



ROBERT CARSON DUVALL, MIDSHIPMAN U. S. N.  
From a silver-type taken about 1846

## California Historical Society Quarterly

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### EXTRACTS FROM THE LOG OF THE U. S. FRIGATE SAVANNAH KEPT BY ROBERT CARSON DUVALL

#### INTRODUCTION

Several of the midshipmen on board the United States ship of war *Savannah* kept logs, several of which are still in existence. One of these, kept by a midshipman named Robert Carson Duvall, who was just fresh from the naval academy, is now in the possession of Dr. Josiah E. Cowles of Los Angeles, the son of his half brother.

It is the original log signed at the end, *Robert C. Duvall*, and is in one place approved and signed by John D. Sloat and in several others by William Mervine, who took command of the *Savannah* after Sloat left for the east. The first entry was made March 24, 1845, when the *Savannah* was in Callao, and the last entry, September 8, 1847, in the New York Navy Yard. The entry under each date apparently extends from noon of the preceding day to noon of the date given, except during the time Duvall was on duty on shore, when no entry was made until after his return, when he wrote in a short summary of what had occurred during his absence.

The portion of the log devoted to the account of Stockton's first expedition to Los Angeles was published in the Los Angeles Times, January 9, 1910, but so far as we are aware none of the rest of it has ever appeared in print. Like all ship logs, most of the entries are devoted to statements of the weather, sailing directions and movements of the vessel. These we have largely omitted. But Duvall has inserted a number of interesting references to current events which in the opinion of the Committee on Publication are of sufficient interest and importance to bear publishing in the *Quarterly*.

It will be noted that there are a number of statements in this log more precise as to time and events than those that have hitherto been published from other logs or letters or subsequent statements, so it is possible to say that it presents in its mute form incontrovertible evi-

dence that many of the legends afloat regarding the taking possession of Monterey are entirely baseless. It also furnishes similar evidence that Commodore Sloat had no immediate intention of taking possession of Monterey when he arrived there. We have been led to understand that the Commodore possessed an unwavering resolution to possess himself of this port at the earliest moment, nevertheless we see that on the first day after his arrival he gave shore leave to some one hundred men from the ship who remained on shore twenty-four hours. This fact is carefully concealed in most of the writings of the period. No doubt similar entries occur in other logs kept on board the ship, but when published there is usually a blank between July 2 and 7.

There is also no evidence of any race with the *Collingwood*. The summary of movements of vessels prefixed to the extracts which we publish will demonstrate that the *Collingwood* was not in Mazatlan when Sloat left,—in fact had left some days before Sloat made his first tentative effort to get away. Just why he went out to sea and returned to Mazatlan again is a mystery. The only possible theory is that he had heard that war had broken out, but not being sure of it had gone away from the port, sailed around until he thought that some definite information would be available, and then returned to find out from the consul if he had any later news. It seems obvious from the general movements that the Mexican authorities at least did not know before Sloat left Mazatlan that war had commenced. This affords some indication that Sloat himself had not received any such information.

It now seems practically certain that what determined Sloat's action in taking possession of Monterey was the advice of the Bear Flag revolt received on the 5th, from Montgomery.

Robert Carson Duvall was born at Hamptonville, North Carolina, November 15, 1819, the son of Alvin Simpson Duvall and Nancy Caroline (Carson) Duvall. The latter's father, Andrew Carson, a soldier of the Revolution, was a brother of Lindsay Carson the father of "Kit" Carson. This relationship would never be suspected from young Duvall's entry regarding "Kit," but Dr. Cowles attributes this to the semi-official nature of the log and the chasm that then separated the enlisted man from the naval officer.

Midshipman Duvall was one of the first graduates from the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, completing his course about 1842; served under Commodores Sloat and Stockton on the Pacific coast during the Mexican War; and later, commanding the gunboat Beaufort, served in the Confederate States Navy on the North Carolina coast,

where he died in 1862, at Raleigh. He was married about 1858, at Mobile, Alabama, to Mrs. Louisa M. (Brooks) Séguer, but his wife died about six months after their marriage.

It is said that he was a remarkably handsome man, six feet six inches in height and well proportioned, with dark brown hair, blue eyes, and fair complexion. "His manners were polished, refined and affable, and his naturally bright intellect was highly cultivated by study and travel. He was an accomplished musician on the violin as well as a writer of verse."

For obtaining the log for us for publication we are indebted to Judge Grant Jackson of Los Angeles, one of our members, through whom also we obtained from Dr. J. E. Cowles and Col. Calvin Duvall Cowles the genealogical and biographical details here given.

SUMMARY OF THE MOVEMENTS OF AMERICAN AND  
ENGLISH MEN-OF-WAR

## SANDWICH ISLANDS

1845

- August 27 U. S. S. *Savannah* arrived at Hilo.  
 30 Commodore Sloat made a speech on shore.  
 September 3 *Savannah* sailed.  
 9 *Savannah* arrived at Honolulu.  
 13 H. B. M. Ship *Modeste* sailed.  
 17 H. B. M. Ship *Collingwood* arrived.  
 October 4 H. B. M. Brig *Frolic* came in. U. S. S. *Warren* arrived.  
 12 *Collingwood* sailed, reported going to Marquesas Islands.  
 13 *Savannah* sailed.  
 31 Sighted land north of San Francisco entrance but did not enter harbor.

## MAZATLAN

- November 17 *Savannah* arrived at Mazatlan. U. S. S. *Portsmouth* already there.  
 19 U. S. S. *Levant* in the harbor. *Portsmouth* sailed.  
 20 *Warren* arrived from the Islands.  
 24 H. B. M. *Frolic* came in.  
 27 *Warren* and *Frolic* sailed.  
 December 10 *Portsmouth* arrived.  
 22 H. B. M. Frigate *America* arrived.  
 24 *Levant* arrived.  
 26 *Frolic* arrived.  
 28 *Frolic* sailed.
- 1846
- January 2 French Frigate *Virginie* arrived.  
 14 U. S. S. *Constitution* there; probably arrived that day.  
 15 *Constitution* anchored between *Levant* and *Cyane*.  
 21 English Frigate *Talbot* arrived.  
 24 *Talbot* sailed.  
 27 *Frolic* entered.  
 February 4 *Savannah* received one-half ton of coal from H. B. M. Ship *America*.  
 9 U. S. S. *Erie* and U. S. S. *Shark* there.  
 23 U. S. S. *Cyane* sailed.  
 27 *America* sailed.  
 March 7 *Talbot* arrived.  
 10 *Frolic* sailed.  
 16 *Warren* came in.  
 April 2 *Shark* and *Portsmouth* sailed.  
 7 *Constitution*, *Levant*, *Warren* and *Erie* there.  
 14 *Collingwood* arrived, 5 days from San Blas.  
 19 Governor of Mazatlan visited the *Savannah*.  
 23 *Constitution* sailed.  
 30 *Cyane* arrived.  
 May 1 *Warren* sailed for San Blas.  
 4 H. B. M. Ship *Juno* arrived from Callao.  
 12 *Juno* sailed.  
 13 *Collingwood* sailed.  
 14 *Warren* arrived.  
 19 *Cyane* sailed.  
 20 *Erie* sailed.  
 23 *Collingwood* arrived.  
 25 *Collingwood* sailed.  
 28 *Frolic* arrived.  
 29 English Brig *Spy* sailed.  
 30 *Frolic* sailed.  
 June 1 *Savannah* sailed.  
 5 Returned to Mazatlan and found *Talbot* and *Warren* there.  
 7 *Spy* sailed.  
 9 *Savannah* sailed for Monterey.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOG OF THE SAVANNAH

