is not made in money, but in necessary or useful articles, – manufactured goods for clothing, household utensils, and the like. They are sent to them by the Franciscan College [of San Fernando], in Mexico, on which all the misiones in Nueva California are dependent, and are placed on board government vessels at San Blas, a port on the northwest coast of Mexico (latitude 21° 30' N.).

Among the principal goods are, linen and woolen cloth, wine, brandy, sugar, chocolate and cocoa, iron tools, wax tapers for church service, kitchen utensils, agricultural implements, etc.

In the provincia of Nueva California, extending from San Francisco (latitude  $37^{\circ} 55' N.$ ) to San Diego (latitude  $32^{\circ} 9' N.$ ), there are at the present time nineteen misiones, each of which has from six hundred to a thousand neófitos. Protection for the misiones is afforded by, if I am not mistaken, six [four: San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Bárbara, and San Diego] presidios, but, all told, there are not more than from two hundred to three hundred cavalry.

The Misión Santa Clara de Asís, lying between San Francisco and Monterey, is, with regard to its fine situation, fertility of soil, population, and extent of buildings and grounds, considered the largest and richest misión. All the misiones have cattle in great numbers, and an abundance of other productions necessary to the support of man, and the padres, in general, conduct themselves with such prudence, kindness, paternal care, and justice, in their attitude towards the neófitos, that tranquillity, happiness,

obedience, and unanimity are the natural results of their methods. Corporal punishment commonly follows disobedience. The padres have recourse to the presidios only on very extraordinary occasions, as, for instance, when expeditions are sent out in pursuit of prospective converts, or when couriers carrying communications require protection, or as a precaution against sudden attacks.

The number of soldiers being so small, and their services so slight, it does not seem worth while to maintain an establishment for them. The Presidio de San Francisco has not more than forty, and it has three misiones under its protection. These are, San Francisco (same name as the Presidio), Santa Clara, and San José, the last named being established but a few years ago [1797]. There are seldom more than from three to five soldiers at any time at any misión, but this seemingly small number has hitherto been always found sufficient to keep the Indians under proper restraint. I was assured by a person worthy of credit that the Spanish cortes does not spend less than a million piastres annually for the support of the misiones, and their military establishments, in the two Californias, and that, too, without deriving

any advantage from them, other than the spreading of Christianity in these provincias of Nueva España.

Each of the frailes has several horses for his own use, and when one starts out on an expedition for finding prospective neófitos, he is always escorted by one or more soldiers, who precede him on the way. At such times the soldiers commonly throw over their breast and shoulders a deerskin mantle, which is intended as a protection against the arrows of the Indians, these being incapable of piercing leather. This mantle is worn on other occasions, also, as on dress parade, and when approaching a presidio or misión. By a royal command, it is not permissible for the misioneros to go any distance without military protection. As they carry only the Bible and the cross as their personal protection, a military escort accompanies them at such times.

This information was imparted while we were enjoying our breakfast, after which we were taken around to see whatever was worthy of notice.

Behind the residence of the frailes there is a large courtyard, inclosed by houses. Here live the Indian women of the Misión, who are employed, under the immediate supervision of the padres, in useful

occupations, such as cleaning and combing wool, spinning, weaving, etc. Their principal business is the manufacture of a woolen cloth and blankets for the Indians' own use. The wool of the sheep here is very fine and of superior quality, but the tools and looms are of a crude make. As the misioneros are the sole instructors of these people, who themselves know very little about such matters, scarcely even understanding the fulling, the cloth is far from the perfection that might be achieved.

All the girls and women are closely guarded in separate houses, as though under lock and key, and kept at work. They are but seldom permitted to go out in the day, and never at night. As soon, however, as a girl marries, she is free, and, with her husband, lives in one of the Indian villages belonging to the Misión. These villages are called "las rancherías." Through such arrangements or precautions the misioneros hope to bind the neófitos to the misión, and spread their faith with more ease and security. About a hundred paces from the buildings properly called the Misión, lies one of these Indian villages or barracks. It consists of eight long rows of houses, where each family lives separate and apart from the

others. The Indian neófitos here are about twelve hundred in number.

The principal food of the Indians is a thick soup, composed of meat, vegetables, and pulse. Because of the scarcity of fish here, or the want of proper means of catching them, the misioneros obtained a special dispensation from the pope allowing the eating of meat on fast-days. The food is apportioned three times a day, – morning, noon, and evening, – in large ladlefuls. At mealtimes a big bell is rung, and each family sends a vessel to the kitchen, and is served as many measures as there are members. I was present once at the time the soup was served, and it appeared incomprehensible to me how any one could consume so much nourishing food three times a day. According to what we were told by our cicerone, from forty to fifty oxen are killed every week for the community. Besides this, meal, bread, Indian corn, pease, beans, and other kinds of pulse, are distributed in abundance, without any regular or stated allowance.

After satisfying our curiosity at the ranchería, we inspected several other serviceable institutions for the promotion of production and economy in the

establishment. There was a building for melting tallow, and another for making soap; there were workshops for locksmiths and blacksmiths, and for cabinet-makers and carpenters; there were houses for the storage of tallow, soap, butter, salt, wool, and ox-hides (these being articles of exportation), with storerooms for corn, pease, beans, and other kinds of pulse.

When one considers that in this way two or three misionero padres take upon themselves such a sort of voluntary exile from their country, only to spread Christianity, and to civilize a wild and uncultivated race of men, to teach them husbandry and various useful arts, cherishing and instructing them as if they were their own children, providing them with dwellings, food, and clothing, with everything else necessary for their subsistence, and maintaining the utmost order and regularity of conduct, – when all these particulars, I say, are considered, one cannot sufficiently admire the zeal and activity that carry them through labors so arduous, nor forbear to wish the most complete success to their undertaking.

Meanwhile we were called to dinner, and were served with a very appetizing soup seasoned with

herbs and vegetables of different kinds, roast fowl, leg of mutton, different kinds of vegetables dressed in different ways, salad, pastry, preserved fruits, and many fine sorts of food dishes prepared with milk. All these were things to which our palates had been so long strangers, that we were not a little pleased with them. The wine offered us had been brought from the peninsula of Antigua California, and was of but an ordinary quality. Soon after dinner we were served with tea of poor quality, and chocolate of superexcellence.

Thereafter we were shown the kitchen-garden, but it did not equal our expectations. There was very little fruit, and that of inferior quality. Most of the beds were overgrown with weeds. Of fine vegetables and herbs there were few. Northwest winds, which prevail on this coast, and a soil dry and sandy by nature, are insurmountable obstacles to horticulture. The only vegetables that grow well in the gardens are asparagus, cabbage, several kinds of lettuce, onions, and potatoes. In outlying fields, more sheltered from the winds, pease, beans, corn, and other pulse, are cultivated, and thrive fairly well. Corn is here less productive than it is in some

other parts of Nueva California. Notwithstanding this, the Spanish government thought it necessary to establish a *misión* in the neighborhood of such an excellent port as that of San Francisco, with a presidio for its protection. Both establishments are in a flourishing condition, principally on account of the great number of cattle bred.

In order to convey a more accurate idea of the fertility of the soil, with which the padres found fault when compared with that of other *misiones*, I subjoin the comparative quantities of seed sown and the crops produced for four successive years, as given me by Padre Martín Landaeta.

GRAINS &c.	1802		1803		1804*		1805	
	SEED	CROP	SEED	CROP	SEED	CROP	SEED	CROP
	Fanegas							
Wheat . .	233	2322	201	1457	229	938	173	2622
Barley . .	108	1289	122	1720	143	826	195	2414
Pease . . .	12	525	11	509	9	344	8	330
Habas . . .	6	132	7	214	8	206	8	294
Frijoles . .	2	10	1	60	2	30	3	40
Maize . . .	1	20	2	60	1	156	1½	100

[A FANEGA is about a hundredweight.]

\* In 1804 most of the seed dried in the ground, because of extreme drought.

Although we acquired but a slight knowledge of the Indians of this *Misión* on this day, yet I will

combine here all that I learned concerning them with my observations during our entire stay.

The neófitos of the Misión San Francisco are the original inhabitants of these and the neighboring parts. A few come from the mouth of a large river that flows into the northernmost part of the harbor, and some from the neighborhood of Port Bodega, which lies to the north of San Francisco. All these people that inhabit the coasts of Nueva California are divided into tribes, under the names of Estero, Tuiban, and Tabin. Some other tribes, who live more inland, to the eastward of these, and who were formerly in continual warfare with them, called themselves Tscholban and Tamkan.

The former are nomadic, with no fixed abode. Their food consists partly of fish, sea-dogs, shell-fish, and other sea-foods, partly of animals killed in the chase, and partly of seeds, herbs, and roots. The last mentioned are considered the greatest dainties.

Their habitations are small round huts of straw, cone-shaped, erected at any stopping-place. These huts are burned upon their leaving, and the hut in which a person dies is also given to the flames. Both sexes go almost naked, wearing merely a girdle tied

around the waist. Only in the coldest days of winter do they throw over their bodies a covering of deer-skin, or the skin of the sea-otter. They also make for themselves garments of the feathers of several kinds of water-fowl, particularly ducks and geese. These they bind closely together in a string-like fashion, which strings are afterwards joined tight, making a dress of a feather-fur appearance. Both sides are alike, and it is so warm that it would be an excellent protection against the cold of even a more northerly clime. Sea-otter skins are also cut by them in small strips, and these they twist together and join in the same manner as with the feathers just described, and also as with the feathers, both sides alike. These coverings are worn principally by the women, and but very rarely by the males.

These Indians are of middling or rather short stature, and their color is of such a dark brown that it approaches black. This color is owing very much to their filthy mode of living, to the power of the sun's rays, to their custom of smearing their bodies with mud and ember-dust, and their slovenly way of wearing their scanty covering.

Their lips are large, thick, and protruding, their

noses broad, flat, and negro-like. Their features in many respects resemble those of the negro, and their color also, but their black hair, however, is in the highest degree different, being long and straight. Left to grow naturally, it would often hang down even below the hips, but they commonly cut it to the length of four or five inches, when it sticks out like bristles, and this to the eyes of a European is very repellent. The forehead appears extremely low, as the hair grows very far down towards the eyes. The eyebrows are not very hirsute. The beard is but moderately thick, and many pinch out the hairs with mussel-shells.

None of the men that we saw were over five feet in height. They were badly proportioned, and their appearance was so dull, heavy, and neglectful, that we were all agreed that we had never before seen the human race on such a low level.

Their weapons consist of the bow and arrow, and as these contribute essentially to the acquisition of many of the necessaries of life, their construction seems a principal object of their skill and industry. The shape of the bow is pleasing in appearance. It is made of wood, is from three to four and a half feet

long, neatly constructed, and drawn together very ingeniously with tendons of the deer. By this means the wood is kept in place securely, and the bow has such elasticity that very little strength and dexterity are required to draw the arrow. Both the bow and the arrow are very neatly made, and the arrows are pointed with vitrified lava, or obsidian, which is inserted in the shaft and bound with tendons. The Spaniards, on their first encounters in the country, had reason to remember with sorrow the skill of the Indians in the use of this weapon.

Among the articles in use in their habitations I saw baskets made of the bark of trees. These were so ingeniously woven, compact, and impervious to water, that they are used as drinking-vessels, food-dishes, and even as roasting-pans. Corn and pulse are put in them, and the Indians, by turning them quickly and dexterously over a slow charcoal fire, get every grain thoroughly browned without the basket being scorched in the least. Many of these baskets, or vessels, are ornamented with the scarlet feathers of the Oriolus phœniceous, or with the black crest-feathers of the California partridge (*Tetraonis cristati*), or with shells and corals.

