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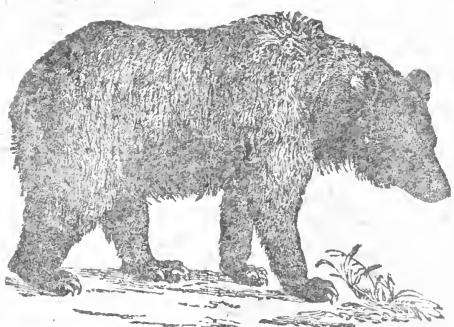


ADDRESS
OF
WELCOME

TO
GENERAL JOHN C. FREMONT,
GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA TERRITORY,

UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEPTION BY HIS ASSOCIATES OF

The Associated Pioneers of the Territorial Days of California



AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS,

STURTEVANT HOUSE,

NEW YORK,

On Thursday Evening, August 1st, 1878,

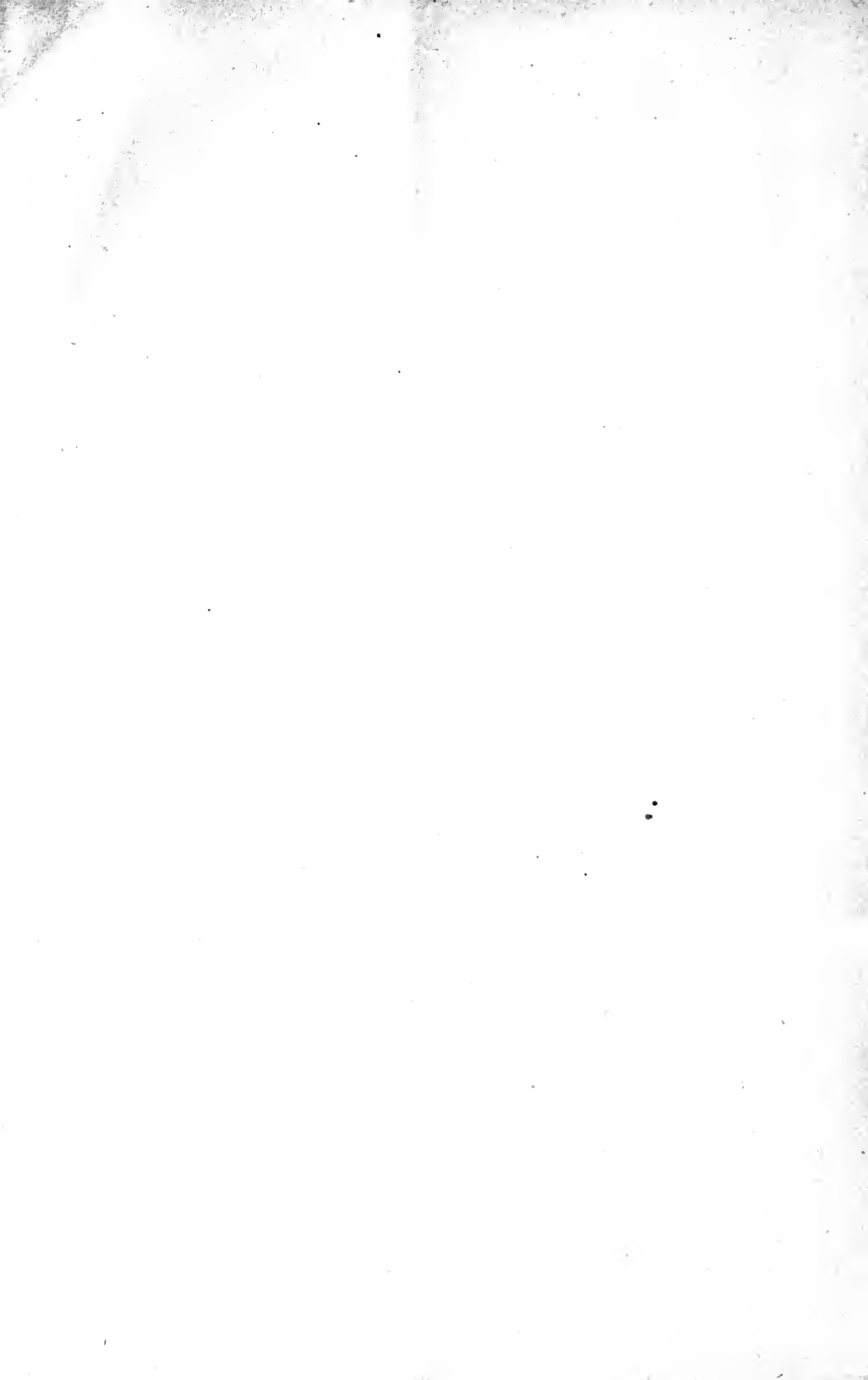
BY
arranged by
GENERAL H. G. GIBSON, U. S. A.

