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FATHER ANTONIO PEYRI (Aet 61)

Missionary at San Luis Rey Upper California.

from 1799 to 1832.

Printed by Smith, Elder & Co. Cornhill.

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CALIFORNIA:

A HISTORY

OF

UPPER AND LOWER CALIFORNIA

FROM THEIR FIRST DISCOVERY TO THE PRESENT TIME,

COMPRISING

AN ACCOUNT OF

THE CLIMATE, SOIL, NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,
AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE,
&c.

A FULL VIEW OF

THE MISSIONARY ESTABLISHMENTS AND CONDITION
OF THE FREE AND DOMESTICATED INDIANS.

WITH AN APPENDIX RELATING TO

STEAM NAVIGATION IN THE PACIFIC.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A NEW MAP, PLANS OF THE HARBOURS,
AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

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BY ALEXANDER FORBES, ESQ



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LONDON:

SMITH, ELDER AND CO. CORNHILL.

1839.

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TO

JOHN FORBES, M.D. F.R.S.

&c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I herewith send you, such as it is, my work on California, in which I have attempted to give some account of that very remarkable and little-known country. If, on perusing my papers, you deem them worthy of publication, let them be published; but, in that case, you must not only be the Editor of my book but its foster-father: and as it usually happens with adopted children that they are more indebted to those who train them to manhood than to those who give them existence, so it may well be that my "California", if found to possess any merit by the public, shall owe more to your care than to the capability of its original author. I need not tell you how little accustomed

I am to literary labours of any kind; and you well know that my present position puts it even out of my power to take advantage of those emendations or improvements which are apt to suggest themselves during the progress of a work through the press. In all these things, then, I claim the help of your more experienced hand, and trust implicitly to your judgment and kindness.

Should you decide on publishing my history of California, I request that you will place this letter at its head, as a DEDICATION to yourself; as, whatever be its fate as a book, I am most desirous that it should, at least, bear witness to all those of its readers who know either you or me, with what sincere esteem and regard

I always am, my dear Brother,

Yours faithfully and affectionately,

ALEXANDER FORBES.

Tepic, 22nd. October, 1835.

P R E F A C E.

THE chief part of the following work was transmitted from Mexico to the editor three years ago. Circumstances, which it is unnecessary here to mention, deferred its publication to the present time. This delay, although in some respects to be regretted, has been attended with several advantages. It has enabled the author to forward to the editor some additional matter of importance, particularly the account of the recent declaration of independence by California. This and other additions have been inserted in their proper places.

In another respect, also, the delay in the publication has perhaps been rather fortunate than otherwise. The changed relations of California with Mexico, and the new relations with other states thence likely to accrue;—the existing position of Mexico in regard both to France and England;—and, above all, the great interest just now excited in the commercial world by the projected