However dull and heavy, however filthy, ugly, and disgusting, these people appear, yet they show a great fondness for ornaments and sports. Their ornaments are of many kinds, and are generally fashioned of shells and feathers. Among the shells chiefly used is a sort of sea-ear, probably the *Haliotis gigantea*, which abounds on these coasts, chiefly in the vicinity of Monterey, and which, in brilliancy of color, is scarcely inferior to the *Haliotis iris* of New Zealand. Small rings are made of another sort of shell, but I never saw a perfect one. These rings are all of the same size, and are of perfectly accurate make, and bored through the middle without the aid of any kind of instrument. In appearance they are much like glass beads, and are strung together to make necklaces.

Their most beautiful head-ornament is made of the two middle tail-feathers of the golden-winged woodpecker (*Picus auratus*), the shafts of which are naturally of a brilliant vermilion color. They are stripped to within an inch of the end, and then very cleverly strung and bound together so as to form a sort of bandeau for the head, the effect of which is very pleasing.

Among other curiosities that I procured from these people in exchange for European glass beads, silk ribbons, knives, and other articles, was one of these bandeaus, which consisted of four hundred and fifty feathers; hence two hundred and twenty-five birds were required in the making of it. I could not imagine, nor did I learn, how so large a number of these birds was procured, as the golden-winged woodpecker is a bird that frequents only a heavily timbered territory, and there is very little timber within the region of San Francisco. Another head-ornament, which is usually worn by these Indians at their dances, is made of the feathers of a vulture very common in these parts, the *Vultus aura*. The tail and wing feathers are woven together in such a way that the ornament resembles a Turkish fez.

Tattooing is a common practice, but principally among the women. Some have a double or triple line from each corner of the mouth down to the chin, while others have, in the middle of the chin only, a few concentric stripes, which converge. Most have simple long and cross stripes from the chin over the neck down to the breast, and upon the shoulders.

Among all their amusements there is none in which they take so much delight as in their dances. But of these I shall speak more particularly later. Another of their games or pastimes they call "tussi." A number sit together in a circle, one of whom has a little stick in his hand. This he passes, in a covert manner, from one hand to the other, singing the while. When he thinks he has twirled and twisted it about so effectually that the company does not know the hand that holds it, he turns suddenly to some one of them, and, with both hands shut and looking at him steadfastly, utters a loud "Ha!" It is the part of the one so addressed to guess in which hand the stick is. Should his guess prove accurate, he takes the stick and juggles with it in turn, but if he misses, a loud laugh is raised against him by the whole company.

When it is considered that two or three padres and four or five soldiers keep in order a community of from a thousand to fifteen hundred rough and uncivilized men, and make them pursue a course of life wholly different from that to which they had always been accustomed, it must be presumed that the cause is principally to be found in the mildness

and forbearance with which they are treated, and in the paternal care and kindness extended towards them. I must, however, also attribute the cause, in no small measure, to the simplicity of these poor creatures, who, in stature no less than in mind, are certainly of a very inferior race of human beings. I believe them wholly incapable of forming among themselves any regular and combined plan for their own emancipation.

Although it must be allowed generally, as facts incontestible, that a moderate climate is the most favorable to the human species, and that the mild regions of the globe are those which nature points out to man as the most friendly for his habitation, yet here we find a most striking exception to the general rule.

Here, on this western coast of North America, in the thirty-eighth degree of north latitude, where the aborigines live in a very moderate and equable climate, where there is no lack of food and no care about habitations or clothing, where by hunting they can obtain sustenance, where an abundance of roots, seeds, fruits, and the products of the sea, in many varieties, are at their hands, – these people are,

notwithstanding, small, ugly, and of bad proportion in their persons, and heavy and dull in their minds. Yet several tribes living on the same coast, on the contrary, as, for example, the Kolosh, in the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth degrees of north latitude, are strong, well built, and handsome, and possessing so much acuteness of mind that by their shrewdness or cunning they have often foiled both the English and the Russians. I frankly acknowledge that the phenomenon of these Californian pigmies, in such a mild climate, and with an abundance of food, is to me a puzzle.

But I will return to the *religiosos* of the *misiones*. Properly speaking, they are merely the stewards, through whose instruction the *neófitos* obtain the comforts of life, a habitation, and food and clothing. The *neófitos* are principally employed in such work as husbandry, tending cattle, and shearing sheep, or in handiwork, such as building, preparing tallow, and making soap and household articles. They are also employed in the transportation of provisions, as well as other goods, from one *misión* or *presidio* to another. The most laborious work, the grinding of the corn, is left almost entirely to the women. It

is rubbed between two quadrangular oblong stones until ground into meal. Although the flour made is very white, the bread is very heavy and hard. The excellent and friendly La Pérouse, with the object of overcoming this fault in the bread, left a hand-mill here, but it was not in existence at the time of our visit, neither had it been used as a model for the manufacture of others.

When we consider that in the whole world there is no other country in which windmills are more numerous than in Spain, it appears incredible that these very useful machines have never been put to use here. I learned, however, that in preferring the poorly ground flour produced by the methods just described the good misioneros are really actuated by economic motives. As they have more Indians of both sexes under their care than they can keep constantly employed the whole year, they fear that the introduction of mills would only be productive of idleness, whereas under the present system the neófitos can be kept busy making flour during the periods of unemployment.

The cattle, horses, and sheep do not require any particular attention. The herds are left in the open

the whole year through. Only a sufficient number are kept in the neighborhood of the establishment to serve immediate wants. When a supply of cattle is wanted, some of the neófitos and soldiers are sent out to the pastures, on horseback, and with riatas, which they throw very dexterously, catch by the horns the number required.

The immense herds of cattle now seen here are supposed to have sprung from five head brought to this Misión in the year 1776. The gobernador of [Nueva California, who had come here from the capital at] Monterey, and with whom we became acquainted during our stay, informed me that the cattle had increased to such a degree in the years immediately preceding, in the three northerly and contiguous misiones of San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz, that some months ago he had been compelled to send out a party of soldiers to kill not less than twenty thousand, wherever they should meet them, as he began to be afraid that from the immense increase there might in a short time be a lack of sufficient pasturage.

Plowing, etc., is done by oxen. Horses are kept principally for military service and for the use of the

misioneros, and for the transportation of goods and provisions from one establishment to another one. Mules are also employed for similar transportation. The carts and wagons are of rough construction. Here, as in Spain and Portugal, block-wheels are in use, and they are generally very far from being perfectly round.

The government has not, nor have the padres, anything in view other than the propagation of the Christian religion. Hence it may be supposed that the Indians, to whose maintenance and instruction all their efforts are devoted, must be much happier in their condition of comparative civilization than they were before, since they are permitted to retain their former habits and customs not interdicted by the misioneros.

In their dances, amusements, sports, ornaments, etc., they are liberally indulged. They have a little property of their own in fowls and pigeons. Upon obtaining permission, they may go hunting and fishing. Altogether, they can live much more free from care than in their previous wild, natural state.

Notwithstanding all that has been said in favor of the treatment of the Indians at the misiones, an

irresistible desire for freedom sometimes breaks out in individuals. This may probably be referred to the natural genius of the race. Their attachment to a wandering life, their love of alternate diversion from hunting and fishing to entire idleness, seem, in their eyes, to overbalance all the benefits they enjoy at the misiones, and these to us appear very great. The result is, every now and then attempts to escape are made. On such occasions, no sooner is the neófito missed than search for him is at once begun, and as it is always known to what tribe he belongs, and on account of the enmity that subsists among the different tribes, he can never take refuge with any other, – a circumstance which perhaps he thought not of beforehand, – it is hardly possible for him to escape those sent in his pursuit. He is almost always brought back to the misión, where he is bastinadoed, and an iron rod a foot or a foot and a half long and an inch in diameter is fastened to one of his feet. This has a twofold use, in that it prevents the Indian from making another attempt to escape, and has the effect of terrifying the others and deterring them from indulging in escapades of a similar nature.

After we had been shown all over this Misión San Francisco de Asís, and had become acquainted with the misioneros and the inhabitants, we made our way to the Presidio on the approach of evening, with a deep feeling of gratitude for the generous reception we had been given.

THE THIRD CHAPTER  
TRADE & ROMANCE - DOÑA CONCEPCIÓN

**S**USPICIOUSNESS of the Spanish government - Restraints upon trade - The Juno favored, and why - Proposals to trade - Misioneros favorable, but fear the government - Arrival of Don José Joaquín Arrillaga, gobernador of Nueva California - Results of Rezanov's efforts to establish trade relations between the northern Russian settlements and Nueva California - Music and dancing - Bull-fights and cock-fights - Trade and romance - The Count Rezanov succumbs to the charms of the beautiful Doña Concepción Argüello, and contemplates marriage - The plans of the count to bind Russia and Spain in trade intercourse - His purpose to go to Madrid - Langsdorff doubtful of success.



THE THIRD CHAPTER  
TRADE & ROMANCE - DOÑA CONCEPCIÓN

**S**USPICIOUSNESS in the extreme, on the part of the Spanish government, is well known, and vessels of other nations are not permitted to enter any Spanish port in North or South America. Should, however, a foreign ship be obliged to put in for want of water or wood, or to seek protection or relief on account of damage sustained in a storm, immediately upon its arrival a guard is placed on board and the ship inspected, and if the conditions do not appear pressing, the assistance requested is oftentimes denied.

All kinds of trade or barter in goods that have not passed through the Spanish customs is forbidden, under pain of confiscation. Tobacco, in particular, which is considered crown property, is subject to a very heavy duty. United States ships are guarded very closely, and the liberty of all the sailors, that are not native Spaniards, is so extremely curtailed that none are allowed to go ashore without special permission and supervision. So with the English expedition under Vancouver, which was received in a friendly manner, the same restraint obtained.

(Vancouver's Voyage, vol. iv, pp. 75-83.) We, in all probability, should have received like treatment if we had not availed ourselves of the royal Spanish orders given relative to the Krusenstern expedition. To these orders we owed our friendly reception, as well as permission to remain without inspection.

At length, when we hoped that the good-will of the misioneros, Padre José Uría and Padre Martín Landaeta, had been entirely won, we ventured to disclose the distress at the Russian establishment at Sitka, which was the principal cause of our visit, and to propose the exchange of our many wares or goods for a supply of provisions. But no matter how willing the padres were to comply with our desire to trade, they were fearful of entering upon such a venture without the consent of the government. They assured us that there was no doubt that such consent would be obtained, and expressed much satisfaction at the prospect of being able thereby to obtain a supply of greatly needed European goods. They had been informed of many articles on board the ship that would be of the utmost use to them. Most of this stock had been part of the cargo of the *Juno*, and went with her upon her purchase by us

at Sitka. While the padres awaited a reply from the gobernador, they paid us a business visit with Don Luis Argüello, and were much pleased with coarse linen, fine canvas, Russian ticking, and English sheeting. They made special inquiries as to iron and ironware, tools for industrial purposes, agricultural implements, sheep-shears, axes, lumbermen's saws, and large and small iron kettles. Tinned-copper kettles, of which we had quite a number, they did not incline to. They also inquired for casks, bottles, glasses, plates, fine handkerchiefs and neckerchiefs, and leather of all kinds, particularly calfskin and sole-leather. Ready-made boots and shoes, round hats, and clothing, of different kinds, of which we had a stock, were desired by them.

