



The Battle of San Pasqual, 1921: A Report of the California Historical Survey Commission With Special Reference to Its Location (Classic Reprint)

Owen Cochran Coy

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Excerpt from *The Battle of San Pasqual, 1921: A Report of the California Historical Survey Commission With Special Reference to Its Location*

He was also informed that an additional force of a thousand men had been provided to follow him to Santa Fe, to which place he was directed to proceed; and he was instructed, after making himself master of New Mexico, to press on with his remaining force to California. He was to enlist such volunteers as he might pick up along the way, the total enlistment not to exceed one-third of his original force. He was permitted to choose his own route, but it was suggested that the so-called "Caravan Route," by which the old communication between that country and New Mexico had been carried on, could be more easily traversed in winter time, and the wish was expressed that he should reach California by winter. It was expected that the United States naval forces would be in possession of the Pacific seacoast by the time Kearny would arrive there, and that they would cooperate with him in the conquest of the country. However, Kearny was not definitely bound to a fixed program, for Secretary Marcy's letter expressly stated that "A large discretionary power is invested in you in regard to these matters, as well as to all others." The letter of instructions ended with advice as to the government to be set up in the event of the conquest of California, and instructions for the kind treatment of the Californians.

Following the instructions, Colonel Kearny left Leavenworth about the end of June, occupied Santa Fe, and accomplished the conquest of New Mexico, as directed, in August. Having succeeded thus far, General Kearny, his commission as such having reached him at Santa Fe, made preparations for carrying out the remainder of his instructions, namely, those which dealt with the conquest of California.

He left Santa Fe on the twenty-fifth of September, 1846, having before him a journey of over a thousand miles, a great portion of which was absolute desert. A very interesting account of this journey is given by Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Emory, one of Kearny's aides, in his journal. Both he and Captain Johnston, another aide to Kearny, kept diaries of their experiences on the overland trip to California. However, the details of the trip, although very interesting, are not essential to our story. The main facts of the trip may be obtained from the following letter, the official report of General Kearny to his superior officer, General R. Jones, sent after Kearny's arrival at San Diego:

Headquarters, Army Of The West,
San Diego, Upper California, Dec. 12, 1846.

Sir: As I have previously reported to you, I left Santa Fe [New Mexico] for this country on the 25th of September, with 300 of the First Dragoons under Major Sunnier.

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