

# When San Jose Was Young

A Series of Interesting Articles of An Historical Nature Prepared Especially for The News by a Well Known Author and Journalist.

## NO. 67 WAR IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY

### PART I

In 1825 Mexico won her independence. In the month of October of that year the citizens of San Jose were summoned by the alcalde to go into the plaza and swear to take an oath of allegiance to Mexico. All the Dons and their sons came, raised their hands, and took the oath. The flag of Spain fell, never again to fly over San Jose. Amid booming of cannon the flag of Mexico rose. There was bull fighting and a great gilt day.

The new flag was never popular among the Dons. Many had come to California direct from Spain, they had little liking for the Spaniards who had preceded them and had allowed their blood to be mixed with that of the natives.

In Mexico government is seldom stable. Revolution succeeded revolution, but peace prevailed in the Santa Clara Valley until Governor Alvarado and General Vallejo carried on a little war in the early forties. Alvarado complained of Vallejo, and Vallejo of Alvarado. Each tried to have the other ousted.

In 1842 both were bitterly disappointed. General Micheltorena arrived in San Diego from Mexico vested with

the civil and military power. Both Alvarado and Vallejo were disgruntled. They regretted the royal government. "Mexico doesn't pay her debts, Spain did," they said. On taking stock of their emotions, Alvarado and Vallejo found that they hated Micheltorena more than they hated each other. They decided to unite with General Castro and drive Micheltorena from California.

The Americans took part in this revolt. Sutter of Sutter's Fort led 100 Americans and foreigners against Alvarado, but before they fought they obtained grants of land from Micheltorena. Alvarado, Vallejo and Castro declared California independent. Micheltorena took the field to quell the insurrection. He captured San Juan Bautista and advanced to within ten miles of San Jose, near Morgan Hill. When he heard that San Jose and Santa Clara were opposed to him he retreated. General Castro took possession of San Juan Bautista, and had his headquarters in the house since known as the General Castro house at San Juan. It is now owned by the Breen family. Soon Micheltorena was advised to leave California. Pío Pico became governor, and Jose Castro general, with headquarters at Monterey.