The señoras of the Presidio sent inquiries as to a certain kind of cotton and muslin shawl which should be about three and a half ells long and an ell wide, embroidered muslins, fine chintses, and striped-silk ribbons.

So that we might in the mean time secure the friendship and regard of our visitors, and inspire them with a cognition of our disinterestedness, Don Luis was presented with an English fowling-piece,

and each of the padres with a piece of fine English cloth, and to each of the latter was also presented a piece of gold-brocade to ornament their church. These presents were received thankfully.

On the second day of April Don Luis, in full-dress uniform, came on board the Juno to pay his respects, in the name of the gobernador of [Nueva California], to Count Rezanov; to offer him all the assistance possible; to request official papers which would satisfy the gobernador that Rezanov was in reality the official he represented himself to be; to inquire as to what had become of the ships that belonged to the expedition, with the commanding officers; to ask how long we purposed to stay at San Francisco.

Count Rezanov thereupon presented letters and commands received from other powers upon his setting out with the expedition, and tendered an apology that there was not among such papers one from the Spanish court, nothing pertaining thereto having been received at Saint Petersburg previous to his departure therefrom. Notwithstanding this, he had been received in the most hospitable and friendly manner in other of the Spanish possessions,

more particularly at Teneriffe, by the gobernador, the Marqués de la Casa Cabigal.

Don Luis expressed himself as being well satisfied with the information given by Rezanov, and soon afterwards presented to him, in reply, a very polite communication, in writing, from the gobernador, Don José Joaquín Arrillaga, saying that he would be at San Francisco in a few days to further by his presence the furnishing of the needed supplies.

Information of our arrival, and of the purpose of our coming, spread in the mean time through the country. Among other places, it reached Misión San José, southeast of San Francisco, founded some eight years previously [1797]. Being in much need of many articles we were reported to have aboard, one of the religiosos of that establishment, Padre Pedro De la Cueva, was deputed to negotiate with us. He tendered to us the friendly offices of himself and his establishment. When he had been shown many articles of merchandise by the commissary of the Russian American Company, he negotiated a trade, by which, for four pieces of English blue cloth and seven pieces of linen, he was to send us from his Misión a hundred and four fanegas of the

best maize. This agreement, however, was subject to the approval of the gobernador.

The deportment of this misionero was entirely different from that of Padre José Uría. He was at all times gay and cheerful, and was indeed a most agreeable companion. It appeared that this was by no means the first time he had engaged in trade. As we expressed a wish to have a very considerable quantity of flour, with proper sacking for stowing it aboard the ship, he frankly told us that he could not furnish all that we required, either of the one or the other. But without much hesitation he agreed to order the Indians of his Misión to grind as much meal as possible during our stay, and if need be, to have them work by night as well as by day. By this means he hoped to deliver to us within a week forty arrobas of flour, and with sufficient sacking. Should there not be sufficient cloth available for sacks, he would have the necessary quantity made of horse, cow, or ox hides.

On the seventh day of April we were informed that Gobernador Arrillaga, with the comandante of the Presidio de San Francisco (Don José Darío Argüello) and some other officers, were expected

that day at the Presidio. Towards evening cannon-shots announced their arrival. On this occasion we heard not only the guns of the fort already known to us, and which protects the entrance to the port, but also a discharge from the rear of another point within the harbor, which was at the entrance to a little bay to the southeast. This caused not a little surprise on our part, as we had never seen any fort there, nor had we any idea that such a thing was in existence. It was, in fact, not visible from where we lay at anchor. An enemy's ship attempting to run into the harbor, and deeming itself safe by steering out of range of the guns protecting the entrance, will receive an unexpected surprise by this cannon salvo at a moment when such was least expected. But, on the contrary, a vessel keeping to the north shore and northeast part of this spacious bay is safe from all danger.

One particularly interested, and desiring a clear idea of the Puerto de San Francisco, must consult chart 33 of the atlas to La Pérouse's Voyage. In the proximity and north of the Isla de los Ángeles and the Punta de San Antonio, an enemy's ship is secure against all attacks by the Spaniards. (Footnote.)

As soon as we were informed of the arrival of the gobernador, Lieutenant Davidov was sent ashore to welcome the company, and extend our warmest acknowledgments for the friendly manner in which we had been received. On the following morning, when we expected our visit to be returned, there came two religiosos tendering the apologies of the gobernador, that, being advanced in years and of a feeble constitution, he hoped to be excused from returning the visit, and at the same time requesting Rezanov, with all of the officers, to visit him at the Presidio. The invitation was accepted, and we all went to the Presidio, where we became acquainted with the gobernador, a venerable-looking man of sixty years. He had come a distance of no less than twenty-five German miles, solely for the purpose of showing respect to us, and of making our stay as agreeable as possible.

The principal matter to be agreed upon between Rezanov and the gobernador was the furnishing of food-supplies and other necessaries to the Russian settlements. Rezanov thought that a trade might be established between these and the provincias of Nueva España, which would be of mutual benefit,

and that it might be carried on by vessels running from one to the other at stated periods.

The gobernador, however, did not think he had the authority to establish such an intercourse, but he agreed that the proposition was one worthy of consideration as being mutually advantageous. He said that the proposal should be submitted to the cabinet at Madrid, as not even the viceroy of Nueva España had the authority to entertain it.

There was, however, no difficulty about getting the supplies necessary for the continuance of our voyage. The gobernador even dispatched couriers to all the neighboring misiones, authorizing the sending of corn, meal, flour, meat, salt, and other supplies. We were permitted, as we could not pay in cash, to make payments in such merchandise as we carried and as was desired. That there might be no dissatisfaction, no envy or jealousy, no disputes, he requested from us a formal statement of all the supplies we needed. On the part of the misiones, he requested a report showing what supplies each one had. Thereupon he himself determined the kinds and quantities to be received from or delivered by each one concerned.

With regard to the purchase of a complete ship's lading of corn and other provisions, which Rezanov urged very much, some difficulties arose, and it was not until after protracted negotiations that consent was given by the gobernador that the quantities we desired should be supplied by the misiones. But he stipulated that the comandante of the Presidio de San Francisco should receive the merchandise we were to give in exchange, on the crown reckoning, to hold the same until permission to deliver it was received from Mexico.

By this arrangement we were greatly aided and the misiones well pleased, and the gobernador was of the opinion that thereby he had guarded himself completely against any possibility of incurring the displeasure of his government.

During the time that the horses, mules, and oxen of the several misiones were going backward and forward to bring us our cargo, the gobernador, with his attendants, as well as the numerous family of the comandante, did everything in their power to make our stay agreeable. Almost every morning horses were ready for us on the shore, that we might ride about the country near by, and we had permission

to go everywhere, except to the fort [Fuerte de San Joaquín].

We often amused ourselves with shooting the crested partridges and rabbits, which abound upon the surrounding sand-hills. One day we went out, accompanied by a party of twelve, and conducted by some thirty or forty Indians, to catch hares and rabbits. This was done by a peculiar kind of snare. Inside of three hours, without firing a shot, we had taken seventy-five, and most of them alive. In vain we sought for lions (*Felis concolor*), tigers (*Felis onca*), and bears. The last are very numerous here, while the others are found but rarely. On the north shore of the bay the roe abounds, and the chase of it is very alluring, and yields an abundance. In a number of aquatic trips I found most of the birds with which I had become familiar at Sitka; e. g., *Pelicanus*, *Colymbus*, *Anas perspicillata* and *A. nigra*, *Hæmatopus ostralegus*, and others. There were also seals of various kinds, and, pre-eminent, the precious sea-otter, which, almost unheeded, was swimming about the bay in numbers.

Almost every afternoon some of us were at the Presidio, and the evening parties were ordinarily

enlivened by dancing and music. The sternness of Fray José Uría, who was almost a daily visitor at the Presidio, was in striking contrast with the vivacity of Fray Pedro De la Cueva, who lived there with the Argüello family. When the former spoke, all was silence and profound attention, but hardly had the latter opened his lips than laughter followed from the whole company. He seemed to abound in wit and humor, and entertained us in a manner most agreeable.

The popular dance here is called *barrego*. It is performed by two couples, who stand opposite each other. They sing a tune in six-eighths time, and stamp the measure with their feet, making the figure of a half-chain, then balance opposite each other to a slow tune, when they recommence the dance. We were at some pains to teach the señoras English country-dances, which they liked so much that we afterwards commonly danced them. They seemed particularly well pleased that all could dance at one time. Some soldiers of the garrison, who could play the violin and guitar, were our musicians.

Don Luis Argüello had talked much to us ever since we arrived of the combats between animals.

These form a part of the amusements of the place. On the 10th of April he sent out eight soldiers on horseback to catch a live bear to fight with a wild bull at the Presidio. They returned on the evening of the same day with a large dark-brown bear, taken by means of ropes and slings. He lay upon an ox-hide stretched over branches of trees bound together, and had been drawn on this for some miles by a pair of oxen. He had been muzzled, and his paws were tied fast together. This confinement, together with the way in which he had been dragged, and his rage, had heated him exceedingly. When he arrived at the Presidio most of the bands securing him were loosened. Water was thrown over his body, and he seemed much refreshed by this. Afterwards he was tied, by his hind feet only, to a stake driven into the ground, near a pool. He soon began to drink of the water, and splashed about in it to cool himself. No one dared to venture near him, for he growled and glanced about furiously.

An order was now given to catch some wild bulls to fight with the bear, and the next day was set for the combat. We awaited the time impatiently, and at the appointed hour looked eagerly for the horses,

but when they arrived we were greatly disappointed, as we were told that the bear had died in the night. According to what we were told by the Spaniards, the bear generally gets the worst of the fight.

To make some amends for our disappointment, the comandante promised that we should have a bull-fight, and this fight was had in the afternoon. Several soldiers, on foot and on horseback, killed one bull after another with spears, but the animals did not fall until they had received many wounds.

As these bull-fights are well known as one of the national sports of the Spaniards and Portuguese, and have been often described, it would be useless here to repeat such descriptions, especially as none of the combatants on this occasion displayed any dexterity or skill. I ought, however, to say that I could not help being impressed upon seeing that the padres, who in all their instructions to their neófitos insist so strongly upon the cultivation of tenderness of heart and feelings of compassion, never offer any opposition to these national sports, though there is no denying that they are very cruel and barbarous. Perhaps, accustomed as they are to the sport from their youth up, all sense of cruelty is lost, and they

are no more affected by the sight of this worthless slaughter of animals, in a manner revolting to those unaccustomed to it, than the natives of Nukahiva are by the eating of human flesh.

In the same light must be regarded cock-fights, which are quite frequent in Nueva California, and are, it must be admitted, to the humane, no less cruel and repugnant. We saw no more of this sport than the little knives that are fastened to the legs of the birds when they fight.

Our intimate association daily with the Argüello family, the music and dancing, the sports, aroused in the mind of Rezanov some new and important speculations. These led to the formation of a plan of a very different nature from the original scheme for the establishment of commercial relations.

The bright sparkling eyes of Doña Concepción had made upon him a deep impression, and pierced his inmost soul. He conceived the idea that through a marriage with the daughter of the comandante of the Presidio de San Francisco a close bond would be formed for future business intercourse between the Russian American Company and the provincia of Nueva California. He had therefore decided to

sacrifice himself, by wedding Doña Concepción, to the welfare of his country, and to bind in friendly alliance both Spain and Russia.

The first obstacle in the way to such a union was the difference between the religions of the parties. But to a philosophic head like that of Rezanov this was by no means insurmountable. The gobernador, however, called his attention to the critical political situation in Europe, and the well-known suspicious nature of the Spanish government, and gave him little hope of support in his trade speculations.