BAY OF MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

July 1846  
Thursday  
2<sup>d</sup>.

. . . Standing in for the anchorage of Monterey, pass near the Small Town of "Santa Clara." Showed our number to the U S. Sloop Cyane and Levant. Made and reduced Sail as required, 4 P.M. Clewed up and came to with Starboard Anchor in 9 fm<sup>s</sup>. of water . . . Pt. a Pinos bore p<sup>r</sup>. Compass, NW by N. Custom House, SSW. Fort, WSW. Church, S by E. the Levant arriv<sup>d</sup>. on Yesterday 42 days from Mazatlan. furl'd Sails—at Sun Set sent down Royal Yards hoisted out 1<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Cutters. Tho<sup>s</sup>. O. Larkin (Am<sup>n</sup>. Cons<sup>l</sup>.) visited the Ship—

Friday  
3<sup>d</sup>.

. . . The Am<sup>n</sup>. Barque "Angola" arrived four hours from Santa Cruz. Permitted 84. Men and 10 Marines to go on Shore and remain 24. hours. . . .

Saturday  
4<sup>th</sup>.

. . . At 8 AM dressed Ship with the Cyane and Levant, and at 12. M. fired a Salute of 21. Guns, in Commeration of the declaration of Independence.

Sunday  
5

. . . Performed Divine Service—

Monday 6

. . . 5 35. PM the Launch of the U S Sloop Portsmouth in charge of Actg. Master N B Harrison arrived 3 days from San Francisco with despatches for the Commd'g. officer, furnished said Launch a quantity of Provisions to serve on return trip,—hoisted out Launch and fitted her out with an 18<sup>pd</sup> Carronade Amunition, Small Arms &c.

Tuesday 7.

. . . The Portsmouth<sup>s</sup>. Launch left for San Francisco, made Signal 894. to Levant. at 7.30 Capt. W<sup>m</sup>. Mervine Commdg the Cyane went on Shore with a force to demand of the Milatery Commandant the Surrender of the Town of Monterey forthwith—together with the Forts, Milatary Posts, &c. all troops arms, Munitions of War and public property of evry description under his Control and within his jurisdiction in California. Cleared away the Larboard Battery & got ready for action. 9 A.M. Called all hands and read the following general order.<sup>1</sup>

Flag Ship Savannah,  
Harbor of Monterey. July 7 1846.

We are now about to land on the Territory of Mexico with whome the U. S. is at War to strike their flag and hoist our own in the place of it is our duty, it is not only our duty to take California but to preserve it afterwards

<sup>1</sup> A copy of this order in the Bancroft Library (Dept. State Papers VII, 70) differs slightly, but not materially, from the text of Duvall's transcript.

as a part of the U. S. at all hazards to accomplish this it is of the first importance to cultivate the good opinion of the inhabitants whom we must reconcile I scarcely consider it necessary for me to caution American Seamen and Marines against the detestable crime of plundering and maltreating unoffending inhabitants That no one may misunderstand his duty the following regulations are to be strictly adheared to as no violation can hope to escape the most severe punishment.

1<sup>st</sup>. On Landing no man is to leave the shore until the Commd'g officer gives the order to march.

2<sup>d</sup> No gun is to be fired or other act of hostility committed without express orders from the Commd'g officer.

3<sup>d</sup> The officers of Boats and Boat Keepers will keep their respective Boats as close to the shore as they will safely float—taking care that they do not lay aground and remain in them prepared to defend themselves against attack and attentively watch for signals from the ship as well as from the party on shore.

4<sup>th</sup>. No man is to quit the Ranks or enter any house on any pretence whatever without express orders from an officer, let evry man avoid insult or offence of any kind to unoffending inhabitants, and especially avoid that eternal disgrace which would be attached to our Country and our name, by indignity offered to any Female let her standing be however so low

5<sup>th</sup>. Plunder of any kind is strictly forbidden not only does the plundering of the smallest article from a prize forfeit all claim to prize money, but the offender must expect to be severely punished

6<sup>th</sup>. Finally let me entreat you one and all not to tarnish our hopes of Bright Success by any act that we will be ashamed to acknowledge before God and our Country.

Signed, JOHN D SLOAT,  
Commdr. in Chief of U. S. Naval  
Forces in the Pacific Ocean.

At 9.30 Capt. Mervine returned from shore with the reply from the Military Commandant Mariano Silva that he was not authorized to comply with our demands, having no orders to that effect but that said arrangement the Commander in Chief may adjust with the Commd'g General to whom the Communication should be sent he being at the time absent with his army—for the purpose of quieting an insurrection on the part of foreigners, chiefly Amer<sup>s</sup>. who had risen in the Northern district to redress their grievances under the appellation of the "Bear party." 9.50 made Signal to Squadron 134. at 10. an expedition left this, consisting of the Boats of this Ship and Cyane, and Levants, with 85 ma<sup>r</sup>. and 140. Sailors under the Command of Capt. W<sup>m</sup>. Mervine. at 10.20. the forces landed at the wharf of the Custom House, read a Proclamation<sup>2</sup> from the Commander in Chief, to the people of California in which was stated in substance as follows—

That Since by the actions of the forces between the U S. and Mexico on the "Rio Grande" the Contries were involved in war he intended to hoist the Am<sup>r</sup>. Flag throughout California and assured the inhabitants that it was not as an Enemy that he appear<sup>d</sup> among them with so large a force but on the Contrary as their best friend that they should be allowed the same privileges that any other state in the union enjoys by which life property and freedom of religion will be secured to them, under the flag of the U S. California being free from the oppressive exactions of Mexican officers will rapidly advance, and improve

