

The suggestions made above are merely such, and are not intended as a criticism upon the management. The gentlemen who conduct the affairs of the association do so at the expense of much care and loss of valuable time, and are entitled to the thanks of the community. The association itself is not maintained by its stockholders with the hope of realizing material profit upon the capital they have invested. The prevailing idea when it was organized, was that a fair of this description would be of so great a benefit to the city that the business men could afford to contribute to its founding and subsequent support; and it is to be regretted that the same public spirited men are compelled year after year to bear the burden of the conduct of its affairs. It would be a relief and aid to them if a liberal sprinkling of new members were introduced, and with them an infusion of new ideas. If our business men, as a body, would take the interest in this matter its importance deserves, and bring to it the zeal of which they have so often shown themselves capable, we would have in 1887 an exhibition that would be worth thousands of dollars to the trade of the city, and whose beneficial influence would be felt throughout the whole Northwest.

STEVENSON'S REGIMENT.

The voyage of Stevenson's regiment to California is one of the many episodes pertaining to the history of the pioneer-times of the Pacific coast, and is described fully in Bancroft's history of California, Vol. V.

An act of Congress of May 13, 1846, authorized the raising of a force of volunteers for the Mexican war. The President decided to send one regiment to the Pacific coast around Cape Horn, and Colonel Jotham D. Stevenson, of New York, was requested to devote his services to its organization. Only men of good habits were wanted, and such as were of a calling and character likely to make them desirable settlers in the territories to be wrested from Mexico. Stevenson was a colonel of militia, a ward politician, and ex-member of the legislature. Just what wires were pulled by him and his friends to secure his new position, is not known. He proceeded to open recruiting offices in New York City, Albany, Bath and Norwich. No volunteer dreamed of conflict with any foe. All regarded themselves as immigrant adventurers bound for a distant land of many charms, under the protection of the government. The regiment included men of nearly every class, except the most opulent. A large proportion were steady mechanics of all trades, and there was a sprinkling of the boys of New York City and not a few intemperates and ne'er-do-wells. Many of these were attracted solely by the love of adventure, and but for the ice would as readily have gone to the north pole, while others had records, associations and debts from which they were eager to run away.

When the ranks of the regiment were filled, it was sent to Governor's island, where military drill and discipline soon disgusted many of the volunteers. These

ran away or were rescued by their parents through writs of habeas corpus, known at that time by the name "non Californium," while the whole force was rather flippantly referred to by the newspapers as the "baby regiment." Late in August, three staunch ships were chartered for five thousand dollars. On September 26th the vessels departed. They were the *Thomas H. Perkins*, six hundred and ninety-seven tons, the *Loo Choo*, six hundred and thirty-nine tons, and the *Susan Drew*, seven hundred and one tons. The U. S. sloop of war *Treble* accompanied the three transports as convoy. At Rio de Janeiro, where they stopped for a time, there was a prospect of getting into war-like complications with the Brazilians. The wife of the quartermaster-sergeant on the *Perkins* had given birth to a daughter, and at her christening as "Alta California Harris," Minister Wise indulged in some remarks in reference to another christening, that of a "royal bantling of the Brazilian nation." For this pleasantry the Emperor was thought to contemplate an order commanding all American vessels to leave, in which case the volunteers meant to resist by force. However, the order was not issued, and consequently the Americans had to leave without giving the Brazilians a taste of the mettle of Republican soldiers.

When the vessels arrived at San Francisco in March, 1847, all offensive military operations had ceased, and the regiment was put at the disposal of General Kearny for garrison duty.

The intention of the government had been to advance the settlement of California by sending out this volunteer regiment, and the result accomplished fully justified the step. Most of the members became useful citizens. Many achieved prominence as lawyers, merchants, etc., while a few found their way to prison or to the gallows. Mr. Bancroft's account is full of the more special details, which render his narrative of the career of Stevenson's regiment full of interest.

THE *Manufacturer and Builder* thinks that the man who is working to secure a small piece of property substitutes a new and distinct ambition for a remote and vague one. Day dreams about large estates and princely incomes may be very amusing, but they are not half so profitable as a vision of a lot one hundred by two hundred, with a snug little dwelling house upon it. With this before him, a man will rise early and retire late, turning his hand cheerfully to any and every kind of work. He will have a motive for rigorous economy which will make it a pleasure. He will have a vision of the last payment before him as a perpetual motive to moderation in passions, economy in expenses, abstinence from expensive pleasures and from expensive companions. Thus it will come to pass that a judicious debt incurred at the beginning of a journeyman's or laborer's career, will become his good genius, watching over him, inciting him to all industry and to self-government. Every laboring man ought to own his house. The first duty of the workingman should be to convert his earnings into real estate.