Senior Vice-President of the Society.

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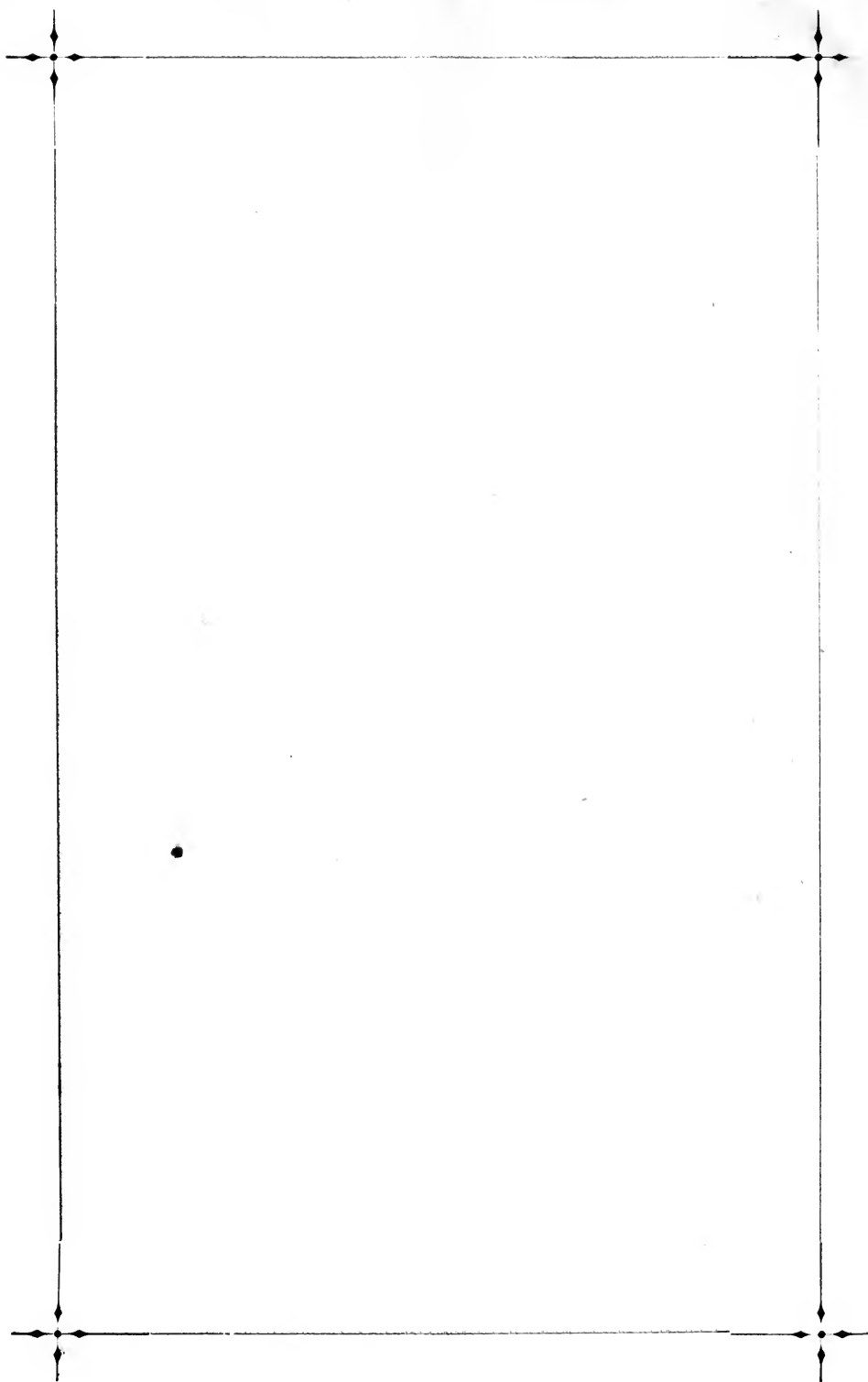
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ADDRESS OF WELCOME :