<sup>2</sup> The proclamation in full was printed in the Quarterly, vol. II, no. 4, pp. 352-354. The original is in the Henry E. Huntington Library.

in population and wealth. The Revenu Laws will be the same here as in the other states of the union thus affording to the inhabitants American Manufactures free of duty and foreign at  $\frac{1}{4}$  less than formerly—Such Citizens as do not chose to live under the Government of the U S. will be allowed time to leave the Country after disposing of their property. The Judges and Alcaldies are invited to exercise their functions as heretofore at least until the Gov<sup>mt</sup> can be more definitely arranged all Persons holding titles to land estate or in quiet possession of the same shall have their rights guaranteed to them No private property shall be taken for the use of the U. S Ships or Soldiers without just Compensation being made at the moment

hoisted the Am<sup>r</sup>. Ensign on the Custom Flag Staff amidst the Cheers of our forces Saluted it with 21 Guns, from the Savannah and Cyane—At 11 AM the Boats returned to their respective ships leaving the body of Marines and Capt. Mervine and officers in charge of the Town, who were occupied in receiving from the Mexican authorities all arms, munitions of war and other Public property and making Inventories of the same—

- Wednesday 8. . . . Sent the Carpenters on shore to repair the quarters for the Marines &c.— during the night the Launch, armed and manned, was kept near the wharf to assist in case of an attack—
- Thursday 9 . . . a quantity of Copper shot Consisting of 9 & 12 P<sup>ds</sup>. and grape, also Muskets, Carbines &c. were found in the Gov<sup>t</sup>. house on Shore.
- Friday 10 . . . 1<sup>st</sup> Cutter Employed watering Ship Employ<sup>d</sup> Painting Ship thing<sup>s</sup> remain quiet on Shore.
- Saturday 11. . . . Sent to Capt. Mervine on Shore one 18<sup>p</sup>. Caronade & Equipments, 9 Grape Shot 46. Cartridges. Sent on Shore Mid<sup>n</sup> Geo. E. Morgan with 50. Men armed with Muskets under the Cm<sup>d</sup> of Lieut. Geo. E Miner, Comm<sup>d</sup>. Lt. Page took possession of the Gover<sup>t</sup>. Barracks—where the forces were Quarter<sup>d</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Cutter watering Ship—
- Sunday 12. . . . Sent on Shore Mid<sup>n</sup>. J. K. Wilson with 50. men armed with muskets under the Command of R. F. Pinckney, to Garrison the upper Barracks. 4 30 AM an alarm was given on Shore. Sent the 2<sup>d</sup> Cutter and Two officers on Shore to ascertain the Cause, proved to be a false alarm.
- Monday 13. . . . 5.30. heard the reports of muskets on Shore. at 7. Capt. Mervine and Lieut Queen brought on board Two Prisoners, taken by our Scouts. . . . Sent on Shore 1000. Ball Cartridges.
- Tuesday 14. . . . Sent on Shore (on) 6 Seaman. Punished Several Men for drunkenness. Sent on Shore 13. Men to act as Dragoons, under the Command of Purser Fauntleroy.
- Wednesday 15. . . . Sent on Shore for the use of the Troops. 14 Carbines 20 Pistols with all the Equipments &c belonging— 11.30 AM—discovered a large Sail in the offing. 12. M the U. S. Frigate Congress came in sight and made her Number.



Read the following General Order.<sup>3</sup>

The Commander in Chief, has the satisfaction to announce to the Officers, Seaman & Marines under his Command, that he has receiv<sup>d</sup>. off<sup>l</sup>. information that the flag of the U S. is now flying at Yerba Buena, Suters Fort, on the Sacramento, at Sausillito Sonoma & Bodega, and that the forces of the U S. have quiet possession of the magnificent Bay of San Francisco and all the country within an hundred miles around to the manifest satisfaction of the inhabitants, many of whome have enroled themselves under our flag and officers for Protection—

In taking possession of these places, many fine pieces of ordinance have been acquired principally Brass. He Congratulates each one under his Command that it has fallen to his lot to have participated in the Honor and Glory of placing the Country under the Flag of the U. S. and in a position to be governed by their equitable and impartial Laws

Sign<sup>d</sup>. Jn<sup>o</sup> D SLOAT.  
Com<sup>d</sup>. in Chief of the U S. Naval  
Forces in the Pacific ocean &c &c.

Thursday 16.

. . . 12.30 Congress hauled down the Blue and hoisted the Red Pendant and saluted with 13. Guns, which was returnd with an Equal number. 1. she anchor<sup>d</sup>. Signalized. 153. 650.—Congress sent on shore 50. men armed with Carbines under the comm<sup>d</sup>. of Lieut. Tilghman & 4 other officers.

Friday 17.

. . . a large Ship in the offing at 4.30 P M. H B M<sup>s</sup> Ship of the Line Collingwood, 80. Guns, Came in and anchor<sup>d</sup>. our Ship prepared for action, Mid<sup>n</sup>. Jn<sup>o</sup> K. Wilson returned on board with 51. men Lieut. Pinkney<sup>s</sup> Command with their Arms and Equipments. Returned to the Cyane 20 Muskets & accoutrements borrowed from her. Sent on shore 6 Muskets, 5 Pistols & 11 Cartridge Boxes.

Saturday 18.

. . . The English Admiral Sir George Seymore visited this Ship The Levant employ<sup>d</sup> hoisting out her Main Mast to repair the head being rotten—

Sunday 19

. . . Lieut. Stephen C Rowan employ<sup>d</sup>. with men from the different ships in laying the foundation and cutting Timber for a Block House & fortifications Brvt. Capt. Freemont arriv<sup>d</sup>. with 125. Rifle men and 6 Delaware Indians and encamped near the Town. D. Fauntleroy, Capt of California Dragoons, garrisons the Mission of San Juan 35 miles distant—10.30 Performed Divine Service—

Monday 20.

. . . Geo E. Morgan was ordered on board and Mid<sup>n</sup> Minor in his place on shore. Sent the Band on shore to Day while the Troops were Drilling.

Tuesday 21.

. . . a Number of Curious visitors from Capt. Fremonts Camp. Got intelligence of Castro with no certain number of men 36 miles from here Comm<sup>o</sup>. Sloat sent a Message advising him to come in & sur-

<sup>3</sup> A copy of this general order, dated July 14, 1846, will be found in the Bancroft Library (Sawyer Docs. 51). Besides differences in spelling, punctuation and capitalization, the words "Sonoma" and "principly Brass" are omitted, and at the end, in place of "&c" is found "and of the Territory of California."

render. Castro ans<sup>w</sup>d. that he would fight as long as a man was left him, no body believes him—

Wednesday 22 . . . The English Consul M<sup>r</sup> Forbes visited the ship—Saluted him with 17 Guns. . . .

