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The Weekly Arizonian, Tubac,

4/ 7/ 59, 3:2

Communicated.

We copied from a San Francisco paper, some weeks since, an account of the arrest and murder of several sick Americans, and the singular imprisonment of Mr. Ainsa. In this barbarous affair the name of Gen. Gabilaondo was extensively mixed up. That gentle man, however, denies any part in the massacre. In reference to the trial and imprisonment of Mr. Ainsa he says nothing. The following is Gen. Gabilondo's card:

MR. EDITOR: It has come to my hearing that the American populace charge me with the execution of the unfortunate men who perished at Caborca the 7th of April, 1857, at the time of Crabb's invasion, but I did not give such an order, and therefore I do not want this unjust charge to weigh upon me.

On the 28th of March, of said year, I undertook my march from the Capitol with a piquet of infantry, and at the same time, the commander of the advanced guard, D. Jose Maria Giron, who arrived at Caborca on the 6th of said month.

The Americans gave themselves up without any condition. After the rendition had taken place, I put them in one of the houses of the town, and reported the incidents to my superior, who gave me orders to have every one shot on the following day. So as not to witness so bad a spectacle, I immediately sent to Major Manuel

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Elias Pro, for an escort of fifteen dragoons and after having taken from among the prisoners the youngest one, Charles Evans, I proceeded at once to Altar to procure funds, wherefrom I returned two days afterwards, in which time all the prisoners had been shot.

I do not want anybody to understand that by making this statement I have any other object than to manifest the event such as it happened. As a subaltern officer, in case I had been the only one, I would anyhow have obeyed the orders of my Government, considering that the duty of every officer is to obey without having a right to investigate the case.

The boy who was saved by me, visited the school and lived with my family, until he preferred to return to California.

I have seen in the "Arizonian" of the 10th of March, an article which compels me to answer, and present such documents as will disprove all that is stated therein, which is much exaggerated.

H. H. GABILONDO.

Magdalena, March 20, 1859.

J. M. AINSA.

CRABBE EXPEDITION.

Arizonian, 3/10/59, 1-2.

Suffering of an American in the Prisons of Sonora ----

In March, 1857, J.M.Ainsa, brother-in-law of Col. Crabbe, who with his party was massacred, had charge of a store at a place called Buena Vista, within the limits of Arizona, and about three miles from the Mexican line. On the night of the 13th of April, several days after the massacre of Col. Crabbe's party, a body of 35 armed Mexican soldiers came over the line, surrounded the store, and took prisoners Mr. Ainsa and four sick emigrants, who had not been able to go forward with Col. Crabbe.--These sick Americans were named Charles Harrison, John Bunker, Charles Parker, and Thomas Long, all of Tuolumne Co. Cal. Ainsa made preparations for defence, but, upon the most positive assurances of the commander of the Mexican soldiers, Arviso, and the other officers, of good treatment, they yielded. The four sick men were almost immediately taken out of the house and murdered, and the store robbed. Ainsa was taken to Cavorca (sic) by the orders of General Gabilondo. The journey occupied two days and nights, and was otherwise a severe one---- The Mexican party with their prisoner on a mule, was received on the plaza with a salute of twenty-one guns. Gabilondo then had Ainsa taken before Jesus Rivera, Justice of the Peace, who held his court in a long hall, decorated throughout with scarlet tapestry. The officers, too, were all draped

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in red clothes. Gabilondo preferred his charges against Ainsa in blasphemous terms. It was in substance that he had harbored and succored a portion of Col. Crabbe's party. Ainsa was condemned to death and sent to prison to prepare for his fate. Overcome with excitement and fatigue, he fell asleep, and in that state Gabilondo called at the prison, and, upon being told that he was asleep, expressed the greatest astonishment and said it was a pity such a man should be shot. Then, in soliloquy, he said, "Shoot him ! Shall I shoot him or not ? I will not do it !" So his life was spared. He was given up to the military authorities again, and taken to Altar, twenty-five miles distant, under guard of riflemen. He rode on a mule without saddle or bridle, and entered the town with his back to the mule's head, by his own choice, the commander of the escort leaving him free to shift his position from time to time and smoke his pipe. The populace not demanding his death at Altar, he was escorted to Hermosillo, where he was placed in solitary confinement. Next he was sent to Guaymas, and turned over to the civil authorities, and by the District Court of Sonora sentenced to five years' banishment, after he had been compelled to sign a confession he had never made. After having been in prison about sixteen months, without being allowed to communicate with the American Minister, or any consul, he was unexpectedly sent to Mazatlan, a free man. He remained there twenty four days without molestation. He

then proceeded to San Blas, where he had to wait fifteen days for a passage to San Francisco.

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California Historical Society Quarterly, Sept. 1930, p. 28.

California Pantan Cock. (The diary of Charles F. DeLong, Note 83

.... On this day (March 23, 1858) DeLong (member of the 9th California Legislature) introduced a resolution in relation to the release of J.M. Ainsa in Sonora Mexico, reading as follows:

Whereas. J.M. Ainsa, an American citizen, pursuing a peaceful occupation on American soil, was, on the night of the tenth or eleventh of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, arrested by an armed band of Mexicans, at the store of Messrs Pelknap & Dunbar, in the Gadsden Purchase, and conducted thence, a prisoner in chains to Termosillo, and thence to the port of Guaymas, in Sonora, where he has since been detained as captive, and Whereas. It is the duty of the American Government, at all times and under all circumstances, to protect the lives and property of its citizens, Therefore

Be it resolved, That the Governor of California be instructed, and he is hereby authorized, to communicate with the President of the United States, setting forth the facts, and such other testimony as may be furnished him in the premises, and requesting that officer to use the power of the general Government, so far as he is able, to effect the release of the said Ainsa and his restoration to all the rights and immunities of which he was possessed before said arrest and imprisonment.

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