Rezanov thereupon assured the gobernador that immediately on his return to Saint Petersburg he himself, as an ambassador extraordinary from the imperial Russian court, would go to Madrid so that every possible misunderstanding between the two courts would be obviated. Thereafter he would sail from some Spanish port to Vera Cruz and Mexico, and finally come on to San Francisco to claim his bride and settle all commercial matters. It will be perceived from this that Rezanov was no less daring in forming his projects for the binding of the two nations, than quick in laying the foundation for the means of carrying them out.

The principal object had in view in the proposed commercial arrangement was, that the possessions of the Russians in America, as well as Kamchatka and Okhotsk, should be assured of a regular supply of breadstuffs from Nueva California. No matter how feasible the carrying out of the plans should seem at first sight, and so praiseworthy the intention of the man who should attempt it, yet there are, in my opinion, many obstacles in the way, that would prevent its accomplishment, even supposing that it should receive the approval of the Spanish court.

The Russian American Company's possessions are at such great distances from one another, that, with the present means of navigation, the company could hardly afford the upkeep of communication, and the lack of ships and sailors would be doubly felt if a regular intercourse with Nueva California should be attempted.

But, even granting the possession of ships and sailors, how could the supplies purchased be paid for but with money, or such articles of merchandise as the Spaniards of Nueva California had occasion for? And such articles probably could not be sent from the Aleutian Islands, Sitka, or Kamchatka.

Goods required in Nueva California are, cloths, manufactured articles, sugar, chocolate, wine and brandy, tobacco, iron and iron tools, etc. Of these the Russian establishments, from Okhotsk to the northwest coast of America, are no less in want – perhaps even more in want – than the Spanish in Nueva California.

If this plan could be carried out, and ships were sent from Europe to Nueva California to purchase, either with money or by barter, the breadstuffs and salted meat needed by the Russian possessions, and above all to collect sea-otter skins, this would, in my estimation, be to procure them at a much higher cost than if the Russian American Company should draw the supplies directly from Kronstadt. Besides that corn is much dearer in Nueva California than in Kronstadt, the ships must run far out of their way, and thus lose much time.

As to the collection of sea-otter skins, in which, without doubt, a very advantageous trade might be established, it is very questionable if the Spaniards would consent to such trading. I do not think they would. The Spanish government expressly forbids the capture of the sea-otter within thirty leagues

of the coast, by vessels of any other nation, under pain of such vessels themselves being forfeited.

Gobernador Arrillaga complained very bitterly to us, one day, of the conduct of certain sailors from United States vessels, because they not only supplied the natives of the northwest coast with guns and powder and shot, but even at times were audacious enough to bring with them a number of Aleutians to catch sea-otters on the coast of Nueva California. He told us, as if it had been a matter previously to us unknown, that a Captain O'Cain had, some years before, come here from Unalaska, with thirty men and four women, secretly to catch these otters on the coast. Since that time the Spanish government had ordered that two ships from Acapulco should cruise constantly along the coast to prevent such trespassing. Indeed, during our stay information was received that an American ship had been seized and taken to San Diego.

If Russia would engage in an advantageous trade with these parts, and procure from them supplies for her northern establishments, a colony of her own planted here is the only way to bring it about. In a country blessed with such a mild climate as

California is, where there is such an abundance of wood and water, with so many other means for the support of life, and an excellent harbor, persons of an enterprising spirit might in a few years establish a very powerful colony. With the service of skilled mechanics now to be found in Sitka, in Norfolk Sound, several kinds of wind and water mills could soon be constructed, looms made, and distilleries erected. Large and small vessels, and storehouses for foodstuffs, would then be built; vast herds of cattle would be raised, and sea-otters taken in large numbers. Thus, in time, Kamchatka and eastern Asia would be liberally supplied from hence with all kinds of vegetable and animal productions for the sustenance of life.

Russia and the Russian American Company, in the extensive fur trade with its source of supply in their possessions, have already a sufficient source of wealth, and have no need to aspire to an acquisition of foreign territory. By proper management, their present unlimited sources of wealth would rise to profitable productivity if they would concentrate their strength instead of weakening it by boundless expansion.

THE FOURTH CHAPTER  
BY WATER TO MISIÓN SAN JOSÉ - MISIÓN LIFE

**T**HE THREE northern Franciscan misiones - Intercourse with one another possible by land only - Neither boats nor vessels in the puerto - Langsdorff's failure to reach Misión San José in Juno's boats - Second attempt successful - The Misión, and life there - An Indian dance - Its neófitos the handsomest Indians in Nueva California - Females intermarry with Spanish soldiers - Ancient enmities of different tribes an obstacle to association and intermarriage - Mock battle - Fire-eating - Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe - Perilous return to ship.

## INDIAN DANCE AT MISIÓN SAN JOSÉ

THE INDIANS ARE ALL NAKED, except for the breech-cloth. The physiognomy of these people is tolerably well shown. Their hair is very coarse, thick, and stands erect. In some it is powdered with down-feathers. Their bodies are fantastically painted with charcoal-dust, red clay, and chalk. The second from the right is covered all over with down-feathers, which gives him a monkey-like appearance. The dancer at the extreme right has had the whimsical idea of painting his body to resemble the uniform of a Spanish soldier, with his boots, stockings, breeches, and upper garments. Near this Indian, at the foot of a tree, is a fire, from which the dancers every now and then snatch out a glowing coal and swallow it.



INDIAN DANCE AT BISHOP LAKE 1896

Photograph by George F. Ruxton, U.S. Geologist, and J. S. Galloway, U.S. Geologist

## INDIAN DANCE AT MISSION SAN JOSE

*For Mission San Jose, the dance is the favorite. The style is very ancient, thick, and unassuming, because it is composed with decorations. The dances are performed in a circle, and the dancers, which are very much decorated, are dressed in white, and the women, which are very much decorated, are dressed in white. The dances are performed in a circle, and the dancers, which are very much decorated, are dressed in white, and the women, which are very much decorated, are dressed in white.*



ORIGINAL DRAWING by an UNIDENTIFIED ARTIST, and ENGRAVED ON COPPER

INDIAN DANCE AT MISIÓN SAN JOSÉ

ETCHED ON COPPER - PRIVATE PRESS OF T. C. ROSSIGNOL, SAN FRANCISCO



## THE FOURTH CHAPTER

BY WATER TO MISIÓN SAN JOSÉ - MISIÓN LIFE

**M**ISIONES de San Francisco de Asís, Santa Clara de Asís, San José, the three most northerly of the Franciscan misiones of Nueva California, lie near the southeast part of the Puerto de San Francisco; and although water-communication from one to the other would be of the utmost benefit, it seems almost incredible that in not one of them, no, not even in the Presidio or Puerto de San Francisco, is there a vessel or boat of any kind.

Perhaps the misioneros are afraid that if they had boats the escape of the Indians, who never wholly lose their love of freedom, or attachment to their original habits, might be facilitated, and therefore consider it better to confine their communication with one another to the means afforded by land, - to the horse.

The Spaniard, as well as his nursling the Indian, is but seldom forced to trust himself to the waves, and this may be the reason that communication by water here is hardly yet in its infancy. When such an occasion does arise, they make a kind of boat of

straw, reeds, and rushes, bound so compactly that it is water-tight, and in this they manage to go very well from one shore to the other. It is called by the Spaniards "balsa." The oar used is a long, narrow pole, somewhat wider at the ends, with which they row, sometimes on one side, and sometimes on the other.

This total lack of vessels, which are, so to speak, keys to all their southern and eastern possessions, is a strong proof of the recklessness of the Spanish government. It is because of this lack that they had to wait so long on shore on the day of our arrival, and were thus precluded from all communication with us until we sent out our ship's boat.

As Mision San José lies on the opposite or south-eastern shore of the puerto, at a distance of sixteen leagues, communication by water would prove of infinite benefit to the misioneros. Notwithstanding that this convenience is so easily within their reach, they have no other means of intercourse than that by land. Thus they are obliged to go round the bay, at least three times the distance.

The difficulty of conveyance by land, the small number of neófitos at the Misión San José, and the

breaking out, this year, of an infectious disease – the measles – hitherto unknown in California, which had spread from Antigua California to the northern settlements, and had for some weeks attacked great numbers of the Indians in the contiguous misiones, caused much delay in the delivery of the supplies agreed upon. Count Rezanov therefore applied to Gobernador Arrillaga for permission to send our ship's boats to Misión San José, so that the delivery of the supplies might be expedited. The advantage accruing, in saving the labor of men and horses, was so obvious that the gobernador readily consented.

Accordingly, on the 12th of April, several boats were held in readiness, and a courier was sent by land to the Misión San José to inform them of our coming, and with an order from the gobernador to make a signal-fire at the landing-place on the 14th to indicate its locale. Without such a fire, we were assured by the gobernador and the comandante, it would not be possible to find it. Lieutenant Davidov commanded on this occasion, and permitted me to accompany him.

At about noon on the 14th we left the ship and availed ourselves of the flood-tide to run into the

large arm of the puerto stretching to the southeast. When we reached the point of land lying northeast of the Presidio we saw thereon the battery of five cannon that protected the south-southeastern and southwestern division of the puerto. The shore on our left, or eastern shore, presents a low, extensive plain stretching several miles inland, and is bounded by a chain of hills of moderate height, intersected by deep valleys, covered only in some places with timber. The western shore is bounded by hills partly bare and partly covered with brush. This shore has many points of land and small bays, and near one of the latter lies Misión San Francisco de Asís. As far as this place the water is deep enough for large vessels, but a little farther on it is much shallower, not having a depth of five feet. This was shown by a great change in the color of the water. We now proceeded for several nautical miles, sounding all the way quite frequently, and saw high land on the southern horizon, which appeared to rise like an island in the midst of the water, and soon after this we saw pretty clearly, to the southeast, upon a rising eminence, the Misión San José. At the same time we saw smoke toward the south, upon what we had

supposed to be an island. As this smoke was so far to the south, we were of the opinion that it could not be the signal intended for us, regarding it as a chance-fire, and kept on the lookout for ours on the nearer eastern shore.

Only at sunset did we find out our mistake, and discover that what we had supposed to be an island was connected by a narrow neck of land to a plain lying farther east. But, having had a fresh southwest wind, we were now so near the eastern shore that it was impossible, either by rowing or with a sail, to reach the signal-fire. When night came on, it was so dark that we were forced to anchor in a shallow place, in three feet of water. We were now separated from and entirely out of sight of the other boats.

On the morning of the 15th we endeavored in vain to reach the high point of land, and as the wind still blew strong from the southwest, nothing now remained but to return to the ship. The longboat having battled all day both winds and waves, we considered ourselves fortunate on the 16th to reach the harbor of [the Presidio de] San Francisco. The third boat, having lost its mast, had taken refuge in a small bay. The same squally weather, with rain,

continued until the 19th, when it cleared, and the wind changed to the north and northwest.

