

**THE AMULET: A
TALE OF SPANISH
CALIFORNIA**

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The amulet: a tale of Spanish California by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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CALIFORNIA**

A TALE
OF
SPANISH CALIFORNIA.

LONDON
PRINTED BY SPOTTISWOODE AND CO.
NEW-STREET SQUARE

THE AMULET:

A TALE OF SPANISH CALIFORNIA.

By THE MAN

WHO MADE



THIS CIPUS

To

WILLIAM PANDORGE.



LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1865.

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PREFACE.

THE accompanying Tale makes no claim to the character of an elaborate work of fiction. It was compiled rather than written, during short intervals of leisure, from a variety of memoranda and notes relating to the people, social habits, occupations, sports, and physical characteristics of the lower part of Alta-California.

In the year 1852 this was a thinly-populated country, solely devoted to the raising of cattle and horses. The proprietors of the soil were mostly native Californians of Spanish or Mexican descent, their labourers and herdsmen being either half-castes or of pure Indian blood.

From the 37th parallel of latitude southwards, the social aspect of the country was unchanged by its cession to the United States. The tide of enterprise, and the new race of Anglo-Americans,

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1040
1144

which entered the country by the harbour of San Francisco, set northwards towards the gold region; only a few gentlemen settling around San José, or on the southern shores of the great bay.

The wealth of the great Rancheros (or cattle-graziers) was increased ten-fold, owing to the demand for cattle in the now populous gold region of the north. This, however, was in some measure balanced by a heavy land-tax imposed by the United States Government.

The sketches of social life, of physical geography and scenery, as well as any notices of the vegetable or animal inhabitants of the country, are based on personal observation, and may be confirmed by reference to the latter part of Mr. Froebel's valuable work on 'Central America, Mexico, and the Far West of the United States.'

CONTENTS.



	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
LOS OJITOS (THE LITTLE SPRINGS)	1
CHAPTER II.	
EL DORADO	9
CHAPTER III.	
A CHECK	14
CHAPTER IV.	
A CROSS	26
CHAPTER V.	
CUPID <i>VERSUS</i> PAN	36
CHAPTER VI.	
FORTUNE SMILES	45
CHAPTER VII.	
A MELODIOUS CHAPTER	57