

"Being unarmed, and therefore forming no part of the expedition, I started, with a few others, ahead of the main body, which consisted of about 150 men; but all were so eager to get on, that it was with the utmost difficulty we could keep the smallest distance in advance. We met several persons on the way, with later intelligence from the seat of war, but their accounts were all contradictory—some saying that the excitement was all over—others that there was immediate need of our services. However, on we pressed, determined not to stop short of the place for which we set out. On arriving at an encampment of Mexicans, one mile short of our destination, we were surprised to see its motley inhabitants very quietly seated in front of their brush hovels, playing monte and other games, as if nothing unusual had transpired. They, too, were none the less surprised to see the little column of armed men advancing toward them in close order; especially when they heard the general yell which was joined in by the American party as they marched on to—. Re-assured by this apparent calm, I hurried on to the town, reaching it some five or ten minutes in advance of the party. All appeared quiet and peaceful as ever. On the outskirts of the town I fell in with a well-dressed, gentlemanly, middle aged person, the Collector himself, as I afterwards ascertained, who wanted to know who it was thus approaching in martial array. I informed him of the circumstances, as I had heard and seen them, and, in my confidence that the whole affair was a mere humbug, ventured to deprecate the step which had been taken by the inhabitants of the gulch in marching over in so hasty a manner. It appeared, however, that I was rather reckoning without my host, for my gentleman said, in a stern manner, rather reproving me for my lack of faith, that he was glad to see "the boys" acting in so patriotic a manner, and, plucking his hat from his head and waving it in the air, he set up a hearty cheer, which was joined in by a few who had by this time arrived on the ground. I was now pretty certain that there would be some fun, so I hurried on and waited to see the little procession enter town. Soon it came along, headed by a life and drum, which by this time had been scared up, and, first and foremost by the glorious stars and stripes, borne aloft and waved very gracefully to and fro in the air by a patriotic inhabitant of the big city. Thus, with music sounding and banners waving, the little band marched through the whole length of the town, vociferously cheered all the way by the American inhabitants, who turned out *en masse* to see them. On arriving at the other end of town, the word "Forward by file left, march," was given, when the foremost man found himself headed off by a well stocked bar, whereat each one as he arrived was "liquored up." They were then counter-marched through town again, the same hospitality being extended at several places on the route, and were at length halted in front of the principal hotel, when my old friend, the Collector, mounted himself upon a pile of boxes and barrels, and commenced addressing the assembled crowd—"Gentlemen," said he, "it is not because I have been appointed by the government of this State the Collector of the Foreign Miners' Tax for

the County of —, BUT AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, that I congratulate myself and you, fellow-citizens of a free country, upon the glorious demonstration which you make here to-day. The laws of this State have been set at naught, and the persons and property of its citizens threatened, by an assemblage of armed foreigners, and immediately upon the receipt of the intelligence, you have hastened forward to succor your fellow-countrymen, and to support the outraged majesty of the laws. I am not going to make a speech to you, gentlemen, but I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration of your conduct upon this momentous occasion. After speaking for about ten minutes, amid vociferous cheering, he informed our little party that supper would be prepared for them that night, together with other parties from neighboring camps, and on the morrow "To BUSINESS." Accordingly all was soon bustle and hurry at the big hotel, waiters were busy skurrying to and fro, and all was busy preparation for a general meal. After an hour or so, which seemed an age to the hungry miners, the long tables were loaded down with eatables, and the word given to fall to; and fall to they did, in a manner only to be paralleled in California and in the mines.

"After supper the arms were all stowed away in a building temporarily devoted to the purpose of a guard house; a watch was set during the night, with regular reliefs; patrols were organized, and the city speedily assumed the appearance of being under martial law.

"Many and various were the reports circulated on that eventful night. According to some, the town was to be attacked and set fire to at different points. Rumors of assassination and massacre were fearfully rife, but at length morning dawned, and the country was discovered to be safe. Breakfast was spread out for us at the same hospitable board, and then all were assembled in the main street and divided into companies headed each by its captain and lieutenant. A column of some three hundred armed men in all was thus formed, which, headed by the Collector and the Sheriff of the County, commenced its march through the disaffected camps.

"Alas! as we marched along, what a scene of confusion and terror marked our way. Mexicans, Chilenos, *et id genus omne*—men, women and children—were all packing up and removing, bag and baggage, to go. Tents were being pulled down—houses and hovels gutted of their contents; mules, horses and jackasses were being hastily packed, while crowds upon crowds were already in full retreat. What could have been the object of our assembly, except as a demonstration of power and determination, I know not; but if intended as an engine of terror, it certainly had the desired effect, for it could be seen painted upon every countenance, and impelling every movement of the affrighted foreign population. However, on we marched, through all this dire confusion, peacefully pursuing our way, until we reached what was deemed to be the head-quarters of malcontent, a camp containing some thousands of Spanish-Americans, about four miles from the county seat. Here we were halted for the last time; liquored up, of course, for it was the month of