My desire to visit Misión San José was not abated in consequence of this unsuccessful attempt, and I requested and obtained the gobernador's consent to make another attempt. On the 20th, therefore, with a sailor and a huntsman, I set out in a three-seated bidarka that I had brought from Sitka. We left San Francisco early in the morning, and about noon reached the plain lying in front of the Misión. We then sought for the principal channel, which is supposed to be in the vicinity of several hills, and these are indeed the principal guides in finding it. They stretch from the northwest to the southeast, and are surrounded by a muddy shallow extending a considerable distance along the shore, to avoid which one must steer to the west until the southern hills, which on our first attempt on the 14th we had mistaken for an island, lie to the east. The channel that must then be taken winds among the heights, and the lowest two of these left to the north, and the others, which are much higher, to the south. This channel runs at first in a northwesterly direction, and then, after many windings, southeasterly into

the interior. At flood-tide the depth of water is from six to nine feet, but even at ebb-tide it is navigable by small boats. At low water it is almost impossible to land, on account of the muddy shore, and at high water the landing is not unattended with difficulty. The many little channels intersecting this flat land make it an absolute labyrinth, and as we were not acquainted with the terrain, we were mistaken at many times, and had to turn back, often missing the main by turning into a side channel.

Wearied at length by continually going astray, I ascended a hill near by, where I could get a better view of the terrain, and saw a landing-place from which we could proceed overland to the Misi6n, which lay three and a half leagues east-northeast. The country now to be traveled over rises gradually over the low-lying plain, and is bounded by a chain of moderately high hills, which stretch from the north-northwest to the south-southeast. Numerous herds of horses and cattle were running wild here, without any attention being paid to them. The bulls even render the country unsafe for foot-passengers. We also saw many foxes, and a large wolf that ran away frightened. The foxes seemed to live on the

most peaceable terms with the young calves, and followed the cows like the calves.

Shortly before sunset we arrived at the Misión, very much fatigued. It was now under the charge of two misioneros, Padre Luis [Gil y Taboada] and Padre Pedro De la Cueva. The latter only was at the Misión. He received us with open arms, and sent at once horses to the shore to fetch our baggage and the sailor. We had left the sailor to take care of the bidarka, and he was now relieved by some Indians. Fray Luis was now at San Francisco on a short visit. On the morning of the 21st all the Indian neófitos were assembled to receive from Fray Pedro their allotted work for the day. He had promised, when I saw him at San Francisco, to entertain me with an Indian dance at his Misión, and he therefore now announced to them that they should have a holiday, and that they might dress themselves in their best and prepare for the dance. He distributed, for this purpose, a number of ornaments among the best dancers, who immediately withdrew with them to make the necessary preparations.

In the mean time Fray Pedro showed me about the buildings and grounds belonging to his Misión.

They are of considerable extent, although it is only eight years since work was begun on them. Grain in the storehouses, as to quantity, greatly exceeded my expectations, there being over two thousand fanegas of wheat, and a proportionate quantity of maize, barley, pease, beans, etc. The kitchen-garden is exceptionally well laid out, and kept in very good order. The soil is everywhere productive, and the fruit-trees, although still small, are doing very well. A rivulet runs through the garden, with sufficient water to irrigate. Some vineyards have been planted within the past few years, with vines now yielding exceedingly well. The wine is sweet, and resembles Malaga.

The site of the establishment is exceedingly well chosen, and the common opinion is that the Misión will in a few years be one of the richest and best in Nueva California. The one and only disadvantage is, an entire lack of forests of tall timber. The native Indians have, now and then, thoughtlessly, simply to make a bonfire, set fire to the forests, and burned down large tracts, leaving few trees standing; hence timber for building purposes must be brought from a distance of several miles. But, in comparison with

other misiones, this disadvantage is compensated by the presence, in the neighborhood, of chalk-hills and an excellent clay, whereby brick-kilns may be erected and the main structures built of brick.

The Misión is richer in grain than in cattle, and the number of cattle slaughtered weekly is hence much smaller than at Misión San Francisco, but the distribution of corn and pulse is much greater.

The interior arrangement and organization of this Misión is entirely the same as that of Misión San Francisco. The habitations of the Indians – las rancherías – are not yet finished, so that the neófitos live for the most part in families, in straw huts of a conical form.

Fray Pedro, who showed me about everywhere, invited me, when we had seen all that was worth seeing, to go and see the Indians getting ready for the dance. We went to a rivulet, by the side of which the dancers were gathered, very busy in smearing their bodies over with charcoal, red clay, and chalk. While one Indian was ornamenting his own breast, abdomen, and thighs, another was painting his back with various regular figures. Some were covering their nude bodies all over with down, which gave

them rather the appearance of monkeys than of human beings. Their heads, ears, and necks were set off with a great variety of ornaments, but, except a covering tied around the waist, their entire bodies were nude. The women were at the same time, in their huts, performing the offices of the toilet, and were all, consistently with the customs of decorum, dressed. Their faces and necks, only, were painted, and they were adorned with a profusion of shells, feathers, corals, etc.

The Indians assembled in the courtyard toward noon. They are very different from the Indians of Misión San Francisco, as to size, appearance, and build. The men are well built, and almost all are above middling stature. Very few indeed are what may be called undersized. Their complexions are dark, but not negro-like, and if their physiognomy cannot absolutely be called pleasing, there is nothing about it that would provoke aversion. I thought that they strongly resembled the northern tribes. They have very coarse black hair, and some are possessed of extraordinary strength. In general, the women seem proportionately taller than the men, and many are over five feet high.

If there were not any, either among the men or women, that I could call handsome, I did not note in one the dull, heavy, and repugnant look of the neófitos of San Francisco. The Indians of this Misión are indeed generally considered the handsomest in Nueva California, and hence the Spanish soldiers, in the absence of Spanish women, often marry the Indian women of this Misión.

The dancers were divided into two companies. Each distinguished itself by specific ornaments and a special kind of song. One of these companies was composed of Indians inhabiting the coast, and the other of Indians belonging to inland tribes. The coast Indians were not so well made, nor so strong, nor so good-looking, as those of the interior. These neighboring tribes formerly lived at great mutual enmity. Although they are now united here by the bond of religion, yet the old hostility is so rooted in them that it is still apparent. As an instance of this, the misioneros cannot induce them to intermarry. They will unite themselves with only those of their own tribe, and it is an exception that they mingle or associate with members of any tribe other than their own.

In their dances the Indians remain almost always in the same place, endeavoring, partly with their bows and arrows, partly with the feathers they hold in their hands and wear on their heads, and also by measured springs, by different movements of their bodies, and by facial contortions, to imitate scenes of battle or of domestic life. Their music consists of singing, and clapping with a stick split at one end. The women have their own particular song, and their own particular manner of dancing. They hop about near the men, but never in time with them. Their principal action or practice is in pressing the abdomen with the thumb and forefinger, first to one side and then to the other, in regular measure. As soon as the men begin to dance, the women also begin, and cease the moment the men cease.

At about two o'clock we sat down to a very fine dinner, and afterwards went again to see the Indians, who were still engaged in dancing, and were now about to enact a mock battle. A large straw figure represented the enemy, and a number of the men, armed with bows and arrows, sprang and danced about with fierce gesticulations and contortions to defy their adversary, who, had he been able, would

have done likewise. One of the Indians finally gave a signal, and at the same moment the straw figure was pierced with many arrows, whereupon it was presented in triumph to the man who personated the chief.

Upon this occasion I perceived that most of the Indians were skillful marksmen. Yet it appeared to me that if the enemy was courageous, and would attend more to the use of his weapons and less to gesticulations, he could hardly fail to win. These people were never in the habit of eating the enemy killed in battle, the greatest endeavor of each party being to steal the young girls and the wives of the enemy.

Another party of Indians danced before a large fire, from which each one, apparently for his own gratification, took, now and then, a glowing ember as large as a walnut, and without further ceremony put it into his mouth and swallowed it. It was not deception. I watched them very closely, and saw it done repeatedly, although it is utterly beyond my comprehension how it could be done without the mouth being burned.

I was also entertained with a representation of a

hunting party. The Indians fasten the horns of a deer on their heads, and throw a portion of the skin over their shoulders. Thus disguised, they lurk in the high grass, where the stags and the roes come to feed, imitating their actions so well that, though naturally shy and timid, they are duped, and allow the Indians, with their bows and arrows, to come within a few feet of them. Several are often killed without the others having any idea of their peril.

Directly east, about seven leagues from Misión San José, there is an arm of a great river that first winds toward the north, and then, making a turn to the west, empties itself at last into the Bay of San Francisco at its northeastern part. In the region of this river there are numerous Indian villages, but the natives do not yet consort with the Spaniards or the baptized Indians. When Misión San José was first founded they became troublesome from time to time. Only a year and a half before I was there they had murdered five soldiers and dangerously wounded one of the padres and another soldier. Upon this a strong military expedition was sent out against them, and a great slaughter of the Indians was the result, whereupon they were compelled to

conclude a peace. There has been no trouble with them since. The Spaniards and the Indian neófitos occasionally go among these Indians, remaining with them for perhaps a fortnight or longer, with the intention of gaining neófitos, if possible. Some of them make visits to the Misión, at which times they always return home enriched with presents of various kinds.

Three leagues from the Misión San José, to the southwest, lies the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe. The word "pueblo" is used here to indicate a sort of village composed of inválidos, who are released from military service. They cultivate the soil and raise cattle, and live in the midst of plenty. There are several pueblos such as this, in different parts of Nueva and Antigua California, and here there is a yearly increase in population. Gobernador Arrillaga assured me that in twenty years the population of the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe had increased from one hundred to seven hundred. It is peculiar that, conversely, and notwithstanding their good treatment, there is a continuous diminution in the number of the Misión Indian neófitos.

On the 23d I took leave of Fray Pedro, to whom

I owe my public acknowledgments for his kindly reception and hospitality. He had horses saddled for us, and we went, accompanied by a soldier, in search of our bidarka, which we found at the very spot where we had left it. Some wild bulls followed us on our way, and caused us much uneasiness. A number of foxes, on the contrary, ran off terrified.

We rowed in shallow water, through the channel that winds among the hills, down to the bay. The muddy banks that stretched on either side were overspread with sandpipers, snipes, wild ducks, and sea-mews; but we did not attempt to shoot any of them, as it would have been impossible to get them out of the deep mire. We saw also a great number of sea-otters, one of which we shot, but as it took refuge in one of the smaller channels, we had not the disposition to lose time in its pursuit.

Scarcely had we reached the open waters of the bay than a strong north wind arose. It was now an impossibility to proceed. Wet through and through by the dashing waves, held back by the rush of the current, and suffering from hunger and thirst, we were forced at sunset to relinquish all hope of going forward, and resign ourselves to the probability of

passing the night in the open, in a low boggy place near the landing. Not having anticipated such a condition, we had brought with us provisions for only one day, and now nothing was left but a little bread and cheese, and an insignificant quantity of brandy. We laid ourselves down to rest with empty stomachs, not being able even to quench our thirst, since we were surrounded by the saline tidewater. We endeavored to shelter ourselves somewhat from the force of the strong winds by means of our wet sailcloth, and in this situation, and stiff with cold, waited for daybreak.

By the morning our clothes, which had been wet through by the storm yesterday, were tolerably dry, and at ten o'clock we were ready to leave. But we found that on account of the tide being still at low ebb there was still a larger extent of muddy shore than it was possible to cross. Nor would it admit of our re-embarking until about noon. Scarcely, then, had we seated ourselves in the boat than the same north and northwest wind returned, and left not a probability of our being able, even on that day, to reach the [Presidio harbor of] San Francisco. We consequently decided to row to the opposite shore,

which looked to be much higher and well wooded, and reached that side at about three o'clock in the afternoon. But here we found a low boggy plain, overgrown merely by a saltwort (*Salsola*), and, like the plain on the eastern shore, intersected by many little channels, so that there was no possibility of our reaching the woods on foot.