Thursday 23 . . .

Friday 24. . . . Lieut Traper left this ship with orders to the Levant. a Prisoner from shore was brought on board for confinement.

Saturday 25. . . . Sent to the Levant some stores in Com<sup>s</sup>. Department, also some articles to the Barracks, transfer<sup>d</sup>. to the Cyane one O S. Leut W<sup>m</sup>. A. Wagner was detached and orderd to take passage in the Levant for the U S—Castro has gone south with his army.

Sunday 26. . . . Carpenters at work on Shore. At 8. A M Capt. Freemont with his men embarked on board the Cyane, which ship is to take them South in persuit of Castro, who has fortified himself at Los Angeles. Cyane stood to Sea, this ship and the Congress giving her three hearty Cheers. Rev M<sup>r</sup>. Colton Chaplain of the Congress and Purser Price of the Cyane appointed Magistrates for the district of Monterey.

Monday 27. . . . Mid<sup>n</sup> Duvall, Wilson and Abercrombie ordered on Shore for duty. Mid<sup>n</sup>. Abercrombie reported this day for duty from the Levant—

The following remarks of note is an abstract from the Log Book of occurances which transpire<sup>d</sup> whilst I was on duty ashore.

July 27  
to  
September  
19

Transfer<sup>d</sup>. July. 28. to the Congress \$4300.00. At 9.45 AM. Comm<sup>o</sup>. J<sup>no</sup>. D. Sloat resigned the Command of this Ship to Capt. W<sup>m</sup>. Mervine, to take passage in the Levant to Panama on his way to the U S. hauled down the Blue Pendant and hoisted the Crackwhip the Levant hoisting the Blue Pendant & saluting with 13 guns—at 10.20 She got under way and stood to Sea. July 30. at 5.30 the Congress hoisted the Blue Pendant—9.30 She got under way but had to anchor again On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August She stood to Sea bound for San Pedro, to act with Capt. Freemont against Castro. before his departure Comm<sup>r</sup>. Stockton issued a new Proclamation to the Inhabitants of California. on the 12 of August the Engl. Brig<sup>t</sup>. of War "Spy" came in and anchor<sup>d</sup> on the 13. the U S. Sloop Warren came in and anchor<sup>d</sup> near us. on the 14<sup>th</sup> called all hands to muster and Read the Proclamation of President James K. Polk declaring war—to exist between the U S. and Mexico—Signed 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1846. Sept. 4. the Store Ship Erie arriv<sup>d</sup>. from which we obtained stores. Sept. 16 the Congress came in and anchor<sup>d</sup>. having returnd from San Pedro where she landed men and marched into the Pueblo—Castro having cowardly fled on the approach of the Commo- dores forces. 19<sup>th</sup>. the Erie went to Sea bound to Panama having on board a bearer of despatches to the U S. and Mid<sup>n</sup> Jackson a passenger—during this interval three Am<sup>r</sup>. ships, one Russian, one French, and one Hawaiian have come in and gone out again

This day I was ordered on Shore for duty, took Charge of the men who were employed in building a Block House and Constructing a Fort for the defence of the place, where I remained until near its Completion when I was removed to head quarters.

To record evry particular occurrence would render my remarks too Compendious and effect nothing in the end to benefit either myself or any body else, therefore I will merly give evidence of what I think

this Journal should record, and pass the rest over When our forces were landed we found the Town Completely defenceless and without any of the resources requisite for the Construction of works of defense. through the untiring exertions of the Governor, the town was rendered in a situation of safety, against the attack of almost any force by land or Sea, within the space of Six weeks, the Hill commanding the Town and Harbor was graded off to rake the Beach, a Block House and Fort Constructed, and Paixham, Carronades, and other Guns, mounted, and evry thing Complete and ready for action—

The Timber &c. required for the Construction of these works was Cut and taken from the woods by our own forces, and taking this into Consideration, the rapidity with which the works were brought to a finish and the great amount of Labor performed has hardly a parrallel.

Owing to the Continual reports of the proximity of the Enemy we were kept in a State of perpetual expectancy, and were always in readiness for an attack, by night frequent alarms were given, of the approach of the Enemy, but in evry instance proved false. almost all the principal men have come in and given their Parole<sup>s</sup> of Honor not to take up arms against the U S. Elections have been held and Magistrates elected and such regulations promulgated by the Governor as will not fail to secure the peace and tranquility of the place which now wears but a feeble face of War. a New<sup>s</sup> Paper has sprung up edited by Dr. Semple and the Rev. Mr. Colton, which at least indicates that improvement has already Commenced, and that prosperity and rapid advancement which always follows the American Flag has taken root and will soon send forth numerous branches, which will secure to California Unity & happiness—

Tuesday 22.  
[September]

. . . 9.30 PM. Richar<sup>d</sup>. Young 1. CB. departed this life. . . . Got under way and stood to Sea beating out of the Harbor in Company with the Am<sup>r</sup>. whale Ship Brooklynn 10.20 Set Royals. at 11.50 discovered a Brig standing into the Harbor.

September  
23-26

[At sea.]

#### BAY OF SAN FRANCISCO, OFF YERBA BUENA.

Sept. 1846  
Sunday 27

. . . found at anchor off the Town 12 Sail of Whalers, Traders, &c. 12. or 13. lying on the opposite side of the Bay at Sousolita— the Center of Yerba Island bears p<sup>r</sup>. Compass. NE. the Center of Alcatrey<sup>s</sup>. N W by N. furled sails— at 4 PM the Congress Came in and anchor<sup>d</sup>. Sent down Royal and top Galt Yards. Performed Divine Service

Monday. 28

. . . a Court Martial Convened on board of this Ship Capt.

Mervine President, for the purpose of trying Doct. Whittle for Charges prefer<sup>d</sup>. against him by Comm<sup>r</sup>. Stockton. . . .

Tuesday 29

. . .

Wednesday 30.

. . . Receiv<sup>d</sup>. a Load of water by a Prize Schooner Conveying 3600. at 9. AM Inspected the Crew at quarters.

App<sup>d</sup>.

[Signed] W<sup>m</sup>. MERVINE

Cap<sup>t</sup>.

Thursday 1.

. . . Recv<sup>d</sup>. from the Portsmouth 20. Colts rifles and from the Congress 18 Do. with the Equipments. At 9.30 AM made Sail to Top-sails Got under way and Commenced working out of the Harbor on the Ebb Tide.

