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"Not only unequalled, but unapproached. A literary enterprise more deserving of a generous sympathy and support has never been undertaken on this side of the Atlantic."—*North American Review*

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# THE NATIVE RACES OF THE PACIFIC STATES

Complete in 5 vols., 8vo., 4,088 pages, with Maps and Illustrations.

By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

**The territory covered by this work** embraces the western half of North America, from Panamá to Alaska, and including all of Mexico and Central America. All that is known of the **aboriginal peoples** inhabiting this vast area at the time of the coming of the first Europeans is here given. **All that can ever be known of them** is here delineated, for there is no evidence in existence which has not been examined, no sources of information which have not been found and applied; and as the native nations are rapidly **passing away**, and, indeed, for the most part have already disappeared, there are no other means on earth, and so far as human judgment can go, there will never be any other means by which we can learn further regarding them.

Nor can **their origin**, even, be ever definitely determined until the mighty problems are solved which seem among those destined for man not yet to know—the origin of species, whether mankind on this planet descend from a single pair, originally and perfectly created by an omnipotent deity, or are the result of evolution from lower organisms indigenous to the soil and resulting in many primitive pairs. Then, too, if the first hypothesis is sustained, there must be found, before the question of origin can be settled, **a record of the world's migrations**; of the flow of human streams throughout countless ages, not to mention the innumerable physical changes in the earth's geologic history, which left it possible for peoples to march hither and thither over the face of the globe, over lands which are now seas and seas which are now lands, midst the tremendous convulsions of nature which at epochs have entirely changed the face of things, with mountain tops under oceans, and icebergs in the tropics. Hence, as to the sixty and more existing theories as to the origin of the Americans, the author, after fairly presenting them all, says that one is about as valuable as another, all being worthless.

**The division of such a great subject** as that presented in these volumes into such natural parts as to enable the reader to grasp it, as a whole or in detail, required no small consideration on the part of the author. Besides the **innumerable tribes and languages**, there were endless dialects and subdivisions which it became necessary to follow back into the mists of the ages. It is safe to say that **never was such a work before performed** for any primitive people which ever occupied the face of the earth, and never can it be done again, for the simple reason that similar conditions are nowhere else existing.



The main divisions of the subject naturally arranged themselves for treatment and elucidation as follows:

- I. WILD TRIBES
- II. CIVILIZED NATIONS
- III. MYTHS AND LANGUAGES
- IV. ANTIQUITIES
- V. PRIMITIVE HISTORY OF BOTH SAVAGE AND CIVILIZED PEOPLES

**A portion only of the many subdivisions can be here given, such as, first the peoples:**

Eskimos	Apaches	Hoopas	Zapotecs
Koniagas	Navajos	Shastas	Chichimecs
Aleuts	Pueblos	Napas	Otimís
Thlinkets	Moquis	Petalumas	Chontales
Haidas	Sinaloas	Mayas	Popolucas
Chinooks	Pimas	Quichés	Guatusos
Shuswaps	Maricopas	Aztecs	Caimanes
Shoshones	Klamaths	Toltecs	and hundreds of others.
Mojaves	Modocs	Miztecs	

**Among the subjects treated are:**

Aspects of Nature	Physical Characteristics	Food
Speculations on Origin	Government	Dwellings
Adaptability to Locality	Religion	Navigation
Classification of Species	Mythology	Boats
Effect of Climate	Literature	Sledges
Ethnological Tests	Languages	Snow-shoes
First Europeans	Dialects	Feasts
Aboriginal Civilization	Social Condition	Amusements
Laws of Succession	Women	Diseases
Ceremony of Anointment	Antiquities	Remedies
Ceremony of Coronation	Calendar	Burials
Picture Writing	Judiciary	Arts
Medicine Men	Pottery	Commerce
Priesthood	Palaces	Manufactures
Order of Knighthood	Temples	Property
Laws and Law Courts	Terra-Cotta	Weapons
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Military Profession	Pyramids	Fortifications
Crimes and Punishments	Idols	Slavery
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Concubinage	Towers	Games
Tobacco Smoking	Sculpture	Sacrifices
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Monuments	History	Traditions
Casas Grandes	Bibliography	Migrations
Manners and Customs	Ornament	and a thousand others
	Dress	





The **preparation** for writing this work on the part of Mr. Bancroft was simply **immense**. Besides collecting a large library, all that was in existence on the subject in America and Europe, and which constituted the bulk of the material for this as well as for his subsequent works, Mr. Bancroft sent men into the field, specialists, ethnologists, linguists, to view **the wild man in his home**, and study the subject from nature. Two persons were thus sent to the north, one of whom made investigations in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and the region to the eastward, while the other, after making vocabularies and examining the customs of the various tribes of Alaska, **lived one winter with the Aleuts** in their subterranean abode. Several years were spent by other of his experts studying the tribes of California, and the countries to the south and east, little of which work could have been done at a later period. The results of their labors when written out were added to Mr. Bancroft's other material. In central and southern Mexico and Central America similar investigations had been earlier made by Spanish and German ethnologists, whose writings Mr. Bancroft utilized in his studies. Very few books have been made in this manner—going out into the field and gathering up thousands of new, fresh, and interesting facts, then working over this raw material, and embodying with it the results of what all others have done, until the finished work appears in all its attractive forms and comeliness.

When we consider the **immense expense and labor** which have been incurred in producing this work, and the fact that it was written from **original material**, and that a large portion of the vast fund of information to be found in it does not exist elsewhere; we begin to realize the value of what Mr. Bancroft has done in thus saving to the world so much valuable knowledge which otherwise would have been lost.

Nor is it much to say that no library is complete without it. **A copy of the book should be in every household**, where it can be constantly read and referred to by every member of the family, and for the following reasons :

The work is **overflowing with interest**, instruction, and entertainment.

It will forever be the **original** and standard **authority**.

The last volume contains a **full index**, so that any subject may be instantly and easily found.

It is only by knowing what man **has been** that we are able to conceive of what he **may be**.

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"As author of *The Native Races of the Pacific States*, Mr Bancroft has already established his reputation as one of the most learned and industrious historians of the present day. But comprehensive in scope and exhaustive in treatment as that work certainly was, it formed, after all, little more than a general introduction to the magnificent scheme of what we have here a first instalment. Should the writer be spared to complete this stupendous undertaking, as briefly set forth in the preface, he will have accomplished probably the most colossal literary achievement of the nineteenth century."—*London Academy*.

"Mr Bancroft has surprised the reading world with his *Native Races of the Pacific States*, wherein he gives astonishing glimpses into an antiquity rivalling that of Egypt and discloses the little-thought-of fact, that which is called the New World is, quite as likely as not, the old one, ethnologically as well as geologically. This work is regarded as a marvel of research, and justly so, in comparison with most works in the historic field, and has the further credit of investing a naturally dry theme with a singularly living interest. It has been at once accepted as a standard work, and its author thought to have fixed himself among the first historic writers of the day."—*Chicago Times*.

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"The wonder and admiration of all literary men; and will be a lasting monument of the indomitable energy and perseverance of a man who is devoting the best part of his life to enrich the literature of the world by giving to it a correct history of this hitherto almost unknown and incomprehensible part of the globe."—*J. M. Hamilton*.



"Not only unequalled, but unapproached. A literary enterprise more deserving of a generous sympathy and support has never been undertaken on this side of the Atlantic."—*North American Review*.

# HISTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Complete in 3 volumes, 8vo., 2,449 pages, with Maps and Plans

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

This was the **first part** of the North American continent to be settled by Europeans, and the historical field is new. Except this work, there is nothing extant in any language which might properly be called a history of Central America; and being the first to have worked the field over from original material gathered from Mexico, Central America, England, France, and Spain—material of which there is **no other such collection** in existence—Mr Bancroft's work can justly claim for itself exceptional value. A glance at Europe, the state of society there, is given in the introductory chapter, particularly **Spanish** civilization at the opening of the sixteenth century. It was from Spain that the first expeditions of discovery, conquest, and colonization set forth for the New World; it was the Spanish monarchs who first undertook the **pacification of the Indians**—that is, their subjugation and conversion to christianity. It is now nearly 400 years since Columbus turned his face westward, to penetrate the **Sea of Darkness**, and find a short route to the other side of India; and for a century or so Spain had it very much her own way. True, Portugal claimed half of the heathen world, and France and England later on got footholds in America; but Spain distanced them all. Even before Columbus had examined the coast of Central America, Rodrigo de Bastidas had been there, exchanging with the natives **worthless trinkets for solid gold**. Trading-vessels in those days were very small, usually from 60 to 80 tons burden, and navigators suffered **incredible hardships**, not alone on sea but on land, from malaria, exposure, and lack of food, and often from the savages. The adventures of these Spaniards, who were much more bold and chivalrous than any of their race have ever been since, are full of **thrilling interest**. It was truly wonderful, to the half-awake inhabitants of Europe, the discovery and examination of these new lands and seas to the westward, and all around the world. The **strange people** they found puzzled them greatly. Where had they come from, how did they get there, and had they souls? These and other like questions they sought to solve by referring to the sacred scriptures and the writings of the ancients. They did not pause to enquire how the Hebrews and Greeks of 3,000 years ago could know more of the matter than they. A very scholarly summary of **early voyages** down to 1540 is given in vol. I, with copies of the **first maps** attempted to be drawn.