However, we followed, in our *bidarka*, the widest channel, and, rowing amidst the many windings for about three quarters of an hour, were lucky enough to find a place to land, and from which there was reason to hope that we might soon reach the wood, where we hoped to find fresh water. Armed with guns and pistols, and taking with us our last morsel of bread and cheese and an empty bottle, we went on our way. Infinitely annoyed, we traveled about in search of some brook or spring where we might quench our thirst. We reached the wood before nightfall, after walking more than a German mile, but nowhere found a drop of water. We at length saw a numerous herd of bulls and cows, feeding wild among luxuriant wild grass in a meadow. Keeping these off with our guns and pistols, we searched in a thorough manner for water, but all in vain, – again

not a drop could we find. Exhausted by fatigue, and suffering from hunger and thirst, in listless despair we laid ourselves down, when suddenly we heard, at some distance, the croak of a frog. Never did the tuneful notes of the nightingale sound to our ears half so delightful. We started up, and, following the call and seeming invitation of this creature, soon found ourselves, in the darkness of the night, by the side of a little stream of excellent water. As for two days we had been upon a short allowance of food, and with nothing to quench our thirst, we drank the water with such avidity that in two hours we consumed fourteen bottlefuls. It should be stated that we were a party of only three.

The night was cool and damp. So we made a fire to warm ourselves, and rested till midnight, when, the moon being very bright, we decided to return to our bidarka. On the way we encountered several bears and wild bulls, which we kept off with our guns, and at about three o'clock in the morning we reached our bidarka. It was then perfectly calm. In a very fine morning we set out upon our return to [the harbor of the Presidio de] San Francisco. The channel that we followed to reach the bay was full

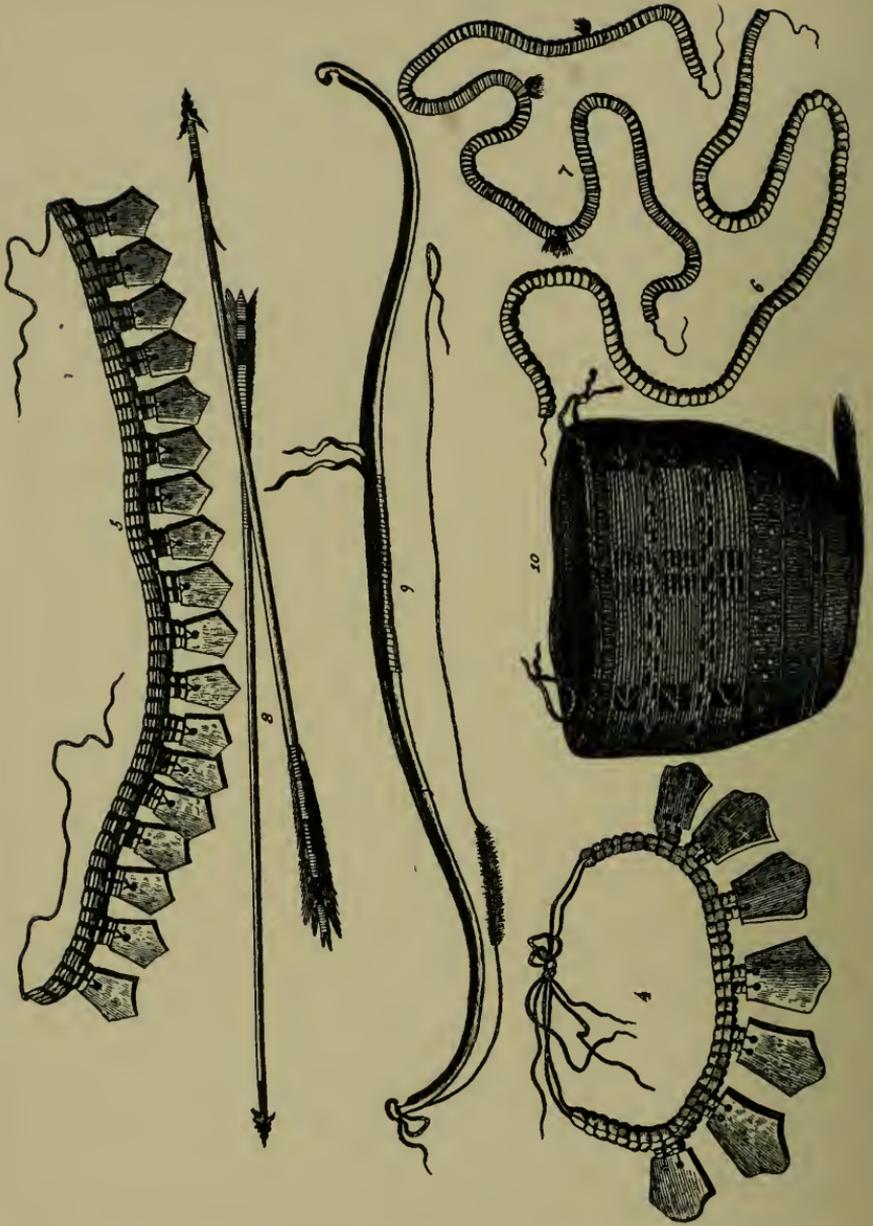
of sea-otters and sea-dogs. Many were lying on the muddy shores, and many swimming, their heads just above the water. The trials of the past few days were so fresh in our memories, and the craving of our stomachs for nourishment so insistent, that we renounced all the joys and advantages that might accrue from a chase of these animals. Despite this, three sea-otters, that lay sleeping almost beside our bidarka, presented a temptation that could not be resisted. These we did kill and carry off with us.

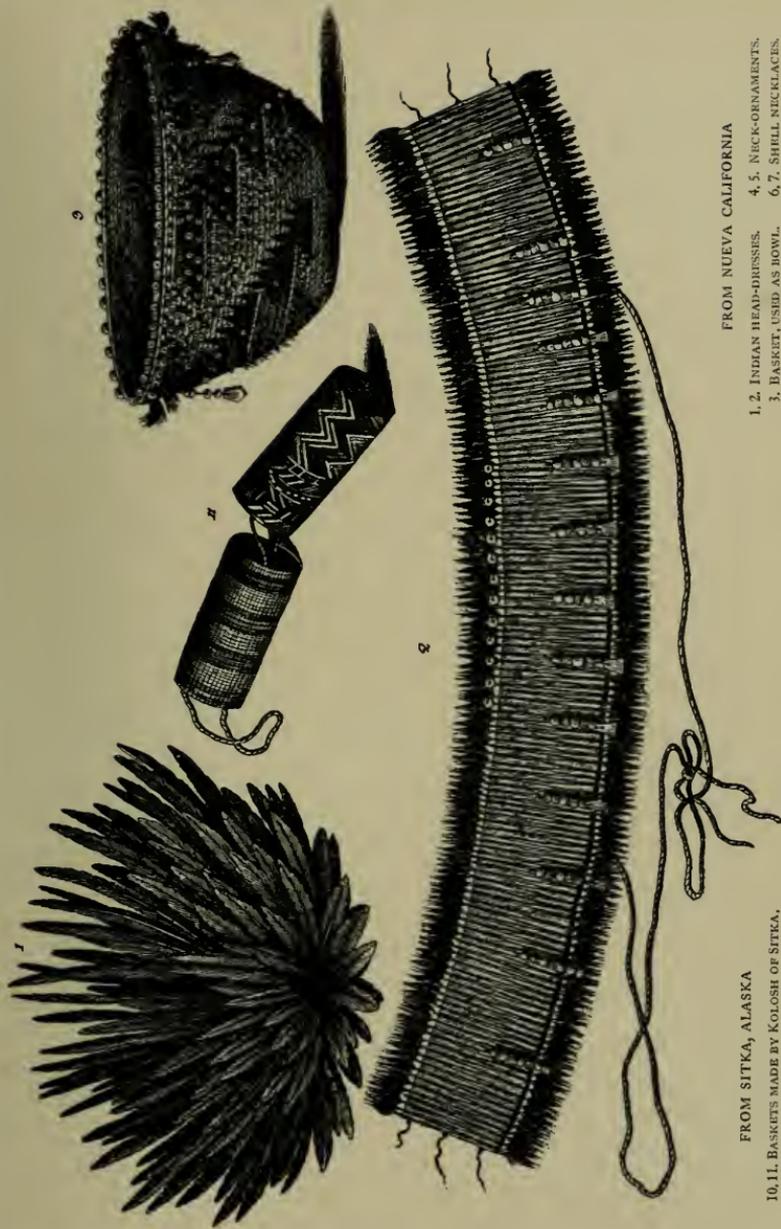
Towards noon we were pretty near the Misión San Francisco, but a northwest wind, that arose at the moment, again retarded us so much that we did not reach the ship until about three, exhausted by hunger, thirst, and fatigue.

To my inexpressible regret, a number of objects of natural history, collected by me on my journey, chiefly plants and birds, had become a prey to the stormy waters, and I brought nothing back with me but the three sea-otters.









FROM SITKA, ALASKA

10, 11. BASKETS MADE BY KOLOSH OF SITKA,  
OF STRAW AND BARK OF TREES.

FROM NUEVA CALIFORNIA

1, 2. INDIAN HEAD-DRESSES. 4, 5. NECK-ORNAMENTS.  
3. BASKET, USED AS BOWL. 6, 7. SHELL NECKLACES.  
8, 9. BOW AND ARROWS.

BASKETRY, ORNAMENTS, ETC. OF NATIVES OF NUEVA CALIFORNIA AND SITKA



THE FIFTH CHAPTER  
GEOGRAPHY - DISEASES - NATURAL HISTORY

**N**ORTHERN ARM of the Puerto de San Francisco - Rivers flowing thereinto - Military expeditions to explore the interior - The Sierra Nevada - Expeditions from Santa Fé - Indians living on banks of rivers good swimmers - Interior and coast Indians - No match for well-equipped Spanish soldier - Search for fresh neófitos and new misión sites - No economy in exploratory-work of Spanish - Communication between the provincias of North and South America - San Blas - Acapulco - Sanitary measures - Indians succumb easily to any disease - No medicaments provided - Smallpox - Measles - Parturition with Spanish women easy, sometimes fatal with Indians - Venereal diseases - El latido - Langsdorff loses natural-history specimens.



## THE FIFTH CHAPTER

### GEOGRAPHY - DISEASES - NATURAL HISTORY

**G**EOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION is difficult to obtain from the Spaniards, and this is the cause of our not having hitherto obtained an accurate knowledge of this region. It therefore appears to me that the little information I was able to procure and such few notes as I was able to make during my stay at the Puerto de San Francisco may deserve some attention.

However imperfect and however unsatisfactory may be the chart that the unfortunate La Pérouse obtained of the Puerto de San Francisco, which was copied from a Spanish original, it may serve to give at least a tolerable idea of this archipelago.

In the preceding chapter, in describing my visit and journey to the Misión San José, I have spoken in detail of the great arm of the bay that stretches to the east and southeast, almost as far as the Misión Santa Clara de Asís. Another bay stretches to the north and northeast, which is many miles long and wide, in which are scattered a number of islands, some large, some small. Four – some say five – large rivers, coming from the east, flow into it. They are,

very probably, several mouths that belong to one large river coming from the south and southeast, and, dividing at some distance from the northern arm of the bay, seek different outlets therinto.

The Spaniards, at many times, have followed the south (or left) bank of this river, on horseback, for many miles inland, but for want of boats they have never been able to explore the right bank. Between eighty and ninety leagues inland the stream is said to have from four to five fathoms of water, and its breadth is then so considerable that a ball fired from a musket would hardly reach the opposite bank.

