

History of the State of California ( From the Period of the Conquest by Spain to her Occupation by the United States of America )CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE IMMENSE GOLD MINES AND PLACERS, A DESCRIPTION OF HER MINERAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, WITH THRILLING ACCOUNTS OF ADVENTURES AMONG THE MINERS. ALSO, A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE. WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS. CONTENTS 5 CHAPTER I. Geographical Outline of California 7 CHAPTER II. Discovery of California 11 CHAPTER III. From the first Settlement to the Revolution in Mexico 20 CHAPTER IV. From the Revolution till the War between the United States and Mexico 24 CHAPTER V. From the Commencement of the War till its Close 27 CHAPTER VI. Discovery of the Gold Placers 36 CHAPTER VII. Adventures of some of the Miners, and Incidents connected with Mining 56 CHAPTER VIII. Description of some of the Cities and towns of California, before and after the discovery of the Gold Mines 87 CHAPTER IX. The Formation of a State Government 118 CHAPTER X. Present state of California 132 CHAPTER XI. The different Routes to California, and their respective characters 181 CHAPTER XII. Recent Events connected with, and happening in, California 218 CHAPTER XIII. The Mineralogical and other characteristics of Gold, and the mode of distinguishing it when found; together with the assay, reduction, and refinement of Gold 233 CHAPTER XIV. Additional Recent Events 243 CHAPTER XV. A General View of California at the present time 255 CHAPTER XVI. Natural History of California 275 Appendix 287 THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA CHAPTER I. GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE OF CALIFORNIA The territory called California is that part of North America situated on the Pacific Ocean, and extending from the 42° of north latitude southwardly to 22° 48', and from 107° longitude, west from Greenwich, to 124°. It is bounded on the north by Oregon territory, east by territories belonging to the United States and the Gulf of California, and on the south and west by Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. California is naturally divided into two portions; the peninsula, called Lower California, and the territory extending northward from the peninsula, on the Pacific Ocean, called Upper California. The line of division between Upper and Lower California runs nearly along the 32d parallel of latitude, westward from the head of the Gulf of California. The peninsula of California is about one hundred and thirty miles in breadth, where it joins the continent. It extends south-eastwardly, generally diminishing in breadth, till it terminates in two points. The point farthest south-west is called Cape San Lucas. The other, sixty miles east by north of San Lucas, is called Cape Palmo. The peninsula is about seven hundred miles long. Upper California extends, upon the Pacific, from the 32d parallel of latitude, northward to the 42d parallel, a distance of about seven hundred miles. It is separated from Oregon by a range of highlands, called the Snowy Mountains, or, by the Spaniards, the Sierra Nevada. The eastern limit of Upper California is rather uncertain. By some it is considered as including the region watered by the Colorado River, while others limit it by the great mountain range that extends along the western side of the continent. The Californian peninsula seems to be a prolongation of the great western chain of mountains. It consists entirely of high, stony ridges, separated by sandy valleys, and contains very few tracts of level ground. In a general view, it might be termed an irreclaimable desert.

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