Friday 2<sup>d</sup>

. . . Capt Arbell Came on board as Pilot, and Jn<sup>o</sup> Brown (Courier) as passenger to San Pedro. At 10 AM got under way on the Ebb tide and attempted to work out but owing to the very thick fog came to again

Saturday 3.

. . .

Sunday 4.

. . . at 12 M. Got under way and Commenced beating out of the Harbor . . . at 3.15 Point Bonita . . . distant 8'— . . . At 10. Read the Articles of War and Mustered the Crew.

[At sea.]

October  
5 and 6

[SAN PEDRO]

Wednesday. Oct<sup>o</sup>. 7.<sup>th</sup>/46.

. . . Standing in for the Anchorage of San Pedro. 6.30. [P. M. Oct. 6] made out the American Merchant Ship Vandalia having on her Decks a body of men, on passing she saluted with 2 Guns, which was repeated with three cheers, which we returned, 7 Clewed up and Came to . . . Brevt. Capt. Archibald Gillespie Came on board and reported that he had evacuated the Pueblo de Los Angeles, on account of the overpowering force of the Enemy and had retired with his men on board the Vandalia after having spiked his Guns, one of which he threw into the water, he also reported that the whole of California, below the Pueblo had risen in arms against our authorities—headed by "Flores," a Mexican Captain on furlough in this Country who had but a few days ago given in his Parole of honor not to take up arms against the Govmt. of the U S. Made preparation to land a force to march to the Pueblo at day light

At 6. AM all the Boats left the ship for the purpose of landing the forces, numbering in all 299. men including the volunteers under Command of Capt. Gillespie. 6.30 all the forces were landed without

opposition, the Enemy in Small detachments retreating towards the Pueblo. from their movements we apprehended that the whole force were near. Sent on board Ship for a reinforcement of 80. men, under the Command of Leut R. B. Hitchcock At 8 AM the Several Companies all under the Comm<sup>d</sup>. of Capt. W<sup>m</sup>. Mervine took up the Line of march for the purpose of retaking the Pueblo, the Enemy retreating on the advance of our forces. (on landing W<sup>m</sup>. A. Smith 1<sup>st</sup> C Bry [?] was killed by the accidental discharge of a Colts Pistol) the reinforcement under the Command of Leut R. B. Hitchcock returned on board ship—

for the first four miles our march was through Hills and ravines which the Enemy might have taken advantage of but preferd to occupy as spectators only until our approach and a few Shots from our flankers, (who were volunteer Riflemen) would start them off. after first returning the Compliment the remainder of our march was performed over a Continuous plane over grown with wild mustard & in some places to the height of 6 or 8 feet the ground being excessively dry clouds of dust arose to almost suffication and not the least wind in motion—(together with no hopes of getting any water for 10 or 12 miles for the want of which we Suffered greatly, rendered our Situation truly miserable).

we reached our Camping ground at about ½ past 2 PM, the Enemy appearing in considerable numbers, which Continued to increase, until towards sun set when they formed on a Hill near us, gradually inclining towards our Camp and admirably adapted for Cavalry charging<sup>4</sup>—We drew up our forces in readiness to meet them, but finding they were disposed to remain stationary the Marines under Command of Capt. Ward Marstan, the Colts Riflemen under Comm<sup>d</sup>. of Lieut. J. B. Carter and myself, and the Volunteers under Command of Capt A. Gillespie, Lieut Hensley and Russeau, were orderd to charge on them, which we did they stood their ground until our shots Commenced “telling” on them when they took to flight in evry direction—yet they continued to anoy us by fiering into our Camp and Sety<sup>s</sup>. [sentries] through the night and at about 2.<sup>00</sup> AM they brought down a piece of artillery and fierd into our camp the shot striking the ground very near us. the Marines, Riflemen and Volunteers were sent in pursuit of the Gun but could see nor hear nothing of it our plan of march was in Collum by Platoon.

We left our Camp the next morning about 6 AM. and had not proceeded far before the Enemy appeard before us drawn up on each

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<sup>4</sup> The battle was fought on the Dominguez Rancho where the first aviation meet in America was held in 1910.

side of the road mounted on fine horses & armed with a Lance and Carbine each man, and having also a field piece (4 Pounds) to which were "hitched" 8 or 10 Horses, placed in the road ahead of us. Capt. Mervine thinking that it was the Enemy's intention to get us into Confusion by using their Gun on us charged with round Shot and Copper Grape Do, and then to make a charge of their Cavalry—ordered a Squar formed—which was our order of marching through the Battle. when within about four Hundred yards the Enemy opened their artillery on us. we made frequent charges driving them before us, and at one time causing them to leave some of their Balls and Cartridges, but owing to the rapidty with which they could carry the Gun off, using Laso<sup>s</sup> on evry part enabled them to choose their own distance, entirely out of all range of our muskets, the Horseman keeping out of danger, and appearently content to let the "Gun" do the fighting—they kept up a constant fire with their Carbines which done nothing more than whistle harmslessly by us. the Enemy were between 175. and 200 strong—

finding it impossible to capture the gun, the retreat was sounded when the Captain Consulted with his officers on the best step to be taken, when it was decided unanimously to return on board ship for [to] continue the march would be sacrificing a number of lives to no purpose, for admiting we could have reached the Pueblo, all Communication would be cut off with the Ship and we would further be constantly anoyed by their Artillery without the least chance of Capturing it it was also reported that the Enemy were between five and six hundred strong, at the City, and it was thought had more artillery.

on retreating they got the Gun planted on a Hill ahead of us. the Capt made an adress Saying, to the Troops, that it was his intention to march strait ahead in the same orderly manner in which we had commenced, and that sooner than he would Surrender to such an Enemy he would sacrifice himself and evry other man under his Command. they fired into us four times on the retreat the fourth shot falling short the report of the gun indicating a small quantity of Powder, after which they remained stationary and manifested no further disposition to molest us further, and we proceeded quietly on our march to the Landing where we found a body of men landed by M<sup>r</sup>. Hitchcock and Two 9 pound<sup>r</sup>. Canon<sup>s</sup> got from the Vandalia, to render us assistance in case we should need—

We presented truly a pitiable Condition, many being bearily able to drag one foot after the other from excessive fatigue, and extreem soreness of the feet having gone through the exertions and excitement in Battle and afterwards performing a march of 18 or 20. miles—

without rest this is the first Battle I have ever been engaged in, and having taken particular notice of those around me I can assert that no men could have acted more bravely. Even when their shipmates were falling by their sides, I saw but one impulse and that was to push forward, and when the retreat was ordered I noticed a general reluctance to turn their backs to the Enemy.

