

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*Written for this Paper.*

## FROM NEW MEXICO.

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, Feb. 7, 1894. During my brief stay in Santa Fe I was busily engaged visiting museums, old buildings, and conversing with old residents of this old and exceedingly interesting town, but I have been somewhat disappointed in not being able to obtain accurate dates in regard to its early history.

A Spanish Friar by the name of Marcos de Nizza and Francisco Vasquez Coronado are generally supposed to have been the first Europeans to tread the soil of what is now the territory of New Mexico. The first named visited the Zuni Pueblos in June, 1639; the latter, guarded by Friar Marcus and followed by 250 men at arms, came in 1640 and occupied several Indian pueblos, going as far north as the present site of Albuquerque, on the Rio Grande. A permanent settlement was made by the Spaniards late in the sixteenth century; but the exact year in which Santa Fe was first occupied by the Spaniards no one seems to know. This much may be said that Santa Fe, in New Mexico, and St. Augustine, Florida, were peopled by the followers of the cross about the same time. Santa Fe is considered by many to be the oldest city in the United States. This is certainly correct, if we be permitted to reckon the time it was occupied by the Lamanites before the Spaniards came. Max Frost, Esq., secretary of the bureau of immigration of the territory of New Mexico, has just published a book of 344 pages, on the resources of New Mexico, in which also he presents a condensed historical sketch of the territory. Alluding to the founding of Santa Fe he says:

"In 1597, after many vexatious delays, Don Juan de Onate entered New Mexico with 700 soldiers and 130 families for colonization. On September 7, 1598, he founded a town at Chamita, opposite the pueblo of San Juan in Santa Fe county, known as San Gabriel de los Espanoles, which was abandoned in 1605 and the colony transferred to Santa Fe. The Pueblo Indians with the exception of the Acomans submitted peaceably. These latter made several attempts to entrap and kill Onate, but failed. After a struggle in which the Spaniards displayed all the romantic bravery of the conquistadores, entrance was gained to the city over a terrible chasm by means of a beam thrown across it. After the Spanish victory, these Indians became very peaceable. From this period until 1680, Santa Fe was the only European settlement of note in New Mexico, but the Spaniards had spread out and established towns for miners and settlements of families in every direction."

How long Santa Fe had existed as an Indian pueblo (village) will perhaps never be known, until the contents of the records which the angels are making will be revealed to mankind. It may have been founded by the Neophytes for aught we know.

In 1680 the Pueblo Indians rebelled

against the Spaniards, who had oppressed them in various ways. One, Otermin, was Spanish governor at the time. When the outbreak occurred the outlying ranches were ravaged with fire and violence. Governor Otermin, with his soldiers and one thousand women and children, were besieged in the old "Palace," a building still standing on the north side of the plaza or public square, in Santa Fe. On August 21, 1680, the garrison found the place cut off from food and water. A vigorous sortie was made, the natives routed, and glad of the opportunity, the beleaguered Spaniards took up their sorrowful retreat. In October of the same year they entered El Paso, on the Rio Grande, now in Texas, a sorry-looking crowd numbering 1,946 souls including 300 friendly Pueblo Indians—all that were left of the Spanish colonies. In the rebellion 401 persons, including 78 soldiers and 21 Catholic priests were killed.

The Pueblo Indians retained control of New Mexico from 1683 to 1692, during which time many valuable records were ruthlessly destroyed; the Spanish language and the planting of such grains and seeds as the Spaniards had introduced were prohibited. In the spring of 1692 Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan was appointed governor of the low province. Quickly assembling an army of 300 Spaniards and 100 Indians, he invaded, overran and conquered the territory during that year (1692), and returned to El Paso to bring back the families who had been so summarily evicted by the Pueblos. He again entered the province in 1693, but the Indians now being aroused to offer all possible resistance it required all the bravery, talent and generalship on the part of the Spaniards to make the expedition successful. After a two day's battle, however, the new governor reduced the Pueblo that the Tanos Indians had established on the ruins of Santa Fe and by rapid, well-timed incursions into the surrounding country brought something like order out of the reigning chaos.

In 1804 and 1805 the first Americans, traders, entered Santa Fe. Soon afterwards Captain Zebulon M. Pike visited New Mexico. He accomplished nothing of great importance, but left an enduring monument of frontier pluck and courage on the lofty Colorado peak commemorative of his name.—Pike's Peak. Unwittingly he erected a fort in the San Luis valley and raised the American flag on Mexican soil. For this he was placed under arrest, brought to Santa Fe in 1806, and forwarded to the City of Mexico.

In 1812 a party of St. Louis, Mo., merchants entered New Mexico from the Northwest. They were arrested as spies, their goods confiscated, sent to follow Pike, and were held as prisoners until Mexico was liberated from the Spanish crown. The next adventurous leader was a Mr. Glenn who brought a small caravan to Santa Fe. His cheap calicoes and plain cottons brought as high as \$2 and \$3 per yard. When these

prices were reported in Missouri, the "commerce of the prairies" was opened. From then on commenced an era of romance and adventure. Westport, in Jackson county, Mo., was the outpost of American and Santa Fe of Spanish civilization, and between these points the celebrated Santa Fe trail, which was permanently opened in 1822, became the great connecting link. From that date until 1843, the trade increased until 350 men and 230 wagons, loaded with \$450,000 worth of goods at first cost, were transported to this El Dorado of western trade in one caravan.

In 1846, after the war between the United States and Mexico had been declared, General S. W. Kearney, with a small army came down from the north, quietly captured Las Vegas and then pushed on to Santa Fe. Considerable force was sent out to intercept his march, but he eluded it and appeared on a hill overlooking Santa Fe and within 200 yards of the palace of the Spanish governor—the same hill on which he soon afterwards built Fort Marcy. The town surrendered at discretion, and General Kearney, on August 22, 1846, raised the "stars and stripes" on the plaza (or public square of Santa Fe) and declared New Mexico to be part of the United States. All this was done without a shot being fired or a drop of blood being spilled.

On the 9th of October following the first detachment of the Mormon Battalion, consisting of the strongest and most able-bodied men belonging to that organization marched into Santa Fe, followed on the 12th by the sick and those of the women who had not already started for Pueblo. The following day (Oct. 13th) Capt. P. St. George Cook assumed command of the Mormon Battalion at Santa Fe, agreeable to orders left by Gen. Kearney, who before the arrival of the Mormon boys had left the New Mexican capital and continued his march toward California. On the 18th of October the sick detachment of the Mormon Battalion, consisting of about ninety men, left Santa Fe for Pueblo, under command of Capt. James Brown, and the next day (19th) the main body of the battalion resumed the journey from Santa Fe to California.

Since that time the name of Santa Fe has been familiar to the Saints in the Rocky mountains. Most of these 500 men besides the woman who passed through Santa Fe in 1846, soon afterwards became some of the first settlers of Salt Lake City, Ogden and many other flourishing settlements in the valleys of Utah, and it is likely that what they saw in New Mexico in the shape of primitive irrigation had something to do with the imminent success which followed the pioneers of Utah in raising grain by watering their fields. And it is no wonder, after members of the Battalion had seen in Santa Fe such adobe buildings as the "Palace," then already nearly 250 years old, that they used their influence with their co-religionists in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, to imitate the Spaniards in building adobe houses; even to this day they rank among the most healthy and comfortable dwellings in Utah. In the construction of roofs, however, our pioneers seem to have been less successful than