Military expeditions are sent out each year to obtain a more exact knowledge of the inland parts of the country, with a view to establish, if possible, by degrees, land-communication between Santa Fé and the northwest coast of America. While I was at Misión San José, thirteen soldiers, with a sargento and a cabo, arrived there on their return from one of these expeditions. They asserted that they had penetrated between eighty and ninety leagues into the interior, and had arrived in the region of a high and widely extended chain of mountains covered with perpetual snow. This chain is known to the

Spaniards as La Sierra Nevada, or Snowy Mountains. The river or rivers of [the Puerto de] San Francisco, and another stream that flows into the sea, near San Miguel, in  $32^{\circ}$ , must all have their sources in these mountains.

The Indians inhabiting the Sierra Nevada aver that, three or four days' journey eastwardly of this chain, they have seen men who wear blue and red clothing, and who closely resemble the Spaniards of California. These were probably soldiers from Santa Fé, who had been sent on a like expedition, from the east to the west, to explore the interior. According to this report, the Spaniards, between the thirty-fifth and thirty-eighth degrees of north latitude, must have come pretty near each other. A probability is thus afforded that in time a regular inland communication may be established between Santa Fé and [the Puerto de] San Francisco. There are, according to the accounts of these explorers, many forests and rivers in the interior territory, and the country is very fertile and populous.

The Indians living near the coast are generally ill-natured and warlike in disposition, while those composing the numerous tribes in the interior are

peaceable, timid, and shy. Those that live on the banks of large rivers are very good swimmers, and when they see the Spaniards, seek a refuge on the opposite bank. Here the Spaniards cannot pursue them, owing to the depth of the water. Besides not being as good swimmers as the Indians, the Spanish have no boats to engage in the pursuit.

The Indians know no other weapons than bows and arrows, and stones. The Spanish soldiers, on the contrary, are armed with a musket, a brace of pistols, and a lance, and, as they are admirable horsemen, are much more than a match for the poor Indians, even though outnumbered. If the Spaniards have reason at any time to apprehend an Indian attack, they throw over their shoulders a deerskin mantle, which no arrow can pierce. Besides this they have a thick shield of leather, by means of which they skillfully ward off the arrows shot by the Indians. When they are under the necessity of revenging an attack, the lances of the Spanish are supposed to make great havoc. By riding in among the Indians on their spirited horses, they strike them in numbers to the earth.

During our stay at the Puerto de San Francisco,

preparations were making for a similar expedition to cross the Sierra Nevada, which was to start after our departure. The entire party numbered twenty-five men, under the command of Alférez Don Luis Argüello, his brother, the Cadete Santiago Argüello, and a cabo. Our friend Fray José Antonio Uría was also of the party, going in the hope of bringing in fresh neófitos, but more especially for the purpose of making an examination of the region traversed, with a view to find a tract with a favorable site and sufficient necessary natural resources to warrant the founding of a new misión.

In the manner just stated the Spaniards are at all times and continuously endeavoring to penetrate farther and extend their sphere of action, hoping that without any extraordinary expenditure they may be able to unite in the most advantageous way, by degrees, their many possessions in the east and west. The founding of new misiones depends upon the padre presidente, whose seat is at Monterey. [The padre presidente in 1806 was Fray Estevan Tapis, with headquarters at Santa Bárbara.]

The Spaniards would be at less trouble, and the government at less expense, if they should send an

expedition by water and follow the great river [Río de San Joaquín] that flows into the Puerto de San Francisco, and ascertain its source and navigability. The ships that come here annually might, with the loss of only a few weeks, do this exploratory work, and in one year acquire a more accurate and full knowledge of the territory than is possible by the burdensome land expeditions, which, it should be further observed, are undertaken without the aid of astronomical determinations.

Owing to the lack of small vessels and boats in the Puerto de San Francisco, the Spaniards are entirely shut off from direct intercourse with the opposite and northern shore of the bay, though it is hardly an Italian mile distant. This precludes their having any intercourse [by water] with the more northerly tribes of Indians in the neighborhood of Puerto de la Bodega. Hence communication by land in the Spanish-American colonies far exceeds what any one would suppose.

Posts go regularly from Vera Cruz to each of the provincias of North and South America. It takes a courier about two months to come from Mexico to the Presidio de San Francisco, which is the farthest

establishment to the north, and European news is usually received in from five to six months after its dispatch from Madrid. Any one can with the greatest safety travel from the Presidio de San Francisco as far as Chile. Stations are located all the way, with mounted soldiers on guard.

The most insalubrious place on the west coast of Mexico is San Blas. But the harbor is an excellent one. Many die there every year, of malignant fevers, which are accompanied with inflammations. The Spanish government is therefore obliged, in order to have people reside there, to offer high wages. A sailor receives thirty piastres or Spanish dollars, or more, a month; a pilot, from eighty to ninety; and a lieutenant, from two hundred to three hundred. The comandante, whose pay elsewhere, according to his rank, would be from four hundred to five hundred piastres, is here allowed five thousand to six thousand. In August most of the inhabitants leave the town for several months, since their stay during the frequent and very heavy rains that fall at that period of the year would be very pernicious. In consequence of these evils the government has often thought of transferring the great ocean traffic

centering there to some more salubrious port. But the commercial classes of Mexico and Guadalajara have always strenuously opposed this change, as San Blas offers to them so many advantages. Hence up to the present time no change has been made.

Acapulco, an excellent harbor on the west coast of Mexico, was once another very unhealthy spot, and cost the lives of many yearly. A Spanish surgeon once ascribed this unhealthfulness to a large lake near the town, and advised the government to have it drained and dried up. This was done, whereupon the place has not only ever since been absolutely healthful, but has been freed from large swarms of mosquitoes.

Sufficient attention is not paid to the conservation of health in Nueva California. The military alone have a physician and a surgeon, who live at the Presidio de Monterey. Neither the misioneros nor their adopted children, the Indians, are provided for medically. Although the climate is better and more salubrious here than in Antigua California, yet the Indians of the misiones are often attacked with fevers, and, being of weak constitutions, they often succumb. It is very probable that in their old

mode of life they were rarely ill, but at the misiones the great change in their habits, the different kind of nourishment now partaken of, the restrictions of compulsory labor, together with other matters, are probably the principal causes of early deaths among them. The religiosos find fault because the Indians, upon the slightest illness, become wholly cast down and dejected, and, surrendering themselves to this depression of spirits, will not respect either the diet or anything else recommended for their recovery. With the exception of some simple emetics and cathartics which they keep for their own use, the misioneros are unprovided with medicaments.

Gobernador Arrillaga imparted the important information that vaccination had been introduced into Mexico from Europe, and that a surgeon there had already vaccinated a great many people. He assured me that for some time cowpox had been seen often in the country south of Monterey, and that it had been successfully used for inoculation by many people. But since for more than twenty years smallpox had not appeared here, and people had therefore forgotten the dreadful devastations it had made, the precaution of vaccination was by

many considered superfluous, and hence rejected. It may be remarked that this distemper among the cattle in Nueva California seems to manifest itself principally in the spring, and abates when the grass is dried by the heat in June and July. I took special pains to find and observe the disease itself, but did not succeed.

The measles had been very general here for some months, with fatal results to the Indians, and some thousands of them in Nueva California died of the disease. But the Spaniards, who had also caught the infection, recovered without any further evil consequences. It seems that the main pores of the Indians are closed, and hence the eruption does not easily break out. This results in a severe fever of a lingering and malignant character. Almost every pregnant Indian woman that was infected with the disease miscarried.

Childbirth in Nueva California seems to be very easy among the Spanish women. Señora Argüello, who had given birth to fifteen children, of whom thirteen are still living, assured us that she did not remember ever hearing of the death of a woman in childbirth. There are no midwives. Some female

friend assists at the delivery. The Indian women, it is said, die frequently in childbirth, owing mainly to abuses, among which are pressures of a forceful nature upon the abdomen, in order to secure hasty parturition. Miscarriages, usually from the third to the seventh month, are by no means an infrequent occurrence among them.

The most terrible disease of all those prevailing here is that one known all over the globe – venereal. It is universal, both among the Spaniards and the Indians, and occasions so much the greater ravage because those infected reject all medical aid in its cure. Spots upon the skin, hard swellings, pains in the bones, inflammations of the throat, loss of the nose, consumption, and death, are the inevitable and usual consequences. Ophthalmia, rheumatic pains, swellings at the corner of the mouth, as well as chronic diseases of many sorts coming under my observation, may also, I believe, be pretty generally referred to the same origin.

Fray Luis [Gíl y Taboada], at Misión San José, spoke to me of another disease that prevails equally among the Spanish and the Indians in North and South America. As, however, it never fell under

my own observation, I am not able to give a very clear description of it. It is a palpitation of the heart, and called by the Spaniards "el latido." It comes on first with a pulsation in the lower abdomen, which increases gradually, and in the course of years gains in strength. Only adults, of both sexes, are subject to it. Never has it been discovered among children. Among other symptoms attending this pulsation are pains stretching from the abdomen to the neck, producing a feeling in the neck as if it were tied up tight with a string. A disinclination to eat appears, leading at length to a total loss of appetite, at times attended with nausea, and an internal heaviness as if a large knot were present. Cramps are frequent, and even in the male sex there is every appearance of hysterical fits. In this condition the sufferer drags on a miserable existence, constantly wasting away, and finally dies, though the death does not seem to have been very much accelerated by the disease, as old people are often seen who have for many years been afflicted with it. Tænia, aneurisms, or other known causes to which physicians have attributed this disease, do not appear to have any connection with its source.

In no other place visited by our expedition did more obstacles present themselves in my natural history researches than in Nueva California, and that to an extent one could not imagine. To detail all the petty annoyances that hindered me in this matter would be prolix, and lead overmuch into minutia. Our regular habitation during our entire stay was on board the ship, and there we were at all times employed in loading and unloading. Skins of sea-dogs and birds that I had left upon the deck to dry were thrown overboard. The paper used for drying plants disappeared one day when I was on shore, and I was told that by mistake it had been placed in the lowest hold of the ship, so that it was not possible to reach it without unloading, and this was impossible until we reached Sitka. Several live birds that I had purchased were, as soon as my back was turned, allowed to take their flight. Sometimes, when I sought to get a sailor to go with me upon the waters, I was refused, and told that such men had more important duties to perform, and that the voyage was not undertaken for the promotion of natural history. One evening I brought on board a number of ducks and some other aquatic birds for

taxidermal purposes, but in the night their heads were wantonly chopped off. By these and numerous other instances of a similar character I became so completely discouraged that I gave up all thought of pursuing further labor in the interest of natural history, and resigned myself to the desire of Count Rezanov that I assume the office of interpreter and transact all business with the misioneros relative to barter and the purchase of foodstuffs, besides other supplies.

Of mammals, there are to be found here whales, which are often cast ashore in great numbers, in the Puerto de Monterey especially. Sea-dogs and sea-otters are taken in very small numbers, in nets. The American lion (*Felis concolor*), the American tiger (*Felis onca*), stags, roes, wolves, foxes, bears, and the polecat (*Viverra putorius*), are very common. The polecat is called here "el sorrillo." The urine which this animal spurts to defend himself against his enemies exceeds in smell everything that can be imagined. The misioneros told me that at night it is exceedingly phosphoric, and if put into a glass, retains this phosphoric appearance a considerable time.