the following is a List of the killed and wounded—Michael Hoey, (O S.) killed, David Johnson (O S) Do. W<sup>m</sup> H Berry (O S), mortally wounded. Charles Sommers, (Mar<sup>s</sup>), Do. John Tyre, (Sea), severely wounded. John Anderson (Sea), Do—both doubtful. W<sup>m</sup>. Conland [?] (Mar), slightly Hiram Rocknell, Los. [?] Do. H. Loveland Do. Ja<sup>s</sup>. Smith Do. on the following [day] buried the Bodies of W<sup>m</sup> A Smith Cha<sup>s</sup> Sommers, David Johnson, and Michael Hoey, on an Island in the Harbor. At 11. AM. the Capt Called a Council of Commissiond officers, regarding the proper Course to adopt at the present Crisis which decided that no force should be landed and that the Ship remain here until further orders from the Commodore, who was daily expected.—

A List of Officers attached to The Expedition on the March to retake The Pueblo de los Angelos—

Captain William Mervine Commanding.  
 Captain Ward Marstan Commdg Marines.  
 Brvt. Captain A. Gillespie—Comm dg. Volunteers.  
 Lieut. Henry W Queen, Adjutant.  
 Lieutenant. R. F. Pinkney, Comm dg 1<sup>s</sup> Company.  
 Lieutenant. W<sup>m</sup> Renckendorff, “ 2<sup>d</sup> Do.  
 Lieutenant. J. B. Carter, “ Colts. Riflemen.  
 Midshipman. R. D. Minor Actg Lieut 2<sup>d</sup>. Company.  
 Midshipman. S. P. Griffin “ “ 1 Do.  
 Midshipman P. G. Watmough “ “ 2 Do.  
 Midshipman R. C Duvall, “ “ Colts. Riflemen.  
 Capt<sup>s</sup>. Clark, Tho<sup>s</sup>. Goodsell, Comm dg Pikemen  
 Lieutenant. Hensley, 1<sup>st</sup> Liéut. Volunteers.  
 Lieutenant. Russeau, 2<sup>d</sup> Do. Do.

Saturday  
10<sup>th</sup>.

. . . Mr. Johnson (English) & family came on board for protection, leaving a large amount of property on Shore. the Am<sup>r</sup>. whale ship Magnolia came in & anchored, the Vandalia went to sea bound to Monterey with despatches. Landed an Indian taken on board as a spy—Got the Larboard anchor on board to restock it.

Sunday 11

. . . W<sup>m</sup> H. Berry, O S. departed this Life from the effects of a wound receiv<sup>d</sup> in Battle. Sent his body on “Dead Mans Island,” So

named by us. Mustered the Crew at quarters, after which performed Divine Service—

Monday 12

. . .

Tuesday 13.

. . . at 10. AM a whale Boat from the whale Ship Stonnington at San Diego arrived with Don Miguiel de Pedorena 40 hours from said place having despatches from Captain Merritt saying that he had landed with his men about 40. in all, and had retaken the place in the face of 75. of the Enemy all mounted and having also one piece of artillery which he succeeded in capturing the Enemy cowardly deserting it and leaving it charged to the muzzle with grapshot he then took up his quarters in the edge of the town convenient to water, where he was determined to remain at all hazards until he could be reinforced. fearing that the Enemy would increase their force, he asked for Fifty men and then bid defiance to all California to unplace him—

AN ABRIDGED, AND CURSORY ACCOUNT OF TRANSACTIONS AT SAN DIEGO,  
DURING THE RECENT OCCUPATION OF IT BY OUR FORCES.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, being then in the Harbor of San Pedro, I was ordered, also Mid<sup>n</sup>. Morgan, with 35. Sailors & 15 Volunteers, under the Command of Lieut. Geo. Minor on board of the Whale Ship Magnolia, which had been chartered to convey us, to San Diego where we were to land, and unite our forces with Capt. Merrit, who had a few days previous succeeded in recapturing the place from the Enemy with only about 35. men, and capturing also one piece of artillery.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> after sun set we landed our forces up a small creek where owing to the Boggy nature of the surrounding ground, it would be imposible for the Enemy to charge upon us, which they did not attempt notwithstanding their force was double that of ours. we consumed the greater part of the night in getting our amunition, stores &c. to our quarters, being anoyed also by, detached parties of the Enemy who were sculking around us for the purpose of picking off our sentrys, which they continued to do evry night and causing us some nights to form our forces, ready for action, almost evry hour, and sometimes fiering into us.

The first two or three weeks were employed in getting Guns from the old Fort and mounting them, in our Barracks, which was situated in the west end of the town on the edge of the Bank bounding the Plane, and convenient to Water, our forces being too weak to admit of being divided, in occupying the Hill or East end of the town, the Enemy frequently visiting that end of the town by night and appeared to be content to appear on the Hill and fiering into us at long distance, especially when our Flag was hoisted and lowered, but always avoiding



our efforts to engage them and as they were mounted, of course the distance allowed between us was left entirely to their own wishes, in addition to our Barracks we carried adobes from the town and built Two Bastions at the two corners commanding the town and the Plane in the rear, in which we mounted 6 Brass 9 pounders, from the old Fort

From the movements of the Enemy we soon found out the manner in which war would be waged, which was to drive into the mountains all the cattle &c., and removing from the adjacent Ranchos every kind of subsistence and by that means starve us out, and they are certainly entitled to credit for having performed their intentions so effectively. they kept sentry<sup>s</sup>. by day and night on the Hills over looking the town, and on the different roads and passes leading into the country, and by that means prevented us from sending out "spys" to ascertain where we might manage to obtain supply<sup>s</sup>.— for a time our situation was extremely precarious being reduced to almost the last extreme, we had with us an Indian, (chief of a numerous Tribe) who from his knowledge of the country we thought could avoid the Enemy, and getting news of a number of sheep, about 35 miles to the S<sup>d</sup>. on the coast, we determined to send him with his Companion to drive them on to an Island which at low tide connected with the main land. in a few day<sup>s</sup>. a signal was made on the Island, and the Boats of the whale ship Stonnington, which ship had been taken in the Name of the Government, and to which we owe in a great measure our success, the Captain and Crew serving faithfully as soldiers and always ready to undertake any project proposed— our good old Indian had managed through his Cunning and by using Ravines as a means of passage to drive on to the Island about 600 sheep, but his Companion had been caught and killed by the Enemy. I shall never forget his famished appearance, but our Indians triumph could be seen playing in his dark eyes. the same Indian was afterwards taken in trying to carry despatches to Genl Kearney<sup>s</sup>. Camp, and badly treated, but afterwards delivered over to us.