The New World must have **laws and government**, hence proper space is devoted to the administration of the Indies. Graphic accounts of the **settlements** at Darien and elsewhere, with the factions and foragings attending the same, are presented; also the impositions, treacheries, and butcheries attending conversion and gold-gathering. The discovery of the Pacific Ocean by Vasco Nuñez de Balboa forms a **brilliant episode**. After crossing the Isthmus with a handful of men, hostile savages everywhere opposing their progress, from the top of a hill the broad bright water is finally



seen; thereupon they go down to it, and the chief, drawing his sword, wades pompously out into it, calling on all to witness his **taking possession** for the King of Spain of all that ocean, and all the land it washes, to the uttermost ends of it. The second volume opens with the **dramatic story** of Pizarro and Peru; after which details of the conquest and settlement of the several sections of Panamá, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador are given.

Here come the **adventures of the Buccaneers**, with their piratical raids along the coast and on the islands. Nearly a century of the history of the **five Republics** is given in the third and last volume. There are the closing scenes of **Spanish rule**, the achieving of **independence**, with some talk of union with Mexico. Confederation is attempted, but fails. All along the decades is an incessant din of **civil war** and revolutions. The filibuster Walker puts his finger in the pie and loses his head. **Interoceanic communication** is much talked of and attempted. Finally, after the progressive autocrat of Guatemala, Barrios, is killed while attempting once more to join the several Republics of Central America under **one government**, peace and prosperity reign. It is a **rich and romantic** country, and well repays the reader desiring further knowledge of it. There is no spot of earth which offers more **attractions for emigrants** and colonizers than this. In the interior the soil is good, the climate temperate and pleasant, and the air healthy.

The **state of society**, of government, of religion, of commerce and industry, are all fully set forth; also judicial and military matters, and the resources and commerce of the country.

In these three volumes are the histories of five republics for a period of nearly four centuries. It is a part of the history of the world nowhere else given. It is full, intensely interesting, and complete.

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## SPECIMEN OPINIONS

"The *Native Races* gave Mr Bancroft at once a distinguished position as an investigator, and it is not too much to say that his additions to our previous knowledge of the civilization which the Spaniards found on the Pacific Coast were so important and so interesting that they seemed like disclosures. He is now recognized as an authority of the first rank. Mr Bancroft has had access to a multitude of documents which were unknown to the earlier historian, and has followed a method much more searching and precise than suited Irving's temperament. As a consequence, we have a narrative which is practically new, abounding in picturesque detail, and presenting the tragical romance of discovery and conquest with a particularity and vividness it has never possessed in any previous record. The story is well constructed, and in spite of the profusion of incidents, it is clear, it is interesting, and it is animated. Of the writer's sincere regard for the truth there cannot be a doubt. To the history proper he prefixes a brilliant introductory chapter upon Spanish character and civilization at the period of the conquest; and this is followed by the story of Columbus, and an exhaustive and admirable summary of geographical knowledge and discovery from the earliest record to the year 1540. We might copy specimen pages almost at random without danger of doing Mr Bancroft injustice, for he is never dull."—*New York Tribune*.

"His methods of writing history are nothing less than royal. Judged purely and simply as a literary performance, there is the highest praise to be awarded to this history of Central America. Too much praise can not be given for his candor, his spirit of equity, and love of truth. The book grows more and more interesting until the final page. The work, as a whole, is superb, and calls for genuine enthusiasm. We are proud that such an undertaking has arisen in this land—an undertaking which will surely add no less glory to our literary history than Prescott's or Irving's immortal work."—*Philadelphia Press*.

"So far as is known, business methods, as they may be called, have never been applied on so complete a scale, to the preparation of such a work. The result is marvellous—marvellous in respect to the amount of labor which one man is thus enabled to accomplish within a given time. The value of the history, considered as a whole, depends upon the master-mind which directs the whole—upon its capacity to group facts and generalize from them. This breadth, vigor, and clearness of mental grasp Mr Bancroft has in an eminent degree. For the first time, the story of the beginnings of Spanish occupation of America is put into a connected and lucidly arranged form in the English tongue. A large portion of the cited authorities have never hitherto been known to the world. Mr Bancroft has unearthed old state and ecclesiastical manuscripts of whose existence all traces had been lost, and has thrown a flood of light upon subjects which have seemed forever obscured. This is notably so in two or three points. For example, it has always seemed a most extraordinary thing that Columbus should meet with the failures which attended his colonization enterprises, and the repeated neglects and abuses of those in power, if he was indeed the ready-to-be-canonized saint that Irving, for instance, paints him. Mr. Bancroft makes the matter clear. With judicial fairness he shows the weak as well as the strong points of the man's character, and one sees clearly how the very characteristics that led to his success as a navigator and discoverer totally unfitted him to be either soldier or politician; and, combined with unquestionably unjust treatment, made the latter part of his life full of almost, or quite, insane delusions. The day will come when the beginnings of the history of the vast empire, yet in its babyhood, on our Pacific slope, will be studied more curiously than that of any other part of the world, and no other work can ever hope to rival that of Mr Bancroft as the standard authority."—*Chicago Times*.

"Mr Bancroft is a remarkable man. His volumes are rich and attractive, and crammed full of good learning. The Columbus portion I have enjoyed thoroughly. It seems to me the author's aim is truth, and not eulogy. Having previously studied somewhat the subject of the early maps, I was particularly interested in his long note on that important theme. His criticisms on those writers who had previously gone over his ground, or a portion of it, are fair and generous. The introduction to this book is a marvellous piece of generalization."—*Charles Dean*.

"Unequaled by any ancient or modern work of history. For hundreds of pages this book burns with the infernal record of religious crime. The historian writes through it with his pen afire; the reader shudders through it, his heart sick, and his eyes ablaze. The style is, upon the whole, admirable. It is vivid and truthful as expressive of the idea. Much of it touches a high eloquence. Pictures stand out sometimes, each from a single felicitous word. The historian frequently suggests the picturesque groupings of Carlyle without any of his outlandish dressing of words. You see the thing which is sought to be presented, and the eye is not too much caught by the pigments. It is throughout as cool and clear a chapter of scholarly exposition as it has been our good fortune to see for many a day."—*S. F. Bulletin*.



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# HISTORY OF MEXICO

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The importance of Mexico's history, as compared with that of other nations, is second to none. In regard to time, it is a century older than the United States; it has passed through more crucial tests in the progress of its development, and solved more of the problems of civilization than any other nation in America.

Coming into the field fresh from their wars with the Moors, fired with fanaticism, and full of the love of gold and glory, the Spaniards quickly evolved a new phase of society. Being out of reach of their King, and away from the restraining influence of home rule, they unbridled their lusts, and gave themselves over to a reign of passion. With singular indifference to physical comforts, or even to life, were mingled avarice and religion in such parts as to produce the most diabolical effects. The immorality, treachery, deceit, and hypocrisy then engendered the blood of a hundred revolutions has not been able wholly to wash from the soil of Mexico. Nevertheless, **the history of this country is a narrative of emergencies** from the black caldrons of tyranny and superstition. It is **intensely interesting** to follow them in their **thrilling adventures**, and a most profitable study to watch them in their struggles for the emancipation of intellect. The subject naturally divides itself into three parts: **The Conquest, Mexico under the Viceroy, and The Republic.**

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by Grijalva and Cordoba; the Conquest by Cortés and his brave companions; the attempts of the King and Pope to organize government, regulate affairs, gather gold and convert the natives. There was **Iturbide's efforts to establish an empire**, followed by independence and scores of brutal civil wars; then another effort at imperialism in the person of Maximilian of Austria, the French Emperor's tool; and finally the present era of material prosperity and mental culture.

There is yet much work for Mexicans to do before they become altogether admirable, many problems yet to be worked out. There must be an honest, industrious, truthful, and thrifty middle class, which does not now exist, and what is now called the upper class must show themselves in earnest for the improvement of the people, and set a proper example in all things. But no one can follow them in their future work of self-regeneration, which is sure to go on, without an intelligent knowledge of their past, and as Mexico is more and more thrown open to the world, and her almost limitless resources are more and more developed, it becomes a matter of the first necessity for every intelligent, progressive mind to thoroughly understand what is so fully and vividly explained in these volumes.

This work **should be placed on the shelves of every library** beside the great histories of other nations. It is the only work extant which can properly be called **a history of Mexico**, and as such, the history of the world is incomplete with out it. All authorities, both printed and in manuscript, have been consulted, the archives of Spain and Mexico have been ransacked, and all existing material utilized. **To all citizens of the United States Republic** a complete and reliable account of the mineral and agricultural resources, the manufactures, commerce, and social condition of a neighboring nation must be of vital interest and importance.

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"It would not be possible to write a clearer account than this of so confused and anarchic a subject as the evolution of the Mexican people. In his description of the campaigns of Taylor and Scott in Mexico, Mr. Bancroft gives such vivid and brilliant pictures of the engagements, that shame at the perfidy of the government is forgotten in admiration of the gallantry of its agents."—*N. Y. Tribune*.

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AND THE

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By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT.

