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Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 14, 15 January 1852 — Arrival of the Isthmus. [ARTICLE]

Arrival of the Isthmus.

Execution of Antonio Garra at San Diego.—Interesting from the seat of Indian Troubles.—A Battle.—Execution of four Indian Chieftains.—Arrival of the Advance Party of U. S. Boundary Commission at San Diego.—The San Francisco Volunteers, etc.

The Isthmus, Capt. Harris, arrived in port yesterday morning at 3½ o'clock, with a large number of passengers, and a mail from Mazatlan and San Diego. A list of her passengers will be found in the appropriate column.

By this arrival we have advices from San Diego to the 11th inst. All was quiet at that place at the time of the departure of the Isthmus.

We are under obligations to Purser Marshall, of the Isthmus, for papers and a report of the trip. We are also indebted to Mr. J. B. Devoe, who has returned to California among the passengers by the Isthmus, for similar favors.

The Isthmus left Panama on the 21st December. On the 30th spoke the steam propeller Monumental City, bound to San Juan. Had boisterous weather in the Gulf of Tehuantepec. Arrived at Acapulco on the 31st, at San Blas on the 3d inst., at Mazatlan on the 4th. On the morning of the 6th spoke steamer New Orleans, off Cape St. Lucas. Arrived at San Diego on the 11th.

We hasten to lay before our readers, from our attentive friends in the Southern country,
Our San Diego Correspondence.
SAN DIEGO, Jan. 11, 1852.
GENT.—The steamer Isthmus is just in from Pan-

ama, and I have only time to write you a few lines. Gen. Bean and staff arrived here on the 8th inst. bringing with him the Chief Antonio Garra. A Court Martial was convened on the morning of the 9th, consisting of Maj. Gen. Bean; Myron Norton, Act. Asst. Adjt. Gen.; Santiago E. Aguello, Aid-de-Camp; George B. Fitzgerald, Capt. Los Angeles Rangers; George F. Hooper, and Thomas Tillghman, Lieuts. Fitzgerald Volunteers; Capt. Cave J. Coutts, commanding Fitzgerald Volunteers, was appointed Judge Advocate, and Maj. J. McKinstry, U. S. A., at the request of the Court, acted as counsel for the prisoner. Hon. J. J. Warner was appointed Interpreter to the Court. After a patient investigation of nearly two days, the prisoner was found guilty of levying war against the Government, of murder and robbery, and was sentenced to be shot yesterday afternoon at sun-down, which sentence was carried into effect. A detachment of twelve men under command of Capt. Fitzgerald, escorted the prisoner to the place of execution and burial. After a short exhortation from the Padre, the prisoner in a firm tone said he was willing to ask pardon of all present, "if they would pardon him." As soon as the priest left his side, he was blindfolded and made to kneel beside his grave. When the word was given to fire, he fell, completely riddled with balls and died instantly. No man could have met his fate in a more grave and dignified manner than did Antonio Garra. I could not but feel a sort of sympathy for him, notwithstanding his crimes, since for the last month, while he has been a prisoner, I have been obliged to eat, drink, and sleep with him at times. I shall start in a few days for Los Angeles.

Adios,

GORDITO.

The following information, communicated to us under date of San Diego, Jan. 11th, will be read with interest:

The volunteers from San Francisco are here in a deplorable condition. They commenced an unruly course of conduct that brought the whole community against them. Lieut. Sweeny, with a detachment of 20 men, was called by the civil authorities to preserve peace, and aid in enforcing the laws. The party yet remain encamped in town, to aid said authority. The captain and one of his lieutenants exchanged a couple of shots in the edge of the town a few days since, but without damage. The next day Lieut. Watkins attacked Phillip Crosthwaite, an old resident, in the Plaza, and both parties were badly shot. Many of the volunteers, in the excitement of the moment, wished to break into the house where Crosthwaite lay wounded, and murder him. A bloody scene

waite lay wounded, and murder him. A bloody scene was barely avoided. Many think that Lieut. Watkins did not shoot Crosthwaite himself, but that it was some other person present and near by. All of this trouble and disorder has resulted in our want of the proper civil officers. Our old Sheriff, Col. Agaston Haraszthy, was wished for by all the good citizens of the place; his presence as Sheriff, would have relieved our town of sending these disgraceful transactions abroad.