For thirty or forty days we were constantly expecting from the movements of the Enemy an attack, soldiers and officers sleeping with their arms and ready for action,— in addition to our sentry<sup>s</sup>. during the night we had scouting parties guarding the entranc into the town, most of the time myself and M<sup>n</sup>. Morgan dividing the nights between us,

about the first of November Comm<sup>r</sup>. Stockton arrived, and after landing Capt. Gillespie, & his Company, with about 40 marines, suddenly disappeared leaving M<sup>n</sup>. Minor Governor of the place and Capt. G. Military Commdt. who hearing of a large number of cattle &c.

passing about 20 miles below us under the care of a few Californians, he with myself & M<sup>n</sup>. Haywood from the Prize Brig Malakadhel, and about 35. men commenced a rapid march through ravines to avoid being seen by the Enemy. we reached their Camp about 4 P.M. and found from apperances that they had sudenly broken up camp in apparant Confusion, about 2 Hours before our arrival, being exhausted and suffering for water we could not follow them farther and returned the same night having marched 40 miles without rest We afterwards found out the reason of their having left their intended Camp so sudenly, which was through the treachery of an Englishman who had been allowed to come in and go out to his family at his pleasure on his Parole, alledging that should he remove his family from his Ranch the Enemy would destroy his property, a fair specimen of an Englishman<sup>s</sup>. sincerity & feelings towards us, after this we made several Expeditions to the Southward, using the whale ship Stonnington to land our forces at different places along the Coast, and succeeded in getting both cattle and Horses, though the Horses were very poor.

We began now to gain rapidly on the exertions of the Enemy who had so long made the Hills and Ravines their "Homes," for the express purpose of thwarting our plans and starving us out. The Commodore shortly returned, and being elated at our Success, began promptly and effectively to furnish himself with the proper means of marching against the head quarters of the Enemy at Los Angelos. the same day on which he arrivd, the Enemy sudenly appeared to the Number of between 80 and 100. and knowing that we would be reinforced by the Congress, charged on us headed by José Antonio Carrillio, one of their "Bravos," but were repulsed, their loss not asscertained, one of them had his foot shot off (the end of his heel being found) by a 9 lb. shot passing also through his Horses Body, which ran into our ranks with his entrails dragging the ground. The man afterwards died with 3 others we know of. on this day the volunteers proved themselves as on evry other occasion to be worthless, having left the Barracks, where they were stationed at the Guns in case of an attack and took to the old Houses and Brush fenses. M<sup>n</sup>. Morgan, myself and 40 Ma<sup>rs</sup>. & Sailors receiving the Enemy<sup>s</sup>. fire and preventing them from charging into the town. a party afterwards succeeded in getting from us about 40 head of cattle, after this they were seldom seen around us.

On one of the Expeditions one of our men was Lanced and died shortly afterwards. he had strayed off before day light for the purpose of giving his horse some water (with one other who escaped,) about 300 yds from the camp, where some of the Enemy were in ambush, and succeeded in Lancing him,—

The Commodore now commenced to fortify the Hill which overlooked the town by building a Fort constructed by placing 300 Gallon casks full of sand close together, 30 yds by 20 square throwing a Bank of earth and small gravel up in Front as high as the Top of the casks & running a Ditch around the whole. in the inside a Ball Proff house was built out of Plank lining the inside with Adobes, on the top of which a swivell was mounted. the entrance was guarded by a Strong gate having a draw Bridge in front the whole fortification was completed in about 3 weeks, Guns mounted and evry thing complete notwithstanding the Plank &c. had to be carried by the men near a mile and the ditch cut through a solid strata of gravel and rock, with but indifferent tools to do it with— it is a monument of the most excessive hard Labor our forces have as yet performed, and notwithstanding they were on short allowance of Beef and wheat for a time without Bread Tea sugar or coffee, many destitute of shoes but few complaints were made.

About the first of Dcember information having been received<sup>d</sup>. that Gen<sup>l</sup>. Kearney was at Warners Pass about 80 miles distant with 100 Dragoons, on his march to San Diego, Comm<sup>o</sup>. Stockton immediately sent an escort of 50 men under Command of Capt. Gillespie accompany<sup>d</sup> by Pass<sup>d</sup>. Mid<sup>n</sup> Beal & Duncan, having one piece of artillery. they reached Gen<sup>l</sup>. K. without molestation.

on their return they surprised about 93 Californians at San Pascual, under command of Andreas Pico who had been sent to that part of the country to drive off all the Cattle and Horses and prevent us from getting them. Genl K. lost Capts. Moore Johnson and Lieut. Hammon and 15 Dragoons, 17 others being severely wounded, and lost also one piece of artillery— Genl K. Capt. Gillespie and Capt. Gibson were severly wounded also one of the Engineers officers. Some of the Dragoons have since died from their wounds. The Californians left none on the field. Genl K took one Prisoner, who was wounded and has since died it is said the only one they lost in the fight

The following day (but) was compelled to occupy a Small Hill occupy<sup>d</sup> by the Enemy having large high rocks, beautifully adapted for defense in which place he prepared to defend himself. the Californians becoming reinforced and completely surrounding him, Lieut Godey of the Volunteers escaped through the Enemy<sup>s</sup>. line of sentrys, the night after the engagement, and came in with a Letter from Capt. Turner to the Comm<sup>o</sup>., the Comm<sup>o</sup> asked Lieut. Godey if he thought Genl K. could not proceede safely on his march, and was answ<sup>d</sup>. in the affirmative while amongst the rocks. Pass<sup>d</sup>. Mid<sup>n</sup> Beal and Kit Carson (a celebrated Hunter, and guide to Capt. Freemont through the Rocky

Mountains) managed, under cover of night to pass out through the Enemy<sup>s</sup> ranks, and after three days & nights, hard marching through the mountains—without water, succeeded in getting safely into San Diego completely famished. Soon after arriving Pass<sup>d</sup>. Mid<sup>n</sup>. Beal fainted away, and for some days entirely lost his reason. the same night of his arrival the Comm<sup>o</sup>. sent out a detachment consisting of [blank] Marines and Sailors, under Command of Lieut Gray, the marines under Command of Lieut. Watson, Savannah<sup>s</sup>. Musketeers Comm<sup>d</sup>. by Lieut. Guest assisted by Mid<sup>n</sup> Wells, Lee, & Parish, Portsmouth<sup>s</sup> Musketers Comm<sup>d</sup>. by Liut Hunter, assisted by Mid<sup>n</sup> Whitaker, Boats<sup>n</sup>. and Purser Watmough, the Artillery Comm<sup>d</sup>. by Lieut. Thompson and Tilghman, the whole under the immediate Command of Capt. Zeilin as adjutant of the forces, each officer and man carrying a Blanket, 3 lb. jerked Beef and 3 lb. of Hard Tack.