The dream of many Americans is the acquisition of more soil from Mexico. They cannot but compare the good use to which Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and California have been put, with the condition in which Mexico leaves Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Lower California. But whether or not this belt of North Mexican states ever falls into the hands of the United States, a knowledge of their **history**, **resources**, and **condition** cannot fail to be of **vital importance** to their neighbors over the line.

In the northern border states of Mexico the natives have not been exterminated; many of them have been taught to work, while some are yet wild. As most of the early expeditions through this section extended to **New Mexico, Texas, or Colorado**, they are all of interest, and belong as well to the history of these southern United States, as to that of the northern Mexican states. Cortés in the gulf of California, Guzman in Sinaloa, Cabeza de Vaca crossing the continent, Niza and Coronado marching toward Cibola, as well as the annals of the several states, all have their significance in the history of Texas and other contiguous states.

**The history of Texas** has not its parallel in any of the other states of the union. First a wilderness; then a province of New Spain, while yet a wilderness; then an independent republic; and finally a **member of the great American confederation of states**.

Coahuila and Texas the country was called when it began to have a political name, the two states being then one province. Here as elsewhere the Franciscans were early in the field, planting their missions. There was rare wisdom in this, the missionaries converting the Indians before the soldiers should come in and kill them. To follow these zealous men into the strange and savage wilderness, and witness their devotion to their cause, their patience under hardships and sufferings, and their indifference to death is fraught with the liveliest interest. **The French and Spanish expeditions**, the sorrowful adventures of La Salle and the wanderings of his companions are also given here. All this was during the seventeenth century.

The eighteenth century annals of Texas, or Nuevas Filipinas as it was once called, tell what the Mexicans did with regard to their presidios and missions, how the Indians behaved, how the Spaniards were frightened by



Frenchmen, how the missionaries and military were always quarrelling, and how his majesty the king of Spain sent commissioners into the country, and what they saw there.

**Vol. II** opens with the coming of the Americans and their settlement in Texas. This, Spain did not like, and hostilities followed. **On the high seas were privateering and piracy.** The story of Jean Lafitte, the pirate of the gulf, is told. The empresario system and the method of making land grants are described. Mexican oppression continues, and the idea of separation is discussed. Texas did not achieve her independence without a terrible struggle, as the siege of San Antonio de Béjar and the Álamo and Goliad massacres amply testify. **Every true Texan** should be familiar with the best accounts of these scenes, sacred to his inherent rights and his liberties.

Victory at last crowns the efforts of the Texans. Santa Anna is humiliated, the Mexicans are defeated, and Texas rises into a republic, though quickly to become a member of the American union. But this promising position she does not long enjoy before civil war is thrust upon her, to be followed by a reign of peace and prosperity—let us hope that it may last forever.

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# HISTORY OF ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO

Complete in one volume 8vo, 829 pages, with Maps and Plans

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

**The Charm of Mystery** has ever hung over the affairs of this region, as being one of the first traversed by Europeans northward from Mexico, and the various reports concerning which were wonderful, contradictory, and many of them, as was later learned, being exceedingly mendacious. It is **the land of Mines and Mirage**, reported first of fabulous wealth, then under-rated, finally to become esteemed at its true value. It is a fascinating story, the conquest, occupation, settlement, and development of the country, and well worth the perusal of anyone. The historian's work of gathering, investigating, arranging, and writing has been exceedingly well done; like all of Mr Bancroft's efforts in this direction, it is **a model of history-writing**. A glance at the authorities will show how largely they run to original manuscripts, which is proof that the work is based on material largely fresh and nowhere else existing.

The book opens with a **masterly dissertation** on the country as it was before the Spaniards molested it. The aborigines were a most remarkable people, living in community pueblos or towns, and doing something in the way of agriculture and manufactures. Many have held ideas and theories that the Aztecs were once here, but there is no evidence of the kind. A negro and a priest, African and European, were the first foreigners to enter this region of whom we have any record. Their tale of the Seven Cities, and other wonderful reports of things which they saw and did, caused great excitement in the City of Mexico, and thereupon Coronado's Grand Expedition was fitted out. This of itself constitutes a **brilliant romance**. Then accounts of other expeditions are given with Oniate's conquest, and the annals of eighty years' rule of the country. In due time Santa Fé was founded, the natives converted, or to some extent considered so, though not unattended by revolts and massacres, with breathing spells of peace. Altogether the Mexicans had a hard time of it for the first century, and even after a century and a half they had to conquer the country anew. The pueblo-dwellers were hard to kill off, and they abandoned their ancient rites with reluctance. Indeed, many of them hold to their aboriginal customs to this day. There was a great difference in the several Mexican governors, in their ability, morality and policy, and it is an **interesting study** to follow them in their careers, and compare one with another. So with regard to the friars; they were many of them pronounced characters, and took good care that the ecclesiastical arm should be as palpably felt as the secular arm. Indeed, the friars, as explorers and missionaries, were very prominent in early Arizonan and New Mexican affairs.

The last half of the eighteenth century is presented in Chapter XII, and the first quarter of the present century in the following chapter. As the natives were so well advanced in a state of semi-civilization, they took more kindly to industrial pursuits than the wild savages. Some of their work before they were taught at all by foreigners was admirable.





Next we come to the inroads from the United States, which were regarded with a very jealous eye by Mexico. Lieut. Pike, with a small body of United States infantry, wandering about this region, and, overstepping the line into Mexican territory, hardly knowing where he was, soon found himself a **prisoner at Chihuahua**, and from which unpleasant position he was not extricated without some difficulty.

In the next chapter is given an account of the rulers for the following period, and also the revolution of 1837-8. It was a highly romantic traffic, the commerce of the prairies along the old Santa Fé trail, and elsewhere in those days—shopkeeping in the wilderness, the exchange of the benefits and curses of civilization for the skins of wild beasts, or whatever else there was which could be picked up from the spontaneous products of nature. But in due time mines were discovered, which introduced new features into the traffic of the times. No doubt there are many rich mines yet to be discovered. The country in some places has hardly been prospected yet. A careful perusal of these pages, which give the configuration of the country, as well as accounts of such discoveries and developments as have hitherto been made, **might lead on further examination of the mining districts to the most startling disclosures.** So with agricultural and other developments. **Information regarding stock-raising, railroads,** the distribution of mines, the products of gold and silver is most important to every business man, while he who pretends to ordinary intelligence must possess and read the history of the country in which he makes his home. There are a thousand **features of interest** and **sterling value** about this book which we cannot enumerate. Every page is full of **interesting information** which should be in the hands of every man, woman, and child in the country.

Arizona and New Mexico are but just in their infancy. Starting afresh in a career of unexampled prosperity and progress, with such a **magnificent volume** as this for the beginning and foundation of their history, what may not be accomplished in this direction in future ages! Historical societies should be formed at every important point, and the history of our own state or territory made a study in the schools. At the very least every school library, every family, every business man—all who have any stake in the country or are interested in its advancement should patronize and possess this work.

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# HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA

In 7 Vols., 8vo., 5,665 pages, with Maps and Plans

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

It was the custom of Spanish navigators to cloud their discoveries in **romantic mysteries**, in other words to tell the most egregious falsehoods. The author first of all clears away the fog enveloping his subject, still romantic enough in the all its naked charms.

One of the **Northern Mysteries** was an imaginary strait, called Anian, passing through the continent from ocean to ocean somewhere in the latitude of Oregon or British Columbia. Several testified that they had seen this strait, and one man, not to be behind his fellow-navigators, swore he had sailed through it.

The planting of the line of **missions** from **San Diego** to **San Francisco bay** was one of the most remarkable achievements of proselytism. It is fully related here, and for the first time, how a few priests and soldiers so utilized the natives as to build these structures, plant fields, and cover the hills with flocks and herds.

All this time England and France cast glances hitherward, while Russia planted a hunting-post at Bodega bay. The coming and going of the Russians form **an interesting episode** of this period.

Vol. III opens with California as a territory of the Mexican republic, having been before this a province of Spain. Hence there is more politics, a constitution, and elections. For a brief period it was a kind of penal colony, but the people were so exasperated that Mexico had to cease sending her convicts.

**Besides mission annals, traffic, maritime affairs, vol. iv** tells of the establishment of **Sutter's Fort** and the settlement of the Sacramento valley. Many notable visitors were on the coast about this time, and what they reported as having seen lends a vivid charm to the narrative. More than one of the great powers of the world stood ready to pounce on California upon the slightest pretext, and the United States government was determined it should not be France or England. So zealous was Commodore Jones that he siezed Monterey prematurely, and was obliged to make restoration.

**Vol. v** comprises the period just prior to the **discovery of gold**, and is full of exciting scenes. Fremont marches into the field, and presently we have a settler's revolt and the Bear Flag war. A great commotion is raised, and after a brief struggle, and the usual bickerings of officers and officials, the **conquest of California is achieved**. We have also in this volume graphically presented accounts of Stockton's doings; the attitudes of Pico, Castro, Alvarado, Vallejo, and other prominent Californians; arrivals of the Mormon battalion and the New York volunteers; also, overland immigration, including the horrible sufferings of the **Donner party**.



