

In the main, it will be found to be strictly true. Where he has mentioned localities as being the harboring-places of Joaquín, he has meant invariably to say that persons *then* connected (at the date of the events narrated) with those localities stood in the doubtful position in which he has placed them.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The author in presenting this book to the public is aware that its chief merit consists in the reliability of the ground-work upon which it is based, and not in the beauty of its composition. He has tried to do a serious—rather than a light—work—and those who shall peruse it will find that the history of California, by preserving its historical truth and its integrity, is not a portion of those fragments which are made the mere ornaments of the student's library. He trusts that through all time, the work will be read as a standard, and that it is being done in a people who have an unshaken faith in its value. It has been written in a spirit of "truth to the truth," and not up a party line. It is at least an exception to the sweeping opinions in the character of a man who, had though he was possessed of all the skill of an unscrupulous campaigner, was believed to be a human being. Although the Mexicans may be whipped by every opposition, in a battle of ego against ego, yet no man who speaks the truth can ever deny that there lived our Mexican whose nerves were as true as the steel of danger and death.

The author has not thought that were one who would reflectively in without authority for his assertions.



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 100 N. BROAD ST. N. Y. C.