We left San Diego at about 9 PM marched until near day light when we ascended a freezing [?] mountain for the purpose of laying by during the day, wishing to surprise the Enemy, (rather a bad place to escape observation, on the Top of a high mountain destitute of Trees) we lay on the ground all the next day, suffering much for water and during the night from cold, at dark we descended the Mountain and proceeded on our march. about 2 AM we discover<sup>d</sup> some fiers ahead which on approaching were sudenly extinguished, which proved to be one of the Enemy<sup>s</sup>. out Posts. Shortly afterwards we made the lights of Gen<sup>l</sup>. K<sup>s</sup>. Camp owing to the Enemy<sup>s</sup>. having taken Lieut. Godey on his return to Gen<sup>l</sup> K<sup>s</sup> Camp with the Commos<sup>s</sup> despatches, they were not aware of our approach or they might by night have taken advantage of some of the deep passes which we had to march through and injured us severley.

We reached Gen<sup>l</sup> K<sup>s</sup>. Camp at about 4 AM much to their manifest relief. They were subsisting upon Poor Mule meat which they had managed to secure, and were reduced to mere skeletons— the Gen<sup>l</sup>. had come to the conclusion to make an attempt that day to proceede on his march for San Diego, having detroyed all of his Baggage Burning his Camp Equipage Saddles Bridles, Clothing &c. Seeing that to remain would be death in a worse shape than dieing on the field, and judging from the enfeebled Condition of his forces and from previous Circumstances, the Enemy being in good Condition and well mounted, I think it would not be a hazzard of opinion to say that he would have been overpowered and Compelled to Surrender— before our departure from the Camp the Enemy appear<sup>d</sup> across the Plane, but soon disappear<sup>d</sup>. We reached San Diego on the 2<sup>d</sup> day much exhausted, and cripple<sup>d</sup> up from sore feet

an expedition having about this time arrived from the South bringing in more Cattle Horses & mules, the Comm<sup>o</sup>. commence<sup>d</sup> making rapid preparation<sup>s</sup>. for his march against the Enemy at Los Angeles. they having observed our movements, suddenly left and a General Concentration was made at the Pueblo. the Cyane having arrived, our forces were increased to about 600. most of them understanding the Drill and performing the evolutions like regular soldiers—

evry thing being ready for our departure, the Comm<sup>o</sup>. left Capt. Montgomery and officers in command of the town, and the 29<sup>th</sup>. of December took up his line of march for the Angelos, Genl Kearney being 2<sup>d</sup> in Command and having the immediate arrangement of the forces, reserving for himself the Perogative which his rank necessarily imposed upon him, owing to the weak state of our oxen we had not crossed the dry bed of the River San Diego before they broke down, and the Carts, which were 30 to 40 in number, had to be dragged by the men, the General insisting on the Comm<sup>o</sup>. that it was useless to commence such a march as was before us with our present means but the Comm<sup>o</sup>. urged on performing at least one days march should we have to return the next We succeeded in reaching the valley of the Solidad that night by dragging our Carts. the next day the Comm<sup>o</sup>. proposed to get 6 miles farther which we accomplished, and continued on 6 miles farther, and in this way, (having got a few fresh oxen on our road) by assisting the Carts up the Hills we succeeded in marching 10 or 12 miles per day. at San Louis Rey we obtained more Carts and oxen, and after that our march became more rapid and less embarased, accomplishing some days from 15 to 22 miles—

the third day after leaving San Louis Rey a white flag was seen ahead which proved to be from "Flores," signing himself Comm<sup>dr</sup>. in chief and Governor of Calif<sup>a</sup>. asking for a "Conference for the purpose of Coming to terms which would be alike Honorable to both Contries"—The Comm<sup>o</sup>. refused to answer him in writing, saying to the bearer of the Truce that his answer was "he knew no such person as Gov<sup>r</sup>. Flores, that he was the only Gov<sup>r</sup>. in California—that he knew a rebel by that name, a man who had given his Parole of Honor not to take up arms against the Govern<sup>t</sup>. of the U S. and who if the People of California now in arms against the forces of the U S. would deliver up he would treat with them on condition of their surrendering, giving up their arms and retiering peacably to their Homes, granting them protection from further molestation, as Citizens of the U. S. this they refused to do prefering as they said to die with Flores.

On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>. of January they met us on the Banks of the River San Gabriel, with between five and six hundred men

mounted on good Horses and armed with Lances and Carbines, having also 4 pieces of Artillery planted on the heights, about 350 yards distant from the river owing to Circumstances which have occurred since the Surrender of the Enemy I prefer not mentioning the particulars of this days Battle and also on the days following or of referring to individuals concerned in the successful management of our Forces. it is sufficient to say that on the 8<sup>th</sup>. we succeeded in crossing the River and driving the Enemy from the heights, (which half of their number should have prevented us from charging up) having put them to flight in every direction, resisting their charges and dismounting one of their field pieces.— we camped on the ground which they occupied, in fighting us the next day they met us on the Planes of the mesa, for a time the fighting was carried on by both sides with artillery—but proving too hard for them, they concentrated their whole force in a line ahead of us, and at a given signal divided from the center and came down upon us like a Tornado charging upon all sides of us at the same time, but were effectually defeated—leaving the field in every direction and in the utmost disorder. Many of their Horses were left dead on the field, their loss in the Two days fights, as given by Andreas Pico, the Enemy's 2<sup>d</sup> in command, was 83. killed & wounded, our loss 3 killed one accidentally, by our own forces, and 15 or 20 wounded, none dangerously—

on the 10<sup>th</sup>. we entered the City without opposition the Enemy having deserted it having left in an Indian village near by Two pieces of artillery, a sufficient indication that they were satisfied and had no more use for them, in a few days information came in that Flores and 60 others had fled to Sonora carrying with them many Horses. a Treaty was agreed upon between Col. Freemont and Andreas Pico & other officers, by which a general Surrender was made, the Treaty being revised and approved by the Comm<sup>o</sup>. in making the treaty with Col. Freemont fully proved the adage that drowning men catch at straws—Shortly after Col Freemont was made Governor, Genl K. & the Comm<sup>o</sup>. returned to San Diego by land, the Forces belonging to the Ships marched down to San Pedro and embarked on board the Stonington, and rejoined their Ships at San Diego, where I remained until the arrival of this Ship—[The Savannah.]

[March 27, the Savannah with Duvall on board sailed for home.]