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After presenting in the first chapter a picture of the valley of California just at the moment the **Sierra was whispering her secret**, the startling incidents attending Marshall's mill-buildidg are told; also the finding of the yellow metal, the futile attempt to keep the discovery a secret, the effect of the discovery, near and far, doings at the mines; the evolution of new phases of society, such as the world had never before seen. Then the journeys from various parts by sea and land in order to reach this favored spot are described; the **new society engendered by these strange conditions; the anatomy of the mines; mining methods;** birth of towns and building of cities; with the full political history, tales of the filibusters, and the arbitrary action of popular tribunals—all these are delineated with an accuracy and force not excelled by any of the world's writers of history.

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# History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming

Complete in 1 vol., 8vo., 825 pages, with Sectional Plans

By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

We have grouped here our **Silver States**, with the great ranges of Wyoming between, constituting a section of country of **remarkable interest**. The volume opens with a vivid description of the Great Basin, once regarded so worthless, but later, found to be full of natural wealth. The configuration and climate are both peculiar, and the whole region is **full of wonders**, which are here clearly and accurately described. The geology and mountain systems are likewise given, with the lake and river systems, springs and deserts, with plants, animals, and minerals.

The earliest expeditions were not made as to an objective point, but were a passing through of fur-hunters and emigrants. And what they saw and did there groping their way over sandy wastes and along winding streams, all as strange to them as if they were journeying about in the moon, is of **intense interest** to us who can traverse the whole country in luxurious railway coaches in a day. **Ogden**, and **Walker**, and **Carson** were among the early fur-hunters whose names have been rendered perpetual, while **Smith**, **Belden**, and **Bidwell** were more direct travellers.

The **first wagons** that passed down the Humboldt found a rough trail, and had to be abandoned. But before long various routes were found into both California and Oregon. Those were the days of privation and suffering for the incoming builders of empire, and here where water and food were often scarce, or impossible to obtain, many a tragedy has been performed.

The **Mormons** were among the first settlers in Nevada; but others soon came and, establishing themselves at the eastern base of the Sierra, opened a profitable traffic with California-bound emigrants. Mines were then discovered, the deposits increasing in size and richness until a mountain of metal was given to the world. The description of the **Comstock Lode** and the incidents attending its development are as **fascinating** as anything in the Arabian Nights.

Everything relating to the progress of the county is fully and faithfully given, political, industrial, and social. Then the State is taken up in counties, and described in yet minuter detail.

Then we come to the **magnificent State of Colorado**, whose rise and progress is ever a theme of pleasing interest. **What a marvel** was the building and peopling of Denver, Colorado Springs, Leadville, and the other towns and cities in which this State abounds. Mr. Bancroft was simply fascinated with the country and the people, as may be seen on every page of this matchless volume.

The mountain and park systems are graphically described; and indeed the physical features of Colorado are nowhere else so **correctly delineated**. And as to discovery and occupation, the most interesting stories and information about the first comers are here given, and many hitherto puzzling problems solved.



**Gold** is in due time **discovered**, when, under its impulse, affairs take a **leap forward**, though thousands were doomed to disappointment. There was no small strife regarding the location of towns, as the history of Denver shows, but the question of location once settled, and the people built royally.

Between the Indian and the civil wars there was some **hard fighting** done in Colorado, of which there is unquestionably in this volume the finest and most truthful description. Opinion is divided to this day regarding the Sand Creek affair. The description of that thrilling event given in this volume was written by Mr. Bancroft from statements made to him in person by those who had taken part in the action. In fact the **volume is crowded** with information of the most useful and valuable kind, the discovery and development of mines, mining processes, agriculture, stock-raising, government and society, and manufacturing. Colorado is destined to be a great manufacturing State.

Wyoming came blooming into civilization like a flower in the wilderness. Almost before the world was aware of it there was a full-fledged commonwealth, with all the adjuncts of good government and high culture. Beautiful homes with refined and intelligent occupants and embowered in gardens are seen on every side. Wyoming is truly a **wonder-land**, no less in regard to scenery than to the people and their wealth.

In the early history were many **interesting scenes**. Gold-hunting followed fur-hunting, and settlement followed gold-hunting. There is always something absorbing in following the prospectors and gold-diggers in their adventures, and seeing what they find.

The **wars with the natives** are described, and the progress of politics and society fully set forth. Of special interest is the **grazing and cattle industry**. The questions of land and water, which are of such vital interest to the great cattlemen, are presented fairly, and in all connected with the occupation and development of the country the utmost care and discrimination as to the elucidation of facts are apparent.

No intelligent person inhabiting this country, or living anywhere and wishing to know **all about it** will fail to purchase and study this book. Like all of Mr. Bancroft's volumes it is worth a hundred times its cost. The author examined in person many times this whole country, examining its features, and learning to know the **people** and the **probabilities**.

Situated in mid-continent, with abundance of metal and minerals, agricultural facilities sufficient to support a large population, having at hand the men and material for railroads and manufactories, a great future is in store for this section.

Read carefully this **most interesting book**; compare the resources and development of one section with another, and then translate the future by the light of the past.

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Then is told **the story of Mormonism**, how Joseph Smith arose, and strange beliefs were evolved; how the Book of Mormon appeared, and how the new sect was reviled and persecuted; how from this book and the Hebrew scriptures was created a new theocracy, with priests, elders, and apostles, and with faith in revelations, prophecy, and miracles; how the **saints were driven from New York to Ohio**, from Ohio to Missouri, and from Missouri to Illinois; how they built the city of Nauvoo with its temple and



university, established the Nauvoo **Neighbor**, and organized the Nauvoo legion ; how the **prophet was assassinated at Carthage**, and how arose and was settled the question of succession ; how Brigham Young came to the front and was made chief of the twelve apostles and president of the church ; how the expulsion from Nauvoo came about, and **Brother Sam Brannan's cool proposal** ; how they all finally got started on their long migration to Utah, and how they wintered on the Missouri ; how the march was made across the continent, and all about the entry into the valley of the Great Salt Lake, and what they did there.

Then come the occupation and settlement of the country; the establishing of boundaries, the creation of counties, and the building of towns and cities. Lands for agricultural purposes were partitioned, and town lots distributed. Society and government were already defined by ecclesiastical arrangement ; education had prompt attention, and manufactories were established.

It was a dry and desert country, for the most part, and the conditions of life and progress were not in every respect the most pleasing; but it was the best they could do; since the discovery of gold it would not be safe to live in California, while to direct their course to Mexico, as was once thought of, was impracticable.

So they all worked away with a will ; it was a poor place for a lazy person ; while religious brotherhood and business coöperation brought home to them the fullest returns, and amply compensated for the customary tithes to the church.

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# HISTORY OF THE NORTHWEST COAST

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**The term Northwest** was originally applied by the British colonist to the partially explored region in that direction, which region was ever receding as settlements extended, until the corner of the continent was reached. During the past century, what was understood by the Northwest Coast was the Pacific seaboard above California, and extending inland indefinitely, spreading over territory now covered by half a dozen states or more, to every one of which these volumes must forever constitute the early history. The time covered, from 1543 to 1846, was in **this far-away land**, one of **exploration** and **fur-hunting**, rather than of civilized occupation and settlement.

**The work opens** with an introduction to the seaboard explorations, and the fantastical doings of navigators, about which conjecture was so long rife. Here was the home of mystery, a mingling of the conjectural and real. A **masterly analysis** is made of the origin of the **Northern Mystery** and the **Strait Myth**, that is a hypothetical or imaginary sea-opening between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans anywhere above California. It required no surveying expedition in those days to enable the geographers to map any part of the world; for whenever facts failed them they had only to fill in **from the imagination**, and none might dispute them. In this way, map-makers used also to fill remote waters with imaginary islands, inhabited by strange peoples, and sea-monsters scattered about.

**After the apocryphal voyages** comes the real discovery of the country, Francis Drake among the first, though none could exceed the reverend chaplain of this piratical crew in lying. Then follow several Spanish expeditions, under Gali, Vizcaino, and others; and after them the English, Cook, Vancouver, etc., and then the Americans from Boston,





Kendrick and Gray; with now and then a Dutchman, Frenchman, or Russian. All the nations wanted a hand in the picking, and claimed a **slice of the world** in this region, under one pretext or another, some of them meeting at Nootka, on the west side of Vancouver Island, to quarrel about it. **A fascinating sketch** of the fur-trade between this coast and China is next given. Vessels would come out from England or the United States with trinkets, rum, and blankets, and after spending months or years trafficking with the natives, and gathering peltries, sail away for China, there exchanging their cargoes for teas and silks, and returning home, sometimes enormously enriched. **After the maritime fur-trade** we have a complete delineation of the traffic on land: how the **Frenchmen first came to Canada** and won the hearts of the natives, lapsing into half savagism themselves; how the English came and took the country from them, Prince Rupert and his associates getting control of the immense region round Hudson bay; how hunters and traders live and conduct their business in the forest; how forts are built and managed; how the **fur-trade** in the **United States began**, and gradually made its way from the Atlantic to the Pacific; how the white men and savages usually got along together; how all the great fur-trading companies were formed, and how they fought one another; and finally the beginning of through overland expeditions, and a description of the natural passes and routes through the mountains, from Alaska to Panamá.