Delivered by General H. G. Gibson, U. S. A., to General John C. Fremont, Governor of Arizona Territory, upon the occasion of his Reception by "The Associated Pioneers of the Territorial Days of California," at the Sturtevant House, New York, on Thursday evening, August 1st, 1878. Bancroft Library

FELLOW CALIFORNIANS :—

IN the absence of our grand old Patriarch and beloved fellow Pioneer and President, the duty devolves upon me of welcoming our distinguished guest. I regret that he is not here to-night to express, though only in his tremulous and embarrassed utterances, the same cordial greeting which he gave to his worthy compeer and *compadre* on the banks of the Sacramento thirty-four years ago. Though his speech might have been only silver, the welcome of his heart would have been golden.

We have met this evening to do honor to an eminent citizen of the Republic and a renowned pioneer, who, as the great Pathfinder of Empire, first disclosed to the nation a knowledge of the rich and attractive country bordering the Pacific, and whose name will, through all coming time, be identified with the exploration of a continent, and with the American occupation and development of the Golden Land. Traversing with his little band the trackless wastes, forbidding

mountains, and dense forests, lying between the mighty Father of Waters and that magnificent region whose

“ snow-sierras hide

Huge crystallised rocks of virgin gold,

Adown abrading torrents rolled,

In lucid streams, by summer shoaled,

A golden tide ;”

the youthful explorer in his first enterprise determined the physical geography of a vast, unknown territory, and contributed to science the wealth of his felicitous and valuable discoveries. Wending his way a second time to the then foreign provinces of the Californias, he inspired and aided the raising of the standard of revolt against the rule of the Mexican—on the oak-orchard plain of Sonoma, and thus made the initiatory step which led to the acquisition—consummated by the war with Mexico, of that beautiful and opulent domain, and which FREMONT and destiny had determined should be ours thenceforth and forever. Discovering, also, in his first expedition, a practicable route by the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada, from the valley of the Sacramento to the grand forest-crowned region “ along the lone Columbia,” his foot-prints became the unerring guide to all who followed after. For as to the fidelity and accuracy of his descriptions and observations, as he spied out the land, your chairman can testify from personal experience; that the itinerary of each day’s journey, as we pursued the rough tenor of our way through the vast wilderness of lava bed, forest, plain, mountain and cañon—through “ a land of fracture, violence, and fire ”—was pictured on the mental vision before as clearly defined as the actual vision beheld it thereafter. A portion of the country traversed by FREMONT had been imperfectly explored by the previous expeditions of Lewis, Clark, and Long, as well as by Bonneville, whose crude narrative, enriched and embellished by the graceful pen of Washington Irving, charmed our childhood, and yet delights our mature years. These gave, however, but a faint idea of its magnificent character, and it remained for FREMONT to impart to us a full knowledge of its grand and peculiar features, its wonderful beauties and resources.

For his great and distinguished service to the State, the Government at Washington awarded him promotion in the army, and the new-born Golden State of California a seat in the Senate of the United States. In later years, bearing the

standard of a great political party, he with knightly courage, courtesy, and modesty, led it nigh unto victory, and *opened the path* to its subsequent success; and, at a critical period of its fortunes, contributed to its overwhelming triumph and continuance of power, by his graceful and opportune retirement from the field as the nominee—a second time—for the Presidency of a great convention of his fellow-citizens.

