

## THE OLD CANNON.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL  
TAKE CARE OF THEM.

They Were Fired All One Day And Only  
Killed a Mule—An Interesting Lot of  
Facts About Them.

Everybody has seen the old cannon on the courthouse steps and at the southwest corner of Main and Commercial streets. Various propositions have been discussed in reference to the disposition of these old guns, but the matter has been finally decided that they shall pass into the possession of the Historical Society of Southern California, which is the proper custodian of all relics pertaining to the history of this section of the country.

Mr. B. A. Stephens, the accomplished secretary of the Historical society, yesterday gave a HERALD reporter the following account of the old weapons:

20 These were among the guns brought here by the Spaniards. They were used by Governor Pio Pico in the battle of the Alamo, north of Cahuenga pass, on February 24, 1845, when he contested with Governor Manuel Micheltorena for the supremacy, and won by promising Micheltorena's gringos all the land they wanted. These old guns were fired all day, with no other casualty than the death of a mule.

When Commodore Stockton landed at San Pedro, on August 6, 1846, General José Castro and the Mexican army were encamped on the mesa just east of the city, and had these guns with them. On the 10th General Castro and Governor Pico concluded that the best interests of their country demanded their personal presence in Mexico, and they hastily fled, Castro going by way of Yuma, and Pico by way of San Diego and Muleje. Before Castro went he had these old guns buried on the mesa.

Stockton entered the city on the 13th, and hoisted the American flag over the government house, which is now the St. Charles hotel. On September 5th he left for the north, after having placed Lieutenant A. H. Gillespie in command of the garrison at Los Angeles. Lieutenant Gillespie found where the old guns were on the mesa, and had them dug up and brought back into the city.

Gillespie acted in a tyrannical manner toward the Mexican population, and the result was an insurrection on the 23d of September, headed by Don Sèrbulo Barelàs, the maternal grandfather of Hon. R. F. Del Valle. J. W. Marshall, afterward the discoverer of gold at Coloma, was one of Gillespie's soldiers. He took some nitric acid, and opened one of the touch-holes of one of the cannon, and it was hastily taken to the top of Fort hill, on the morning after the outbreak, just in time to prevent Barelàs from planting his own cannon there, which Gillespie had failed to get, the famous "woman's gun," so called because it had been hidden by Doña <sup>Clara Catalina</sup> Inocencia Reyes in her garden on Alameda street, at the time of Stockton's first approach.

Gillespie only held out one week, when he capitulated to Barelàs, who allowed him to march out with all the honors of war. Gillespie took with him these four old cannon, now seen on the streets, and sunk them in the ocean off San Pedro. José Mascarel was one of his men who help to break off their cascabels and spike them. In 1849 B. D. Wilson, the deceased father-in-law of Hon. J. de Barth Shorb, had the old guns fished up and brought back to Los Angeles, and planted them for corner posts in front of his store, where is now the Farmers & Merchants bank. Two of them remain there yet. When the centennial celebration of the city was held in 1881, two of them were taken up by the citizens, and mounted and placed on the court house steps, where they remained until their mountings were worn out, and they recently fell down.

The Historical society will take the old guns in a few days and store them, and they will prove a valuable ornament to their future home.

— Los Angeles Daily Herald,  
Feb. 24, 1891.

Los Angeles, California,  
March 23, 1891,

At the request of Lieutenant Baker, I hereby certify that the foregoing account of the four old cannon in this city is a truthful narrative (as above corrected), as compiled from the archives of the Historical Society of Southern California, and from interviews of Don José Mascarel and Don Stephen C. Foster, residents of Los Angeles in 1846-7, and still living here.  
(Signed:) B. A. Cecil Stephens, Secretary H. S. S. C.