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Complete in 2 vols., 8vo, 1651 pages, with maps and plans

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some, then the presbyterians, and also the catholics; how traders interspersed themselves among the missionaries in this work; how lacking cattle to stock their limitless and fertile pastures, they organized a company and sent to California for them; how they entered upon the work of colonization as well as conversion, and established forms of government. The Indians of this country being a warlike race, there were at various times bloody wars, accounts of which are here **most truthfully and graphically given**, with the attendant theories and actions of government and settlers. A most thrilling chapter is the **Whitman massacre**, never before correctly written, as many new facts regarding the event were unearthed by Mr. Bancroft.

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In the midst of this slow but steady progress news of the **discovery of gold** in California burst upon the people of Oregon with startling effect, awakening them to action, and revolutionizing many of their ways. Off rushed thousands to the mines, and formed communities there, many of them returning with good bags of the dust. Some time afterward was the discovery of gold in Oregon. There is always something fascinating about gold discoveries and gold digging, attended as they are by so much uncertainty and excitement.

General Jo Lane was a character, whether as hero of the Mexican war, governor of Oregon, or aspirant for presidential honors. Then there were Thurston, Gaines, and many others whose lives and achievements stand out in true colors in this history. Exceedingly important chapters are those on **surveys and town-making, land-laws and land-titles**, the donation land-law being an institution of the country. The Rogue River, Shoshone, and other wars are full of exciting interest, while the chapters on the Modoc war are said to be among the finest in history. The material interests and progress of the state are nowhere else so fully and faithfully given as here, and surely every intelligent and progressive person will have a history of his own country, if he can get a good one.

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# HISTORY OF Washington, Idaho and Montana

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By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

These three political divisions constitute naturally, in their early annals, one history. For a time Montana was a part of Idaho, and Idaho and Montana a part of Washington, so that for the histories of Montana and Idaho we must go back to Washington.

All of these divisions are developing into **magnificent commonwealths**, seats of culture and progress, wherein civilization will reach its highest aspirations, and the people will be proud of their country, and embalm with honor those who reclaimed these lands from savagism.

Before Mr. Bancroft began his remarkable historical labors there was but little material regarding this region in existence. By gathering up what there was, however, and carefully husbanding it, filling up gaps from the original sources and following out lines abruptly broken here and there, going over and over the ground many times for this purpose, he was finally enabled, to his great satisfaction, to secure for Washington, Idaho, and Montana the same rich abundance of materials for their early annals which were enjoyed by the other sections covered by his work.

This volume opens with the **first settlement of white men on Puget Sound**, not calling the forts or cattle plantations of the fur-company settlements. The fur magnates frowned upon all such inroads upon their domains, and sought by all fair means to peaceably drive back the encroaching Americans. But as the cry of "**Fifty-four forty or fight!**" had been raised, few among those who wished to become settlers would permit themselves to be intimidated.

In chapter II, while yet the country is first all Oregon and then all Washington, we have eight years of political history and development. Counties were created, a new territory erected, and government organized. Columbia they thought to call it first, and which indeed would have been a better name than Washington.

Olympia in her early days presented a most **picturesque appearance** with the split cedar cabins of the white men, the Indian huts, and the surrounding forests all mirrored in the clear waters of the Sound.

Governor Stevens figures prominently in explorations and politics, and his remarkable career is given the place in history which it merits. The perusal of his life shows what one man can do for the benefit of his fellow-men of the present and future ages.

In due time rich gold deposits were found, whose area extended far eastward, and the discoveries of which from time to time led to the dismemberment first of Idaho and then of Montana.



The whole country was kept back by Indian wars, which from time to time broke out, some of them very bloody. The inhabitants of Seattle and other prominent localities narrowly escaped destruction.

Idaho, when set off by Congress in 1863, including Montana with portions of Dakota and Nebraska, was indeed **the world's wonder-land**. Here was the home of gold, with all the attendant marvels for its manufacture. California was eclipsed, though much less noise was made about both the discoveries of precious metals and the hanging of thieves.

Settlement follows discovery, in the usual routine, while the extermination of the Indians is implied. It turned out that here was **great natural wealth**, in both gold and grasses, where little had been expected.

While the word Montana signifies mountainous, it is in reality a series of basins, as Colorado is a series of parks. It is **intensely interesting** here to read from the book of nature, carrying us back as it does to the time when the Yellowstone basin was an Arctic sea.

Montana has experienced every phase, every craze, attending the seizure of savagism by civilization—the eras aboriginal, fur-hunting, and mining, with explorations and settlement, political rascalities and the operations of road-agents, followed by purgations and wholesale hangings. The delineations of these various episodes render this volume intensely interesting.

No part of it is more important than its **political history**, for here more than elsewhere, if possible, men had to govern themselves. They were cut off from all civilized surroundings, thrown naked into a savage wilderness, and it was a fight for life. After settling with nature and the wild man, they had their own bad element to lop off, after which there were no better, more peaceable, or more happy, progressive, or intelligent people in the world.

Last of all, and while yet the mines were exceedingly productive, arose the **great industry of stock-raising** to surprise the world. And when in consequence sprang up a crop of millionaires, whose homes for elegance and refinement were equal to any of the cultured East, the climax of western development was indeed reached.

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"He still maintains his lucid power of arrangement, his cunning touches of local color, and his keen discrimination in filling in the features of those whose portraits he has to paint."—*British Quarterly Review*.

"This unfolding of States is the fairest theme history ever dwelt upon."—*S. L. Tribune*.

"Mr. Bancroft has carried on his work with ability and magnificent devotion. It resembles that of some great department of State, whole libraries are searched, collections that have required a lifetime in the making of them are ransacked. Every fact is noted, placed in its own class and laid up for future use."—*N. Y. Independent*.

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"Not only unequalled, but unapproached. A literary enterprise more deserving of a generous sympathy and support has never been undertaken on this side of the Atlantic."—*North American Review*.

# HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Complete in one volume, 8vo, 823 pages, with Maps and Plans

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

In glancing over the list of authorities used in this volume, one is struck by the large number of **original manuscripts** it contains. This is a characteristic feature of all of Mr Bancroft's historical investigations. Whenever sufficient material did not exist, which was often the case, he went to work and **created it**. He usually found masses of it in out-of-the-way places; and when all that he could find was gathered and sifted, and arranged for the gaps that still remained, and for fresh information about all the rest, he **sought out the old men** who had first come to the country, and all those who had assisted in any considerable degree in building it up and making it what it is, and from their lips wrote down their lives. In this way thousands of manuscripts were made, to each of which a distinctive title was given, when they were bound and lodged in his priceless library, there to constitute forever the foundations of Pacific coast history. In **British Columbia**, Mr Bancroft met many highly entertaining characters among the old retired officers of the **Hudson's Bay Company**, whose chiefs were once autocrats of all this vast region from the Pacific ocean back to the great lakes and the shores of Hudson bay—an area larger than that of all the United States. It was the **East India Company** of America, whose members were lords absolute of the domain, with power of life and death over its savage subjects. As in the **missionary fields** of the Spaniards in the south, the Indians here were ruled by very few white men, two or three servants of the company often being the sole occupants of an isolated post, a hundred miles distant from any other, and the whole region round filled with warlike savages. In the **first chapter** is given a summary of the earliest voyages along the coast, both Spanish and English. This is followed by a general physical description of the **Northwest Coast**, its configuration and climates, with something about the manner in which the white men and Indians held intercourse. Then follow in several chapters interesting accounts of the manner in which **settlements were established** where now is Victoria, and afterward in other localities, as Yale, Hope, Nanaimo, and New Westminster, and which occupation, with the subsequent **gold discovery**, finally undermined and destroyed the business of the **fur company**. The establishment at **Victoria**, or Camosun, as the spot was called by the Indians, arose out of the necessity on the part of the fur company of a metropolitan post in the north, in view of their being obliged to retire from Fort Vancouver, on the Columbia, when that section should fall



into the hands of the United States. It was likewise thought that whalers might rendezvous at the southern end of Vancouver Island, though this never happened to any great extent.

The Shushwap conspiracy is the title of a **Brilliant Chapter**, full of **Indian life and adventure**, and illustrating some of the measures to which the fur-traders were forced sometimes to resort to save their lives and property. **The discovery of coal** brought a new factor into the possibilities of the country, which, with agricultural lands, timber, fisheries, and, later, **gold**, threw into the shade furs as the hitherto chief or only natural wealth. The story of the discovery of coal is fully as exciting as that of the discovery of gold, although gold-mining is attended by far more of the romantic and chivalrous vices than that of the outputting of coal. **The political history** of British Columbia is fully and ably presented. There was first the fur company as absolute ruler, fancying itself almost owner of the land and all upon it, occupying as it did under government grant from England. All this is brought out, in this volume, in the most interesting and careful manner.

When industrial occupation began in Vancouver Island, the first part of the domain offered for settlement, the fur-traders were very jealous of Englishmen, more so than of foreigners, whom they feared less. The fur magnates charged the settlers a **pound an acre**, when in Oregon they could get better land for the asking. **The governors** sent out from England had rather a sorrowful time of it, as the officers of the fur company did not put themselves out much to make them comfortable. But when the chief of the Hudson's Bay Company, **James Douglas**, was made also political governor, the monopolists had it all their own way, and peace reigned again. **And with Island and Mainland** affairs united, civil, commercial, and colonial rulership all being one, the vast region might still have been kept as a **game preserve** but for the sudden appearing of all-powerful gold. The **fur-traders** had long known of its existence, but had kept the knowledge hidden in their own breasts. When the old chronic gold-diggers of California heard of it, ten regiments of soldiers could not have kept them away. **The auriferous sands** and gravel extended over a wide area, and the yield in the aggregate was large. Good government prevailed in the mines, and it was not safe to slaughter either white men or Indians. **It is a most interesting volume** on a country containing great natural wealth well worth knowing about. All about the **San Juan Island difficulty** is related; there are also chapters on the Canadian Pacific railway and other important matters well worthy of attention.