In his military career as an officer of engineers, he displayed rare ability and remarkable fertility of resources and expedients; and as a field officer of the line, added to his fame by the joint conquest with the gallant Stockton, of the territory of the Californias; and how far the crimes and blunders at Washington affected his usefulness, success and renown, as a leader and commander of our armies in the late civil war, as of other true and loyal soldiers who bore the heat and burden of the day, and stood among their fellows high in reputation for wisdom and honor, impartial history must determine. It suffices us, however, to know that his services came fully up to the official standard of "gallant, faithful and meritorius." But as an explorer, his name must ever be classed with those noble and illustrious names on that brilliant scroll which embraces Marco Polo and de Soto, Mungo Park and Livingstone; with those who "in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the wilderness; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness," have exposed or sacrificed their lives in the cause of science and humanity; and whose marvellous sagacity, indomitable courage, patience and fortitude, have reflected glory on our race.

But the full measure of reward for his brilliant, and eminent services whose

"records half-effaced,
Which with the hand of youth he traced
On history's page,"

has never been conceded nor bestowed. It is an inherent, and perhaps, ineradicable vice of all republics that their great benefactors and heroes are seldom duly honored or rewarded while living—soon neglected or forgotten when dead; and our own Republic can claim no immunity from the vice. That it may cease to be its reproach and shame should be the fervent prayer of every true patriot; and that when we have done with honoring

with "storied urn and animated bust" the genius and heroism of antiquity and of other lands, we may find time and means to demonstrate to the world that there are those of our own land who have "won a mural crown of towering glory." May the time yet come when as the golden orb of day sinks to his rest in the bosom of the mighty ocean beyond the portals of the Golden Gate, his parting rays shall shed their golden light on its pinnacles, whereon shall stand the sculptured forms of FREMONT and SUTTER, with the inscription on the one, "*The path he trod was the Path to Empire ;*" and on the other, "*The golden heart that enriched the Golden Land !*"

General FREMONT, you are about to depart for the vicinity of the scenes of your former labors and signal deeds, and we come as fellow Pioneers and Californians, to offer to you our earnest congratulations and cordial good wishes. May health and happiness attend you, and in your new field of employment, may you ever enjoy the approving smiles and favor of a grateful, appreciative people. As your youth was adorned with fame, may your age be crowned with glory and honor. For myself, in the remembrance of a pleasant journey together in years gone by, through the beautiful valley of the San Joaquin, "on fields with daisies pied," and "gorgeous flowerets in the sunlight shining," through arid waste and cooling mountain grove—in the remembrance of a kindness done, but as soon forgotten by you, I tender to you the kindest greeting and most earnest prayer that heart can feel, or voice or hand express.



