

A
Memorial and Biographical History
of the
Coast Counties
of
Central California

Illustrated

Containing a History of it's Important Section of the Pacific Coast from the Earliest Period
of its Discovery to the Present Time, together with Glimpses of its Auspicious Future;
Illustrations and Full-Page Portraits of some of its Eminent Men,
and Biographical Mention of many of its Pioneers,
and Prominent Citizens of To-day

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"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy
to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."— *Macaulay*.

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PREFATORY.

The General History.

In presenting the result of their labors to the readers of this volume, the editors desire to say that they are fully aware of the truth that the merit of a picture of any past epoch depends not a little on the manner in which it is presented. The historian, that is, the picturer of the present or the past, like the painter, should be, though he often, alas! Falls short of being, an artist. He should also be an idealist and a philosopher. It is not enough for him to give mere dull descriptions of humdrum events, which in themselves alone are often, however faithfully reproduced, but the dry bones of a cadaver. He must see something of the significance of the events he describes, the wondrous and often vital relations that exist between them, if he would bring an epoch vividly before the living present.

He who spiritualizes and idealizes may indeed write the truest history. When George Eliot gave, in after years, idealized pictures of the scenes and localities of her youth, her neighbors, though seeing with different eyes, had no difficulty in recognizing the fidelity of her descriptions. So, coming nearer home, Mrs. Helen Jackson's idealized pictures in *Ramona* of California scenes and characters, – of the hot, dusty, sheep-shearing times so familiar to old Californians, – are not only faithful pictures, but they are also made all the more attractive by her idealized artistic mode of presentation.

In telling the story of the central coast section of California, or, perhaps it would be better to say, in summarizing that story within the briefest limits, we have endeavored to give the primary facts with fidelity. But whether we have rightly grasped the significance of the events we have described, – the wondrous and often vital relations which exist between them, – is a matter, of course, which is left for the reader and the critic to decide.

We must confess that the study of California's early history, and especially of the early history of Monterey and vicinity, – which, in manners, customs and language, were but a section of Spain translated to this then far distant region bordering on the South Seas, – has greatly interested us. We can only hope that we may be able to awaken in our readers, in some slight degree, a like interest in the same study.

H. D. Barrows.



PREFATORY.

The Biographical Department.

The publishers believe they have materially added to the value of this work by supplementing the general historical chapters with a somewhat extensive list of biographical sketches and personal mention, so called, of citizens of more or less local prominence. With the incorporation of these sketches, brief as some of them are, a two-fold purpose is served. First, it secures to the work a class of significant historical facts that cannot so appropriately find a place in any other portion of the history; secondly, to the general interest of the volume it adds a personal worth to a class of people who would like to see such a work in print, and leave it to their posterity.

In gathering the facts for these articles, serious difficulties have been encountered. Some people have shown a reluctance to furnish us the desired data; others have over-stocked us with material; while still others have declined to furnish us with any information at all. The first two embarrassments were, with patience, in a measure, overcome; but the last mentioned was insurmountable; and thus it is that the biographies of some most worthy subjects are brief, and others are not here at all. All possible caution has been taken to record these statements in harmony with the facts, aiming in each case to give a faithful pen picture of each subject, as the artist would bring out the beauties of a landscape picture in colors harmonious and true to Nature. The ills of life and imperfections in character are neither pleasant nor profitable to contemplate. Therefore, we have not aimed to perpetuate them in history.

To insure accuracy, these biographical sketches have been type-written and then submitted by mail or otherwise to the parties from whom the information was obtained. Some have been kind enough to return them to us as requested in corrected form, and in a few cases, where they were not so returned, we are not quite certain of their accuracy, and do not feel responsible for possible errors.

The writing and final incorporation of these articles in this work have not been made in all cases contingent upon a subscription for a history. No pioneer has intentionally been omitted because he could not see his way clear to order one of our books, and the sketches of many appear who could not afford to pay for the work. It may also be stated that some have ordered the work who, for reasons purely their own, desired their life's record not to be included in the list of biographies.

In after years these biographies, called sketches, will have a value, because they are authoritative records of primary facts in the lives of persons who took a more or less active part in making the history related in this volume; and as years vanish their significance will be more apparent and their value increase.

L. A. Ingersoll.



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