Major Heintzelman and command are preparing for the Colorado, will leave in the course of a month or so.

I will give you a full account of the trial of Antonio Garra, treaty with Indians, &c., by the Sea Bird, looked for to-morrow.

I enclose a copy of the "Opinion" given by the court-martial before adjourning. Truly yours, CAMP.

OPINION.

The Court Martial cannot refrain from expressing publicly an opinion on the subject of the accusations, or allegations made against our citizens, Don Jose Antonio Estudillo and Don Joaquin Ortega, by Antonio Garra.

Everything that has come before the Court shows conclusively that Antonio Garra is himself the author of this slander—that no papers were found in the Coyotes confirmatory of the connection of any Californians with the Indians, (as published in the San Diego Herald.)—and that these men now stand in the community as they have always, in our highest estimation—and that this opinion be published in the Alta California, Los Angeles Star, and San Diego Herald.

- (Signed,) J. H. BEAN, Maj. Gen. and President.
- MYRON NORTON, A. Asst. Adj. Gen.
- S. E. ARGUELLO, A. Camp.
- G. B. FITZGERALD, Capt. Cal. Rangers.
- G. F. HOOPER, Lt. Fitzgerald Vols.
- THOS. H. TILLGHMAN, Lt. Fitz. Vols.
- CAVE J. COUTS, Capt. Fitz. Vols., Judge Advocate.

The San Diego Herald of the 10th contains a considerable amount of valuable information, relative to the movements against the Indians of the South. We copy entire the following narration of the expedition led by Major Heintzelman:

Major Heintzelman and his command returned to town on Sunday last from a highly successful campaign against the Indians in the mountains. We are indebted to a friend for the following interesting particulars, which we hasten to lay before our readers. The troops at San Isabel were organized into two detachments, respectively under the command of Major H. and Col. Magruder, and marched from there on the morning of the 19th ultimo, for the Coyotes. The first moved upon a road leading around the mountains to a ravine that debouched upon the des-

the mountains to a ravine that debouched upon the desert. Col. Magruder followed the Indian trails leading over the mountains. On the 20th inst., the Indians became aware of the approach of the troops under Major Heintzelman, but concluded to fight him, apparently acting on the belief that their position was impregnable. The Indians had chosen their ground with great skill—their position on the one side flanked by a rapid stream of water, and the other by a morass that extended along their front, presenting a very serious obstacle to the advance of the troops. Very early on the morning of the 21st, Major H. having provided for the safety of his animals and baggage by detailing suitable guards, moved upon the enemy with twenty men, who advanced upon the troops (the valley vocal with their yells) and commenced the action by a fire from their rifles at a distance of twenty-five yards. The troops gained cover and opened an effective fire, that lasted but a few moments, when the Indians broke and fled in all directions, escaping up the mountains with the rapidity of deer. The Indians acknowledged a loss of eight, whilst on our side no one was injured. After the engagement quite a number of Indians came in. Major Heintzelman ordered a Council of War for the trial of the following named prisoners, who were known to have been the prominent actors in the murder of the Americans at Agua Caliente :

- Francisco Mocate, chief of San Ysidro.
- Louis, Alca' de of Agua Calliente.
- Jacobo or Oui-sil.
- Juan Bautista or Coton.

The Council, after a patient hearing of the testimony, pro and con., condemned them to be shot.

They were led out on Christmas morning, and executed in the presence of some eighty Indians.]

The advance guard of the Boundary Survey, arrived in San Diego, on the 7th inst., and they report the Indians along the Gila as an ugly set, requiring the strong arm of military law to keep them in check and proper position.

Lt. Col. Craig, 3rd Infantry, commanding the Escort to the Boundary Commissioners, arrived here from New Mexico on the 7th. Lieut. A. W. Whipple, Topographical Engineers, with his party of assistants, came in with Col. Craig. The whole command arrived in fine order, and looking better, if possible, for the trip.