Among the feathered species I found the *Vultus aura*. The feet of this bird are very different from those of any other. The claws and nails of the toes are thin and narrow, and the foremost three are united with a half-web, so that to judge by the feet it seems to belong to the class of marsh-birds, but judging by the bill it should belong to birds of prey. I was told that a soup made of the flesh of this bird is exceedingly wholesome, and that by partaking of it all diseases of the body have a tendency to expel themselves through the skin. Perhaps the flesh itself has rather a propensity to create eruptions of the skin, as it is well known that strawberries have that effect on some persons. These birds are gregarious, are clumsy in flight, and feed upon carrion, which, in company with the ravens, they devour in large quantities.

The *Oriolus phæniceus* flies in flocks about the houses, like the sparrow in Europe. The *Oriolus icterus*, *Alandra calandra*, *Picus auratus*, *Tetrix cristatus*, *Trochilus mosquitus*, and others of this species, are frequently found. Of the colibris there are a great number here in summer, but not one is seen in winter. It is generally said that in these

northern parts they are dormant all winter, whence they have the name "pájaro resuscitado," that is, the resurrection-bird.

Of water and marsh birds there is a great variety; namely, *Ardea*, *Tringa*, *Scolopax*, *Pelecanus*, *Larus*, *Colymbus*, *Mergus*, *Anas*, etc. In winter the wild geese in the boggy plain to the southeast of the bay are so great in number as to be a positive nuisance. They cause great damage to the winter crops, and are so impudent that they can hardly be frightened away by firing at them.

*Raya aquila* and a species of *Acipenser* were the only fish that came under my observation.

THE SIXTH CHAPTER  
LEAVE SAN FRANCISCO - TO SITKA & RUSSIA

**S**UPPLIES LOADED ON THE JUNO - Terms of exchange - Fine physical condition of the promyshleniki - Russians saluted by guns of Fuerte de San Joaquín as the Juno sails through the narrow strait - The return voyage to Sitka - Conditions on arrival of the Juno - Langsdorff, tired of fare at Sitka, deserts the Count Rezanov and leaves for Europe - Learns at Okhotsk of the death of Rezanov - Visits the count's tomb at Krasnoyarsk.



## THE SIXTH CHAPTER

### LEAVE SAN FRANCISCO - TO SITKA & RUSSIA

COUNT REZANOV, after much trouble and negotiation, at length was successful in getting on board the *Juno* the supplies agreed upon. The lading consisted of four thousand two hundred and ninety-four fanegas of corn, with a large quantity of flour, pease, beans, and maize, a few casks of salted meat, a small amount of salt, soap, tallow, and some other supplies. For all this he gave in exchange merchandise to the amount of twenty-four thousand piastres, or Spanish dollars. I was quite a little surprised that, instead of such a large proportion of corn, he had not rather taken more salted meat, as it seemed cheaper and more suitable. It is, however, a certain fact that a Russian always prefers a portion of bread to a proportionate quantity of meat, and Count Rezanov was probably of the opinion that in getting the means of being confident of an abundant supply of bread, he had superseded all other wants.

The promyshleniki, who are accustomed at Sitka to a meager diet of fish and the fat of sea-dogs and whales, with berries and sarana, and sometimes a

little rice, found their health very much improved in Nueva California by being fed on wholesome meat and pulse, and were soon entirely cured of the scurvy. One fat bullock was sufficient to maintain the entire crew for three days, and it cost only four Spanish dollars. It was found much cheaper to feed the sailors with meat than with vegetables or pulse. Even bread was served them so sparingly that they at last became tired of having nothing else to eat than meat, and began to long for pease, beans, and other pulse.

It was, in truth, not a little astonishing to see the rapid change for the better effected in our men by the change of diet. Even those who, when they left Sitka, had the scurvy to the most frightful degree began, soon after our arrival at the Puerto de San Francisco, to assume a healthy appearance, and in a fortnight or three weeks their color and strength were so perfectly restored that nobody could have supposed them to be the same beings that had left the settlement such miserable, pale, lean, emaciated figures. A short time before we left San Francisco some of the crew were attacked with inflammatory rheumatic fevers, so that when we sailed fifteen of

the best sailors were ill. But this illness was of very short duration, and they were soon able to resume their duties.

On May 10, 1806, o. s., we left the Puerto de San Francisco, with hearts filled with gratitude to the amiable Argüello family for all the kindnesses and hospitality we had received at their hands, which continued undiminished during our stay, and also with a feeling that through our long stay we must have been quite troublesome to them.

To the worthy and venerable Gobernador Don José Joaquín Arrillaga, who had so kindly aided us in our business affairs, we were no less indebted. Nor must I omit to acknowledge the friendship manifested toward us by the misioneros. Fray José Joaquín Uría is deservedly entitled to the highest tribute of acknowledgment for his single-hearted and voluntary attentions. If sometimes there might have been an occasion on which it seemed as if he acted from motives of self-interest, this was a trait of his character that, under the circumstances of his position, was rather to his credit than otherwise, since any advantages that he might derive from his intercourse with us could not by any means accrue

to himself personally, but merely to the children of his adoption, the Indian neófitos.

Towards four o'clock in the afternoon, the tide favoring us, we left the puerto, and in passing the Fuerte de San Joaquín we saluted with seven guns and were answered by nine from the fuerte. The gobernador, the Argüello family, and other friends and acquaintances, were gathered together at the fuerte and waved us a farewell with their hats and handkerchiefs.

We had now not only started on our return to Sitka, but also to Europe, and this thought alone heightened and cheered the spirits of each of us. Upon leaving we were obliged to steer directly to the westward, with a steady northwest wind. The weather was variable, sometimes clear, sometimes cloudy and foggy. The waters showed no sign of animated existence, and during the first days of our voyage we saw no bird nor any other living thing.

The 18th of May was the first day after our leaving the Puerto de San Francisco that the wind proved favorable. An observation made at noon showed we were in latitude  $37^{\circ} 49'$  N., longitude  $132^{\circ}$  W. On the following day we saw numerous whales and

turtles, and the sea was quite alive with Salpæ and Beroë, as well as other sorts of Mollusca. Towards evening we saw many stormy petrels, but, though they are always considered as the forerunners of a storm, no winds arose.

On the morning of the 21st I was awakened very early to see a new and very singular spectacle. At a distance of some two miles we perceived a most extraordinary movement in the sea, as if we were approaching a reef of rocks on which the surge was breaking with great force. On a more minute view, however, we found that the movement was caused by an enormous school of seals, numbering many thousands, coming from the northwest and going in a southeasterly direction. From their manner of swimming, and frequent jumping above the water, so far as these could be observed, they seemed to be the species to which is given the name of sea-bear (*Phoca ursina*). The school was so long that it made a line of at least two nautical miles. This spectacle seemed to me the more singular, as I had hitherto believed that these animals always went northward at the approach of summer and returned southward as winter approached. It is even now an enigma to

me whence they came at the moment, and whither they were going. It seems not wholly impossible that, alarmed at the attacks made upon them by the Russian promyshleniki, they were now quitting their usual summer haunts in the north and were seeking an asylum elsewhere. Or is it possible that there was an unknown island lying in the region?

On the same morning I observed another very remarkable phenomenon. The current of wind at different heights was disproportionate. The ocean was perfectly still, almost as smooth as glass. The lower sails hung wholly loose, while the upper were so filled with wind that by means of them solely we ran at the rate of six miles an hour. The wind was from the southeast, and the thermometer stood at  $38^{\circ}$ . We were at this time in latitude  $39^{\circ} 49'$  N. and longitude  $133^{\circ}$  W.

From the 22d of May we proceeded toward the north for several days, with a favorable southwest wind, amid alternate showers, squalls of wind, fog, and sunshine, and perceived – the thermometer registering  $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  – that we were approaching a cold climate, which was, in latitude  $44^{\circ}$ , foretold by the sea-parrots, seen from now on daily. From the 26th

we had again, for the most part, adverse west and northwest winds. On the 28th, very unexpectedly, we saw Cape Saint James, the southerly point of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Most probably a current had carried us farther northward than we thought. None of the general signs of land being near were seen at the moment. We saw neither seaweed nor birds. It may, however, happen sometimes that a vessel may be near the coast without the appearance of any of the usual signs of land, while, on the other hand, the usual signs of the proximity of land may appear without the vessel being near the coast.

On the 29th, during a perfect calm, the surface of the sea was overspread with oil, emanating from the numerous whales. Great quantities of seaweed were now floating around us, with great numbers of Mollusca of different kinds. At this time we were in latitude  $52^{\circ}$  N. The calm continued for several days, and until the 5th of June, when a fresh wind from the southeast arose. On the afternoon of the following day we saw land, which we supposed to be Cape Ommaney, the southern extremity of King George III Archipelago. This cape is also known by the name of Cape Tschirikov [Chirikov]. Our

observations at noon showed latitude  $55^{\circ} 3' N.$  and longitude  $137^{\circ} W.$  On the 7th we perceived, at a great distance, in a very clear horizon, a high chain of hills, and were convinced, from an observation taken at noon, which gave latitude  $56^{\circ} 9' N.,$  that a high rounded peak we constantly had in view the whole morning, and supposed was some detached island, was Mount Edgcombe, which borders the entrance of Norfolk Sound. In the afternoon of the 8th, when we were within only twenty or twenty-five miles of the Russian settlement, a calm set in. We fired several guns, and in the evening we saw a bidarka coming towards us. The oarsmen looked like living skeletons, they were so wasted, forming a striking contrast to the plump, well-fed sailors we brought with us from the Puerto de San Francisco, all well and healthy.

All was now bustle and activity at Sitka. The Juno was unloaded, and Baranov, the superintendent of the Russian American Company, rejoiced at seeing so much grain. He only regretted that there were no mills to grind it, a condition that had not been thought of by Rezanov. The grain was therefore, in part, eaten roasted, after the manner of the Indians

in Nueva California, and some was boiled in soups, instead of barley or rice.

## C O N C L U D I N G

DOCTOR LANGSDORFF'S narrative of the Rezanov voyage properly ends upon his return to Sitka, but it is deemed better to follow him back to Europe.

I had been long enough at Sitka (he relates), and, tired of living on fish, shell-fish, and sea-dogs, I had for some time determined that I would depart with the first ship that should sail for Europe, and this I had already advised Rezanov of. . . . The count, not wishing to put any restraint on me, furnished me the necessary papers to Okhotsk, Yakutsk, Irkutsk, and other places on my route, and, thus prepared, I left Sitka on the 19th of June with my friend Captain Wolfe. . . . We arrived at Petropavlovsk on the 13th of September, o. s., or the 25th, n. s. . . .

Doctor Langsdorff spent the winter of 1806-07 in Kamchatka. His account of the country can only be mentioned here in passing. On May 13, 1807, he and Captain Wolfe sailed from Petropavlovsk for Okhotsk, the harbor of which was entered on June 15th. Here it was (the doctor says) that I learned,

as the first and principal news related to us on our arriving, of the death of Count Rezanov. He had died in the month of March, at Krasnoyarsk, on his way to Saint Petersburg. Thus he failed in living to see the numerous plans he had formed upon his late voyage carried into execution. I have already said that his death was occasioned by falling from his horse. . . .

On November 27th I arrived at Krasnoyarsk, a tolerably regular built town, on the river Yenisei. It stands in a beautiful and fertile valley, and there are five hundred houses and four churches. It was rendered remarkable to me as having been the place where Count Rezanov lost his life in the preceding March. I stopped for the night at Krasnoyarsk, and in the morning visited the tomb of Rezanov. It is a large stone, in the fashion of an altar, but without any inscription.

On the 8th of March I reached Moscow, and at length, on the 16th, entered Saint Petersburg. Thus did I first become acquainted with this magnificent imperial city, the most splendid in all the Russian empire, after having traversed that vast empire from east to west, through its whole extent.

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