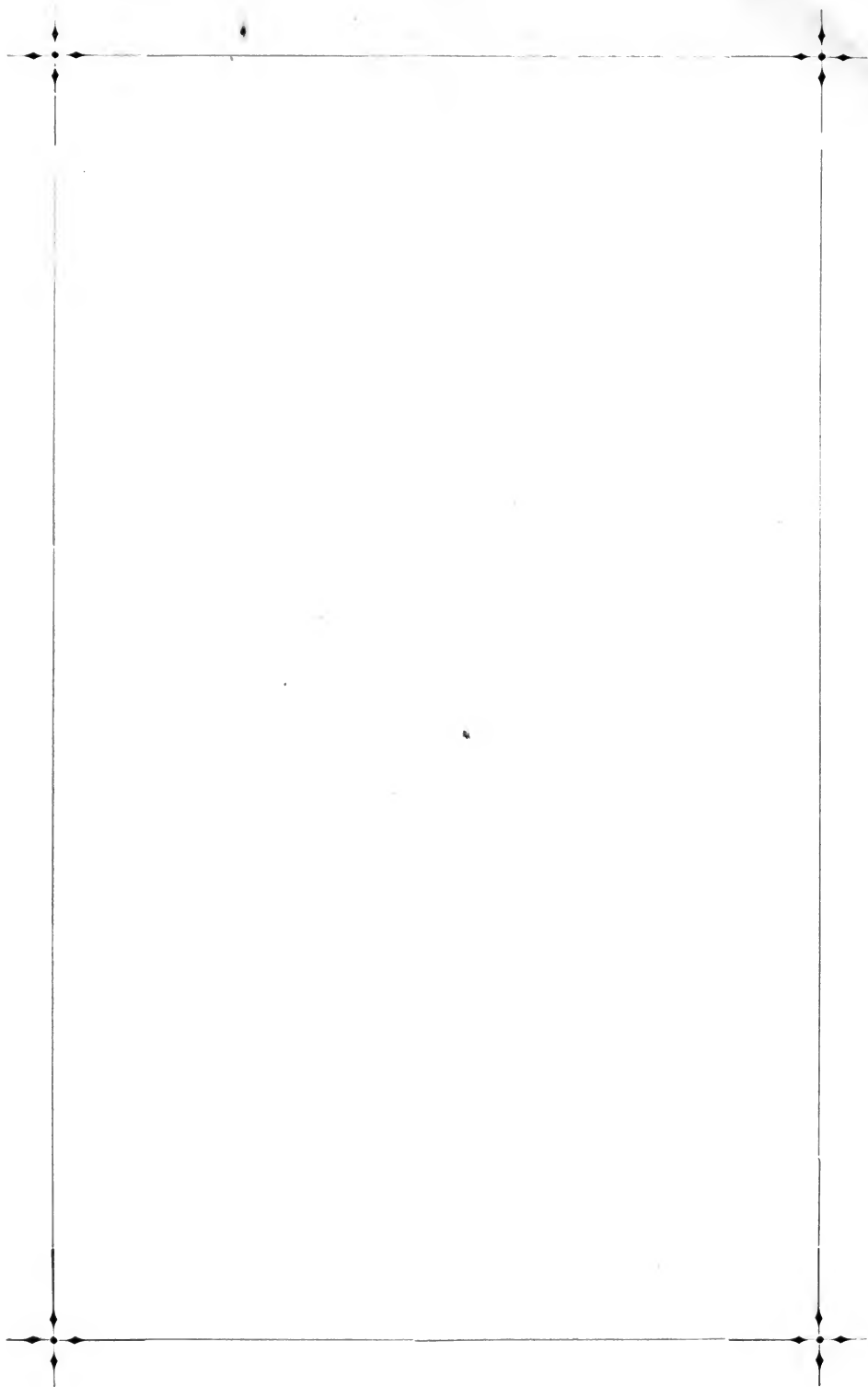
ADMISSION DAY, 1877.

Extract from the Address of Welcome, delivered by Gen'l H. G. Gibson, U. S. A., at Long Branch, N. J., September 8, 1877.

Twenty-seven years ago "the morrow morn," after a long and bitter political contest in the Halls of Congress, the State which the Pioneers of California had founded and organized became "a bright particular star"—wedded to the Union. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo terminating the war with Mexico had extended our dominion on the remote Pacific over a vast region to the south of

"the continuous woods
Where rolls the Oregon and hears no sound
Save its own lashings"—

to us and the world at large a terra incognita. Beyond a narrow fringe of settlements—missions and presidios—on its line of coast from Cape Mendocino to Cape San Lucas but little was known of the geography, character and resources of the territory of the Californias. To the commerce of the world it was but a land of hides and tallow. The expeditions of the renowned Pioneer and Path-finder, JOHN C. FREMONT, opened to our people and to the world a knowledge of its beauty, fertility and wealth. Though the mighty river rising in the great Cordillerian chain, and cleaving in its course to the ocean, the majestic Sierras that shut out California from the rest of the continent, and which the explorer's glowing fancy fondly pictured as freighted in the future with the argosies of a rich commerce—was never found; yet from the summit of the Sierras the proud Pioneer gazed upon a region which, although in its native primeval wilderness, gave a glorious promise of future opulence and greatness. Distance had not lent enchantment to the view, for on nearer approach it was found to be a land of wondrous fertility and surpassing loveliness.



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