FROM NEW MEXICO.

Early and Interesting History of That Territory.

INDIAN AND SPANISH WARFARE.

The Stars and Stripes Raised in the Name of the United States.—Arrival of the Mormon Battalion.

Correspondence of the DESERET NEWS.

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 Niza and Francisco Vaquez 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, 1539, the latter, guided by Friar Marcos and followed by 250 men at arms, came in 1540 and occupied several Indian pueblos, going as far north as the present site of Albuquerque on the Grande. A permanent settlement was made by the Spaniards late in the sixteenth century; and the exact year in which Santa Fe was first occupied by the Spaniards is one which is not known. 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 Unitedstates. Think certainly correct, if we be permitted to assume the time it was occupied by the Canonchet before the Spaniards came. Mark Twain, Esq., secretary of the bureau of immigration of the territory of New Mexico, has just published a book of 244 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 11, 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 claim with the exception of the Acomans submitted peacefully. Taos alone made several attempts to subdue and kill Onate, but failed. After a struggle in which the Spaniards displayed all the remarkable bravery of the conquistadores, entrance was gained to the city over a bridge chasm by means of a tree thrown across it. After the Spanish victory, these Indians become 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 Nefiites for aught we know.

In 1680 the Pueblo Indians rebelled against the Spaniards, who had oppressed them in various ways. Don Otermin, was Spanish governor at the time. When the outbreak occurred the outlying ranches were ravaged with fire and massacre. Governor Otermin, with his soldiers and some 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 and 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 retreat. In October of the same year they reached El Paso, on the Rio Grande, now in Texas, a sorry-looking crowd numbering 1,040 souls including 300 friendly Pueblo Indians—all that were left of the Spanish colonies. In the rebellion 401 persons, including 21 soldiers and 5 Catholic priests were killed.

The Pueblo Indians retained control of New Mexico from 1680 to 1692, during which time many valuable records were ruthlessly destroyed; the Spanish language and the planting of orange groves 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 new province. Quickly assuming an army of 300 Spaniards and 70 Indians, he invaded, conquered and occupied the territory during that year (1692), and returned to El Paso to bring back the families who had been so summarily ejected by the Indians. He again entered the province in 1693, but the Indians now being strong enough 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 few days battle, however, the new governor reduced the Pueblo and the Taos Indians had capitulated to the value of Santa Fe and by 1696, established incursions into the surrounding country brought something like order out of the reigning chaos.

In 1704 and 1705 the Red Americans, under the leadership of Picuris, who was called Captain Estevan, of Taos attacked New Mexico. He accomplished nothing of great importance, but left an enduring monument of frontier pluck and courage in the lofty Chicomo peak, conspicuous at his home—Picuris Peak. Unwittingly he assisted a party in the San Luis valley and raised the American flag on Mount Blanca. For this he was taken under arrest, brought to Santa Fe in 1706, and forwarded to the City of Mexico.

In 1817 a party of St. Louis, Mo., merchants entered New Mexico from the Northwest. They were arrested as spies, taken under escort to Santa Fe, and were here as prisoners until Mexico was liberated from the Spanish yoke. The Texan adventurers under Mr. Ulibarri had brought a small contingent to Santa Fe. His company lose and plain colonist treated as high as $5 and $6 per yard. When these cloth were injected in Missouri, the "remnants of the pieces" were sold.

From this to a somewhat an eventful administration. Without to Jackson County, Mo., was the port of Arkansas and Santa Fe Spanish authorities, and consequently Santa Fe established Santa Fe 1846, which was permanently opened in 1822, because the great commercial line. From that time on 1846 the trade increased 300 per cent and 250 wagons loaded with merchandise each of trade at Fort and were conveyed to the El Dorado of western trade in the caravan.

In 1846 after the war between the United States and Mexico had been declared, Stephen W. Kearney, with a small army came down from the north, quietly captured Las Vegas and then proceeded to Santa Fe, planted cannon and established a fort on the plaza. Santa Fe was the first place of the province of the United States government on the north to which he was attached. Fort Marcy. The fort was subsequently abandoned and the old Kearney, on Aug. 18, 1851, ceded the ruins of a square on the plaza for public square of Santa Fe and included New Mexico to be part of the Union. At the time the fort was built without a shot being fired or a drop of blood being spilled.

On the 5th of October followed the first measurement of the Mormon battalion, consisting of 500 enlisted men and officers and 300 baggage and teamsters, marched into Santa Fe, followed on the 12th by the sick and those of the women who had not already passed to Pueblo. The following year (Feb. 13th, 1847) Capt. J. Brooke, with a detachment of the Mormon battalion arrived in Santa Fe, spending the time in the New Mexican capital and established the Mormon trail from Santa Fe to California. On the 19th of October the first detachment of the Mormon Battalion, consisting of one hundred men, left Santa Fe for Pueblo, under command of Capt. James Brown, and the next day (26th) the main body of the battalion commenced the journey from Santa Fe to California.

Since that time the name of Santa Fe has been familiar to the people in the Rocky mountains. Most of those who were besides the women who passed through Santa Fe in 1846, were afterwards counted among the first settlers of Salt Lake City, Ogden and many other flourishing settlements in the valleys of Utah, and it is likely that when they saw in New Mexico in the stage of primitive civilization and something to do with the immense success which followed the pioneers of Utah in raising grain by watering their fields. And it is to women, other members of the Battalion has seen in Santa Fe such substantial buildings as the "Palace," they already nearly 200 years old, that they used their influence with their husbands to induce the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, to imitate the Spaniards in building adobe houses; even to this day they may know the most healthy and comfortable dwelling in Utah. In the continued line of the Mormons, the Spaniards seem to have been more successful than the Mormons. The flat roofs which are still in vogue here and which are used almost exclusively by Mexicans, did not prove adequate to keep out the rain and snow water in the primitive houses erected in the Salt Lake Valley. In Great Salt Lake valley—something the Pioneers soon learned from bitter experience. Perhaps some of old Pioneers can explain why this is so. The Mormons here seldom complain of leaky roofs—though it is said by some that they really do leak sometimes.

I left Santa Fe this evening and am now waiting for a train on the Atlantic and Pacific railway to take me to Holbrook, in Apache county, Arizona, where I expect to commence my historical issues in the Seventy-five Stakes of Zion.

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