

the cause that led it to risk destruction. This seems to be the great and all-powerful instinctive passion of these wild animals, and frequently retains them within reach of the deadly rifle. Considering the quantity of game, the success attendant on our tyro hunters was not equal to their anticipations, and convinced them that it is much easier to bring down an elk in anticipation than in reality. The accidents were few, and only one annoyance was experienced, in the chase of a skunk, which obliged the officer to part with his clothes. The wild-fowl scarcely claimed attention, the elk and large animals being so abundant. The flesh of the elk was much preferred by the party to that of the deer.

On the 6th, the survey being finished down to this point, they descended the river, on their return to the ship. On the 8th, they had arrived at the mouth of the river, and the Straits of Kaquines. On the 9th, at midnight, they reached the Vincennes, after an absence of twenty days. Subsequent to this date, on the 20th, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold proceeded again, with six boats, to examine the bay of San Pablo, and the streams that flow into it, and also up the San Joachim, until it branched off to the southward and eastward. This party returned to the ship on the 29th.

Whilst the Vincennes was at Sausalito, the officers made visits to the different places around, and received many persons on board, priests as well as laymen; and as their estancias or mission-houses were far removed, they became guests for a longer time than was agreeable to most of the officers. A Californian needs no pressing to stay, as long as he is pleased with the place; and that he should be so, it is not necessary to furnish him with luxuries: he is content with coarse fare, provided he can get enough of strong drink to minister to his thirst. I have already spoken of the great consumption of spirits that is said to take place in this country; and from the experience we had of it, the accounts certainly are not exaggerated. The palm for intemperance was, I think, generally given to the padres, some of whom, notwithstanding their clerical robes, did ample justice to every drinkable offered them; and so well were they pleased, that some of them made a visit of three days' duration, and were even then disinclined to leave. It is not to be denied that they left the same impression of their characters on board that it has been heretofore said they bear on shore. The officers all seemed disposed to draw a veil over the conduct to which they were witnesses, and I will not be the one to raise it, as it can be of little benefit, and might perhaps be applicable to only a few of the order.

Our intercourse with Señor Martinez and his family was much