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"Whatever progress British Columbia may achieve hereafter, the early history of the province will have to be sought in the great treasure house of Bancroft's works."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

"He is careful to make no statement which is not amply vouched for, but he is pitiless in stripping from some of these historical characters the borrowed plumes in which they have so long masqueraded."—*S. F. Chronicle.*

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"It is said that in the reading of a book we are talking with a man; in reading Mr Bancroft's histories we are indeed conversing with growing states and an infant nation. All who wish to understand the future destiny as well as the past history of their own state, will do well to look into that of British Columbia."—*S. F. Star.*

"This volume separates the history of British Columbia into six eras, and people desire to know all about it."—*Salt Lake Tribune.*



"Not only unequalled, but unapproached. A literary enterprise more deserving of a generous sympathy and support has never been undertaken on this side of the Atlantic."—*North American Review*.

# HISTORY OF ALASKA

Complete in one vol., 8vo., 813 pages, with Maps and Plans

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

It is a **most fascinating study** to follow the several European nations in their entry into America, and watch their behavior in the various methods they employed in despoiling the natives and seizing their lands. It seems to have made no difference as to their pretensions, or professions, whether gold or furs, or land, or salvation; all the same, sooner or later, **the white men got all** the savages had, and left them rum and diseases enough to prevent their wanting anything more in this world.

The Russians would **endure sufferings and death** with patience and equanimity. They had not the pestilential airs of the heated tropics to contend with, but, coming from frozen Siberia through the sleet and snow of Kamchatka into the tempestuous northern waters, there was for them no lack of suffering to be endured. In regard to the **discovery of Alaska**, one might say that it was always discovered, as the Asiatic and American Eskimos have crossed Bering Strait on the ice and in boats for a hundred thousand years, for all any one knows to the contrary. But it was a different matter when **Chirikof and Bering came from Russia** and sailed across from Kamchatka to somewhere about Mt. St. Elias. Bering died on the return voyage under trying circumstances.

Seals and sea-otter! There were millions of them there, and the promyshleniki, the Russian coureurs des bois, or free-booting fur collectors, came swarming in to harvest them, killing on their own account, gathering some themselves, and causing the natives to gather more for them. **It was a cruel day** for both the Seals and Aleuts, when these accursed little human vermin came down upon them. Two chapters are devoted to their adventures—**totally new chapters in American History**, as, indeed, are all in this most original and absorbing volume. After this the Imperial Government of Russia undertook some fur-hunting, proselytizing and colonization on its own account, but did not succeed very well at it. Men will suffer hardships and death for their own gain sooner than for the glory of God or the benefit of the King, whose arm was not long enough to control them. Something must be done, however, or **Spain would capture the country**, and so while a monopoly of the fur trade was given to commercial companies, the government went on with its explorations. England was early there in the persons of Cook and Vancouver, naming everything along the coast **Shelikof**, one of the most **prominent characters in Alaskan His-**





**tory**, was a great man, the study of whose character well repays the trouble. **Baranof**, whom Shelikof induced to join his company, was long governor of the country, and a very peculiar and prominent man.

At one time there were two companies in the field, and a great strife arose between them, a graphic account of which is given in Chapter XV of this volume. After this, colonization began again, and missions of the Greek Church were established.

Under the rivalry of the two companies the exhaustion of the seal-fisheries was threatened, and at the suggestion of Shelikof their interests were all united under the name of the **Russian-American Company**, Baranof being at the head.

Two chapters are devoted to the massacre at and **recapture of Sitka**. These were times of wild excitement.

An ambassador now comes upon the scene in the person of Reganof, who plays an important part in the development of the **Russian-American colonies**, and among other things he drops down the coast to California, where the bold Aleuts had been hunting for the Russians of Bodega bay. It was indeed a foreign colony, this Russian plantation at Ross, and the shiftless Californians had not the ambition or energy to keep the Aleut hunters out of San Francisco bay.

All this was in the first period of **Russian-American occupation**; then came the second term, and after that we have **Alaska as a United States colony**. The American government buys it for money. It is really a better way sometimes, to acquire peaceable title to lands than to fight for them.

The sale was a good one for Russia; she had no use for that north-westernmost knob of America, while the United States could not only turn an honest penny in the trade, but secure a quiet place for some of our drunken politicians to cool off in, which indeed was done.

**There are many resources**, however, in the country, **fisheries, metal, coal**, and other natural wealth, and many great discoveries yet to be made in that quarter.

This volume is **replete with interest and entertainment**, and should be in the hands of every intelligent person.

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"A distinguishing merit is the fine discrimination of what is valuable in history, and the fine order and arrangement of the book."—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

Though Alaska has belonged to the United States since 1867, few American citizens know more about it than they do about the Falkland Islands.—*Philadelphia American*.

"The present volume on Alaska shares the characteristics of its predecessors, with the additional attraction of a vivid presentation of facts until now almost wholly unknown. Mr. Bancroft's book comes like a flashing illumination full upon a region lying hitherto in frozen obscurity, from which an occasional report reaches humanity through a magazine, drear and dismal as its remote inhospitable source. But our knowledge of our Arctic possession may now be as complete as that of any part of the republic. Absolute accuracy has been the paramount virtue of Mr. Bancroft's history throughout, and no detail or statistic is too trivial to assist in establishing it here. The abundance of data is a matter of amazement, and the clearness and conclusiveness of its application will be profoundly gratifying to every seeker for the Alaskan verities."—*Washington Post*.

"The project seems, now, to have been no less well considered than daring. Especial good judgment has been shown in balancing conflicting authorities and in drawing a conclusion from disagreeing witnesses. Mooted questions are discussed with such a fulness of information as to compel assent to the conclusions cautiously drawn."—*N. Y. Post-Nation*.

"No one has yet attempted, and it is not too much to say that no one is likely to attempt, to compete with him in work on such colossal plans, or carried through with such Napoleonic enterprise. The resources at his command, the employment of men, and the expenditure of money, time, labor, scholarship, and far-reaching investigation, are beyond anything ever known, except in the audacious plan on which this work is conducted."—*New York Independent*.

"For giving unity and harmony to the plan by which a chaotic mass of material was moulded into history, the author has earned the thanks of his countrymen."—*Popular Science Monthly*.

"In his gratifying desire to add to the treasure-house of the world's knowledge, we are indebted for records that will endure as long as this country has a history. By training, by the spirit which animates him, and by the special resources at his command, Mr. Bancroft is admirably adapted to his work."—*Sacramento Record-Union*.



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# CALIFORNIA PASTORAL

Complete in 1 vol., 8vo., 808 pages

By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

Probably never since the earth was made has there existed on its face just such a phase of humanity as that in California under Spanish and Mexican régime. First there were the **Indians pure and simple**, as gentle savages as God ever placed in any Eden, inoffensive wild men in their paradisaical wilderness, but very low, very earthy, though happy as angels. Among these first came Spaniards, when the country was a province of Spain—soldiers and priests, mostly, and but few of them to gain the ascendancy over so many of their fellow-creatures; then Mexicans, a blood mixture of Spaniards with the Indians of Mexico—christianized savages you might call them, yet citizens of republican Mexico, of which confederation California was then the northwesternmost territory; mix with these a few Englishmen and Americans, traders, trappers, or settlers who for the asking could have a wife, ten leagues of land, a thousand head of cattle, twelve or twenty children, and the catholic religion, all free.

They lived in peace and plenty for the most part; though they quarreled some and sinned some, worked a little, but played much more.

About these **Pastoral days**, before the gold-diggers had come to hold high carnival along the Sierra foothills, a dozen volumes might be written; therefore when we find embodied in one volume all the best of what was said, all most interesting of what was done, we may be sure of the value of that book, and of the **immense amount of instruction and entertainment** it contains.

After drawing some comparisons between civilization and savagism, particularly between the then half-civilized Europeans and the only half-savage natives of America, where in some respects there was not so much difference after all, the colonial policy of Spain, which to say the least was very peculiar, is then described, and the condition of Mexico as it appeared to learned foreigners at the beginning of the present century.

Then we come to the lotos-land of the savages, that beautiful, glowing wilderness, the warm, dreamy home of the shock-headed savages. Was there a paradise of nature like that of California before the coming in of white men?

It was the **Golden Age of California**, coming just before and very different from, the **Age of Gold**. It was not only an age of romance, but of miracles, and no end of them; there seemed to be more supernatural than natural; more deities and demons abroad than forces of nature. The savages had their miracles, and the Europeans had theirs, and between the two there was little other explanation for the current of events.

