

PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF UPPER CALIFORNIA

The undersigned has the pleasure to announce the ratification of a Treaty of Peace & Friendship between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic, by which Upper California is ceded to the United States. The boundary separating this country from Lower California, "consists of a straight line drawn from the middle of the Rio Gila, where it unites with the Colorado, to a point on the coast of the Pacific Ocean distant one marine league south of the southermost point of the port of San Diego."

By the conditions of this treaty those residing within the limits of the Territory thus ceded, who may wish to become citizens of the United States, are absolved from all further allegiance to the Mexican Republic, and will, at the proper time, (to be judged of by the Congress of the United States), be incorporated into the Union, and admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights and privileges granted by the Constitution to American Citizens. Those who wish to retain the character of Mexicans will be at liberty to do so/ and also to retain their property in this territory or to dispose of it and remove the proceeds thereof wherever they please. But they must make their election within one year from the thirtieth day of May last and those who remain after the expiration of that year without declaring their intentions to retain such character, will be considered to have elected to become citizens of the United States. In the meantime they will be protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion. They, however, are reminded that as war no longer exists and as Upper Calif^a now belongs to the United States, they owe a strict obedience to the American Authorities, and any attempt on their part to disturb the peace and tranquility of the country will subject them to the severest penalties.

The Undersigned has received instructions from Washington to take proper measures for the permanent occupation of the newly acquired territory. The Congress of the United States (to whom alone this power belongs), will soon confer upon the people of this country the constitutional rights of citizens of the United States; and no doubt in a few short months we shall have a regularly organized territorial government; indeed, there is every reason to believe that Congress has already passed the act and that a civil government is now on its way to this country to replace that which has been organized under the rights of conquest. Such territorial government will establish all local laws and regulations which, within the scope of its legitimate powers, it may deem necessary for the public welfare. In the meantime the present civil Officers of the country will continue in the exercise of their functions as heretofore; and when vacancies exist or may occur they will be filled by regular elections held by the people of the several towns and districts, due notice of such elections being previously given. The existing laws of the country will necessarily continue in force till others are made to supply their place.

From this new order of things there will result to California a new destiny; instead of revolutions and insurrections there will be internal tranquility; instead of a ^kfickle and vacillating policy, there will be a firm and stable government, administering justice with impartiality, and punishing crime with the strong arm of power. -- The arts & sciences will flourish, and the labors of the agriculturist, guided by the lamp of learning, will stimulate the earth to the most bountiful production. Commerce, freed from the absurd restrictions formerly imposed, will be greatly extended; the choaked channels of trade will be opened; and the poisoned fountains of domestic factions forever dried up. Americans and Californians will now be one and the same people,

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subject to the same laws, and enjoying the same rights and privileges. They should therefore become a band of brothers, emulating each other in their exertions to develop the wealth and resources, and to secure the peace, happiness, and permanent prosperity, of their common Country.

Done at Monterey, California, this 7th day of August. 1848

R. B. Mason. Col. & Drag. Gov of Calif^a ✓