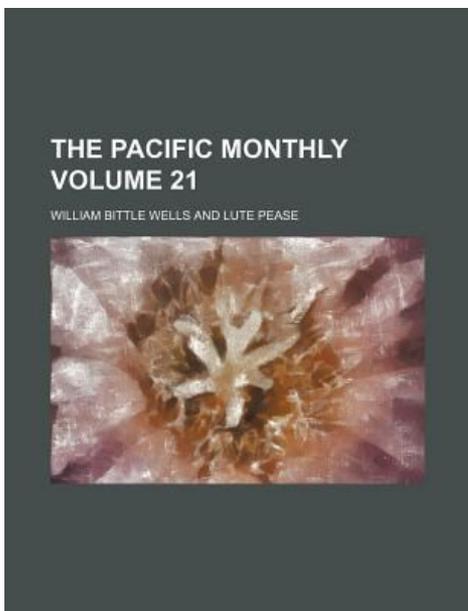


The Pacific Monthly Volume 21

William Bittle Wells



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1908 Excerpt: ...of England, who had been my patron before, and whose magnificent collections of natural history specimens at the museum on the Rothschilds Estate at Tring, Herts, England, are among the finest in the world. I was immediately cabled to make the try, and you can be sure I at once set the mills to grinding, for I had been at Guadaloupe, in company with the late VV. E. Bryant of the California Academy of Sciences, in 1885, making a collections of birds, and our hopes had then run in the direction of elephant seals, aa it was thought that the island might possibly be the home of a remnant of the practically exterminated beast but we saw no evidence of their existence. TOD08 SANTOS BAY AND TOWN OK KNSRNADA, THE CAPITAL OF LOWER fBAJA) CALIFORNIA. I was very anxious to accomplish what we had failed in twenty-two years before, the lapse of time lending added value to success. I will not dwell on several tiresome weeks spent at San Diego in an attempt to secure a vessel flying Old Glory. The maritime laws of Mexico are very peculiar. Foreign vessels of under thirty tons are rated as pirates and not allowed ordinary American privileges, without a special permit from Mexico Citv. This I did not want to wait for, and as I could find no sailing master willing to take a chance at being overhauled as a pi-rate by a Mexican war vessel, I was obliged to accept the opportunity offered to charter a small vessel at San Quentin, a small port some 200 miles south of San Diego. Just about this time the Mexican, Ignacio, who had informed me of the seals, came into San Diego as one of the crew of a Mexican vessel hailing from Guaymas. I at once enlisted him in my service, and on the evening of May 8, accompanied by Ignacio and V. L. Carroll, of Buffalo, who was to go...

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