And when we come to the new life and society, in their thousand varieties and phases, evolved from these hitherto untried intermixtures and strange conditions, **what a new world of wonder is opened to us!**



It was almost like having things in common, products were so plentiful and property of so little value. Where land is free, fruits almost spontaneous, and the rapid increase of stock attended with little care or cost; especially where there is little use for money and no market for the superabundance, of what worth is wealth? Not only land but laborers were there, kindly made ready by Providence for the lash of civilization.

So it came about that when a handful of Spanish missionaries and military men came along up the coast from San Diego to San Francisco bay, they left a line of missions in their track the remains of which to-day give proof of **a remarkable achievement**. For under the mighty influence of gunpowder, steel, and a new religion, these structures were reared by naked savages, whose own habitations were hitherto but little more than bowers, brush huts, or holes in the ground.

**This book tells all about how these people lived; all about woman and her sphere; land-grants and the pueblo system, or town regulations; the missions, mission life, regulations, and routine; food, dress, dwellings, and domestic affairs; amusements, occupations, and industries; stock-raising, and cultivation of the soil; law, government, and religion; presidios, or forts, and the military system; inland trade and coast traffic, particularly about the operations of smugglers, and how the Mexican officials used to make a regular business of cheating their government—likewise all about the fur-trade and traffic in hides and tallow; also about crimes and courts, where was some queer justice administered.**

In regard to all these things, **this remarkable volume** is the result of Mr. Bancroft's life's labor in this part of his field. Without the work done by him in collecting the material for and writing his history, this book never could have had existence. **The immense mass of intensely interesting information it contains is absolutely new, most of it having been obtained directly from the mouths of white-haired Mexicans.**

A chapter on banditti, full of thrilling interest, and every word true, is alone worth twice the cost of the volume.

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"The information has been gathered from public and private sources, and touches upon every topic, law, society, religion, government, customs, manners, dress, amusements, etc. Much of it would have been lost to the world but for the extraordinary energy of Mr Bancroft in sending out agents and securing old manuscripts and printed matter that had been cast into the household limbo as worthless. This material has been carefully sifted, and all that throws light on pastoral days in California from the Spanish occupation down to the discovery of gold has been carefully arranged and woven into the narrative. The result is the most complete sketch ever written of Spanish California. It reads almost like a romance."—*S. F. Chronicle*.

"The history is a wonderful production. It is invaluable to libraries, both public and private."—*Ann Arbor Courier*.

"On this subject he has done himself full credit."—*British Quarterly Review*.

"Will not fail to captivate the general reader as well as arrest the attention of the scholar."—*Albany Times*.

"Taken as a whole, the present volume is the best of the many with which the American historians have enriched the literary world."—*London Morning Post*.

"We are brought face to face with these people, with their flocks and herds, their pastures and fields, their domestic life, their amusements, occupations, and industries, their laws, their systems of government and religion."—*Chicago Dial*.

"It is a fine analysis."—*N. Y. Herald*.

"Mr Bancroft ably, and, on the whole, justly indicates the true functions of the historian who essays a work of this magnitude. To an accurate record of events, he gives its due place, this being the foundation of all historical writing; for of what avail is the brilliancy of a Macaulay if the basis of his eloquence be insecure? Yet, of equal importance with events is the institutionary development which they cause or accompany. Equal study must be given to men, industries and institutions. The author appears to have faithfully adhered to the plan he has thus laid down; and, large as the work is, the writing is far from verbose, it is, indeed, condensed in style, and admirable for its vigor and freshness."—*London Times*.

"It is such pen pictures as these, scattered through Mr Bancroft's histories, that make them so entertaining, without robbing them of their historical value. A country as full of romance as was the Pacific Coast in its early days should have no less fervid and graphic a pen than Mr Bancroft's to chronicle and spread before the readers of the future that history with due attention to its spurts of poetry and romance."—*S. F. Wasp*.

"Mr Bancroft's narrative might well be adopted as a text-book in colleges and universities for the strong light it throws upon national evolution."—*N. Y. Tribune*.

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"In no volume that Mr Bancroft has written has he woven a more lively interest than in this."—*Boston Home Journal*.

"Prof. Royce takes no pains to conceal his generous admiration of the work done by Mr Bancroft."—*New York Independent*.

"In the line of historical research his work has no parallel. Of the volumes of manuscripts and printed books named, all are either in the possession of Mr Bancroft or have been used by him in the preparation of his work. One class of manuscripts secured by Mr Bancroft deserves especial mention as being unique in character, and those are dictations, or personal reminiscences; and of these he has many hundreds."—*Boston Traveller*.



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# CALIFORNIA INTER POCULA

Complete in 1 vol., 8vo, 828 pages.

BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

If one were to spend a lifetime in making a magnificent scrapbook, whose contents should be not history, nor poetry, nor fiction, nor philosophy, but the essence of all these, and much more; and if, further, the selections made were original articles from writings of recognized merit, and nowhere else existing, one would prize such a collection more than money.

Such is this volume, with the difference that the **selections have been made by the author**, thus saving the reader a world of trouble. *Inter Pocula*, that is, as applied to the flush times of California, in her cups, in other words, drunk—such is the title chosen as befitting the contents, which consist of episodes of the **wild doings of those days**, some of them, indeed, of the most startling character. **It is a book to have always at hand**, and dive into now and then, its pages being always attractive, and carrying the reader along with ever increasing interest.

**A brilliant picture of the valley of California** is given in the first chapter, a piece of word-painting which has not its superior in the English language.

There was wild talk about gold in California for three centuries before it was actually found in the Sierra foothills, none of which was farther from the truth than that of the pirate Drake's preacher. It is not a little singular that, notwithstanding all the lies that were told about it, all the while the gold was there.

Coming to the period of actual discovery, the author has gathered here many interesting incidents and anecdotes which it was impossible for him to give in his *History of California*, where condensed narration was indispensable. New men are introduced, and analyses made of the others. As a pen portrait, true to nature and startling in its originality, that of Marshall, the discoverer of gold, cannot be excelled.

No small portion of the early Californian's time was taken up in journeys from and to the east, overland and by water. Of life and labor on the various routes such vivid descriptions are given as to make them stand out as upon canvas in the mind and imagination of the reader. There is the joyous hum of the camp of plenty, and the low wail of the desert's hardships; and on the ocean both peaceful and tempestuous times. And herein are many phases of life, original, and nowhere else existing. And when the land of gold was reached, and the newcomer entered upon the scene of classical abnormalities in the mines; what limitless areas were here of new life,



new language, new heart and sense and soul! There was not a mining camp, not a man even, but whose experiences would fill a volume.

**San Francisco**, with its rattle and din of business and pleasure, its great gambling and drinking saloons, its gilded dens of infamy opening upon filthy streets, its auction houses and marts of commerce, is fully described. Then follow chapters on **society in California**, further abnormalities, and business methods, and illustrations of life and character, presenting innumerable incidents and scenes nowhere else described.

Some account of **Pacific coast prisons** is given, which often influenced in a large degree the quality of justice dealt to criminals. **Some Indian Episodes** are also given, which the author regarded as of altogether too interesting and important a nature to be omitted. **Some Chinese Episodes** is the title of the next chapter, wherein is given an account of some encounters between white men and Asiatics.

**Courts of Justice and Court Scenes** is the title of a most interesting and amusing chapter. The manners and customs of the judges are described, and their behavior amidst the surrounding influences of rum and revolvers is fully set forth.

During all these times drinking and gambling, causing the ruin and death of thousands, were carried on everywhere, and a chapter is devoted to each of these topics, both being full of incidents and stories. The theory of tipping and the free lunch system are described; also the typical flush times gambler, gambling games, the science of poker, and the doctrine of chance.

A chapter is devoted to duelling, then quite common, and the notable duels of the period are given in detail. Last of all, gathered into a final chapter, are some **tales of the times**, all characteristic sketches, and besides the entertainment they afford are valuable as studies.

Altogether this is a **most unique book**, whose equal can scarcely be found in literature. Its originality, vivacity, and charms of style clothe the subject-matter in most attractive forms.

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# POPULAR TRIBUNALS

Complete in 2 vols., 8vo., 1,542 pages, with Plans and Illustrations

By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

Here is a book of surpassing interest, and no less instructive than entertaining. Its **graphic delineation** of the attempts of communities of men to govern themselves without laws, or in defiance of ill-administered law, is something new in the literature of the world.

In the history of mankind there are but few **startling or abnormal episodes**, as compared with the long level of monotony which, whatsoever fermentations there may be within, seems never to rise into the realm of progress nor sink into retrogression. Before California was, there had been gold, and men had learned to love it, and to rush hither and thither over the earth in search of it; there had been **governments**, and **rebellions**, and **revolutions**; there had been pronunciamientos made by men not particularly opposed to the existing form of rule, but who highly esteemed themselves and their way of viewing affairs, and who preferred themselves to the peace and prosperity of their country.

But never since the world began has there been nor ever again until its end will there be just such **aberrations of government and justice** as were experienced by the several states and territories on the Pacific side of North America during the period of their incubation, namely, for the decade of 1849 to 1859. Simply **hanging culprits** by the people for killing or stealing was by no means all of the solemn significance of the times. There was here present **revolution without rebellion**, right without codes or constitutions, displaying at once the necessity of man and the power of man to place checks upon his actions, and not let his wonderful and much-boasted intellectual faculties, which raise him so high above the brute creation, hurl him to a deeper destruction.