The Colonel's preparations for crossing to this country were so well made, that though continually harrassed by the Indians, the whole journey was performed without loss of either men or stores. This is, we believe, the

only expedition of the kind that has yet reached this place in blissful ignorance of that desert dainty, a mule steak. Col. Craig was ferried over the Colorado by the Yumas, in the boats which they took from the whites

some time ago. The sight of the Colonel's well appointed command seems to have talated the Indians with civility. They did not think proper to reveal the fact that they are at war with the whites. The necessity for a strong post at the Gila is confirmed by every party that arrives.

An express from Mr. A. B. Taylor's party for the survey of Gila, arrived in San Diego on the evening of the 9th. Mr. Gray was quartered at Zecati ranch. The journey from the junction of the Gila and Colorado to this place was made in six and a half days. The party were destitute of provisions most of the journey. The survey of the Gila was commenced in the latter end of October, and prosecuted about 350 miles. It was abandoned about 60 miles above the confluence of the Gila and Colorado, where the party had no other alterrative but starvation. Messrs. Bausman and Taylor, attached to Mr. Gray's party, give the subjoined account of their wanderings :

Mr. Gray, the Chief Surveyor under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, started from the copper mines of New Mexico with a party consisting of seven gentlemen, first and second Assistants and laborers, on the 27th day of August last. Owing to a difficulty existing between the Commissioner and Col. Graham, of the Topographical Engineers, growing out of a believed misinterpretation, by the latter gentleman, of his instructions, the party were deprived of the necessary outfit of animals and provisions. The consequence was, at the end of fifteen days their subsistence was exhausted, and before the point for the commencement of the survey of the Gila was reached. They were therefore detained on the San Pedro river 23 days; Mr. Gray, in the meantime, visiting Santa Cruz and Tueson, in Sonora, to purchase a supply. The only article of value obtained was a small quantity of flour.

The journey made by Mr. Gray from the junction of the Gila and Colorado to this place, is perhaps unprecedented. He accomplished it in *six and a half traveling days*, with animals that have fed on little else than willow twigs, cotton-wood bark and green cane. He crossed the desert in 51 hours, 36 being traveling hours, his mules bearing average packs and with the loss of but a single one, *without food or water!*

The three hundred and fifty miles of the river surveyed, is marked by separate monuments, eight or nine in number, the astronomical points having been determined by Lieut. A. W. Whipple, of the Topographical Engineers.

Mr. Gray and the party, we are pleased to learn, are in good health. After a short repose the expedition will retrace its steps, and complete the survey.

The Herald announces the arrival of Dr. Wozencraft, Indian Commissioner, and says he has been arduously engaged in visiting and forming treaties with the late hostile tribes in the southern district, in which duty he has been quite successful. On the 2d and 3d insts., he completed treaties with the San Luis and the Cahuiyas Indians, at Apis' rancho. By the terms of this treaty, the following specified tract of country is set apart for their use: It includes Temecule, and is bounded on the north by San Jacinto and San Gorgonia, on the east by the Desert, on the south by San Jose del Valle, and on the west by a line running from Ahuanga to Temecula. On the 6th, the Commissioner, with Mr. Warner and Lt. Hamilton, had returned to San Ysabel, where a treaty was concluded with the Dieguinos on the 9th. Their country, as set apart for them, is bounded on the north by the Cahuiya and San Luis Grant, on the east by the Desert, on the south by the State Line, and running along it 25 miles from the Desert, and on the west by a line from this point northward, including San Felipe and San Jose del Valle.

The San Diego Herald remarks of the expedition :

The promptitude exhibited by all the Indians in obeying orders to collect in given places, and showing stolen property, is the best evidence of the good done by the expedition.

A battle occurred, Jan. 4th, between the insurgents and Government forces of Lower California, in which the former, under Negrete, were defeated and dispersed by Lieut. Ant. Chavis, commandante of the military colony called La Frontera in Lower California. The fight occurred at Santa Tomas. The loss on either side was slight.