The **study of the subject**, when begun by the author, was with the intention of its making two or three chapters of his *History of California*; but as the work went on, time passed and the manuscript piled high before him. To be done, or half-done, or scarcely done at all was the question. When the existing bulky printed matter had been gone over and the acts and experiences of all the leading men in such affairs then living had been hunted up, secured, digested, arranged, and written out, to say nothing of the voluminous **secret archives** of the many Committees of Vigilance in various parts, years had passed, and three volumes had been written. The three volumes, however, were in time reduced to two, and the arrangement of chapters made so as to bring together the earlier and minor episodes of California and the surrounding region for the first volume, leaving the second volume entire for San Francisco's **grand tribunal of 1856**, with a concluding chapter only on the labor organization of 1877-8.

But before the Vigilance Committee of 1856 was the Vigilance Committee of 1851, the latter being organized for protection against thieves and murderers, and the former against political and judicial offenders.

The **Hounds Association**, which would now be called a band of hoodlums, was a coöperation in crime which for a time kept the town in terror. Nor were the San Francisco **Society of Regulators** much better. Lawless power is a dangerous thing by whatsoever name called. Nevertheless, before the **advent of law** in California there was less lawlessness



than prior to that event, when **thieves from Australia** had not yet come in, and every man was on his good behavior. But presently **mobocracy in the mines** became very common; and, indeed, something of the kind was **necessary**, provided people were going to remain there.

There are **many exciting stories** given in Vol. I: The Burdue-Stuart affair; the capture and hanging of John Jenkins; the rise and fall of James Stuart; and the Whittaker and McKenzie capture, imprisonment, trial, and execution. All this time the tribunal held its secret meetings, accounts of which Mr. Bancroft fully gives.

Then **minor rascalities** are described, and the doings of **country committees of vigilance** are delineated. Indeed, the **principle of vigilance** extended throughout the entire western slope. Wherever gold was, and that without law, there were murder, robbery, and **wild excitement**.

The troubles of 1856 in San Francisco, to which the second volume is devoted, arose primarily from the **stuffing of ballot-boxes**, an account of which is given in Chapter I. In fact the town was full of political villains at that time, whom it was impossible to convict of any crime, as some of their number were always inspectors of election and judges on the bench.

James King of William undertook to make war on them with his newspaper, and was **shot down in the street**. The townspeople then flew to arms, and his murderer was hanged. This was in May, and the **greatest excitement** continued throughout the year. State and federal authorities threatened the city with destruction, and members of the law and order party fumed and foamed at the mouth.

There were several trials, quite a number sent out of the country and **some hanging done**; but, after all, though the popular demonstration in San Francisco at that time was the largest of the kind and for the purpose the world has ever seen, the executions were insignificant as compared with those which occurred later in Idaho and Montana.

After all was over, and the citizens rested from their labors, the Vigilance Committee, then numbering eight or ten thousand members; held a **grand parade**, at which the whole city were present. There were several heavy lawsuits brought against the leaders by the expatriated, but nothing came of it further than the annoyances of litigation.

The book is a **remarkable record** of a **remarkable episode**. It was a long time before the author could prevail upon the custodians of the archives to give them up to him, for fear of evil consequences to the members of the **Executive Committee**; but he finally overcame their scruples, and obtained their permission to **give their transactions to the world**. An account of all that was done is contained in these two volumes, and exists nowhere else.

Every intelligent man who has a library or reads a book should have in his possession these two volumes.

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"Mr Bancroft seldom appears to greater advantage than when bringing order out of confusion."—*N. Y. Herald*.

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"The labor of research undertaken by Mr Bancroft would appear to have been commenced at a most opportune period. Ten years earlier the obligations of secrecy were so fresh that no revelation could be expected; ten years later the chief actors were off the stage. He has been specially fortunate in recovering the archives of the San Francisco Committee of 1851, and of the still more voluminous records of the great revived organization of 1856. Of the first, many curious fac-similes are given in the new volume. The later documents will naturally come up for discussion in a future addition to this engrossing series of Pacific States history. This particular portion of the Pacific series promises to be of the widest and most permanent interest. Mr Bancroft merits very high praise."—*Glasgow Herald*.

"It was a desperate remedy for an enormous evil, and the sound judgment and self-restraint with which it was carried out attest the fact that even in a community drawn together only by the hope of sudden riches, into which the vilest elements naturally flow, as waste into a public sewer, there is always a saving remnant. The work is one of great interest, telling the story as it does of an event which has a lesson not without its value at the present day."—*Portland Transcript*.

"Mr Bancroft has carried out his work in the most complete and exhaustive manner. Rarely has a story of more exciting interest been told. The records of violence and villainy with which the earlier years of California history are associated, probably surpass anything of a similar nature in other parts of the world. The rush for gold brought together hordes of desperadoes, and many adventurers from Australia contributed to the foundation of a community remarkable for disregard of law and life. That the government officials were unable to cope with the continuous stream of outrage, robbery, and murder which ran with such terrible force, is not to be marvelled at, and however objectionable may be the system of personal control of justice assumed by indignant citizens, at least it showed that there was a large section of society that cared for good behavior and the maintenance of public morality, and that had the courage and ability to supply, even without legal authority, the deficiencies of national administration in the prevention, detention, and summary punishment of crime."—*London Morning Post*.

"It is a perfect storehouse of historical, antiquarian, and geographical knowledge, gathered from State Archives and from the most recondite sources, and exhaustive in regard to the various countries dealt with. It is a treasure garnered for future generations, and the writer who completes such a literary feat as this deserves credit for unwearied patience, for a bold conception, and for colossal enterprise. Many English and American writers of eminence, including Carlyle, Herbert Spencer, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sir Arthur Helps, J. W. Draper, W. H. Lecky and J. Russell Lowell, have already testified to the value of Mr Bancroft's historical labors. As regards the present work, as far as we are able to judge, it is marked neither by slovenliness of treatment nor by an inadequate handling of the vast mass of material collected by or on behalf of the author. The style is vivid and yet weighty, and we congratulate Mr Bancroft upon the life he has infused into the dry bones of history."—*London Times*.

"Mr Bancroft has presented the records of the famous Vigilants with his customary minuteness and painstaking fidelity, and the result is an interesting history of those strange and exciting days."—*Boston Pilot*.

"This work forms a very important epoch in the history of California and other Pacific States, and it reads with all the interest of a romance. The historian has spared neither time nor the most patient research in preparing the work, and for the first time to any one the secrets of the Vigilance Committee were unsealed to him, after, in earnest council, they had carefully deliberated upon the matter, and agreed that all information needed should be placed at Mr Bancroft's disposal."—*Boston Home Journal*.



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# Essays and Miscellany

Complete in 1 vol., 8vo., 765 pages

By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

During the progress of Mr. Bancroft's historical studies, many important questions regarding **literature, society, and civilization** passed under his notice, upon which he was forced to bestow more or less thought, and draw conclusions. His views of men and events were in many respects from a new standpoint; and bringing to his work, as he did, a mind singularly untrammelled by any of the dogmas of the day, political or social, his opinions are entitled to the most attentive consideration.

Take for example the opening essay of the volume, entitled "**The Early American Chroniclers.**" How few are in the habit of rightly regarding the foundations of American history, neither holding them in universal credence, nor yet placing upon them too light an estimation. We have here elucidated in all particulars how they should be received, in what manner construed, and how far believed.

The next topic is "**The New Civilization,**" wherein is discussed the apparent tendency of the present remarkable development. The earth, having been spanned by civilization, at its western limit a halt is enforced, and the race is called upon to work out here its highest destiny. To turn back would be but retrogression, with worn-out conditions; there are no more original fields to be reclaimed from savagism, no farther west for the emigration of the ages. The question is pregnant with thought, it is forced upon us; Europe without an America and an Australia into which to pour its surplus populations will be quite a different affair from what it has been with these outlets; and what will America do when she becomes like Europe?

"**Root Diggers and Gold Diggers**" is the title of certain hypothetical meditations of a philosophic savage on beholding the bearded miners delving in the river bottom for gold. His reflections are cut short by a bullet from the rifle of one of the men who had lost his horse, and fancied some redskin must have stolen it.

"**Our Treatment of the Native Races**" was written at the request of an Eastern review editor, and attracted much attention.

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So with regard to "**Criticism,**" how little of it is truly logical, how much of it is simply cant, ignorance, and insincerity! Yet it is a necessity, if for nothing else to prevent extinction from the inundation of worthless books by which the world is flooded.

The essay on "**Work**" was written at the solicitation of a literary friend, who published it in a volume of miscellaneous subjects which he edited.

"**Battre la fer sur l'Enclume**" is the title of a dissertation on success and failure, which the author contends may be to a certain extent





reduced to rules, like any other principle of sociology, the sum of which is for each to find his proper place and do his best in it.

For the study of "**Social Analysis**" there is no more fitting field than this western world. Hither came from all parts humanity at its best, and from this alembic of nations was distilled the material for the new civilization.

An examination of the component parts of Californian character is presented under the heading "**Nation Making.**" A remarkable transformation of mind, belief, habits of thought and action took place in thousands of those who came hither, under the influence of their new and strange surroundings. It is a profitable and interesting study.

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Further comment on this volume is unnecessary; it should lie upon the table of every American.

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