

# “I See a Great Future for the City”

## Kate Field’s Visit to San Diego in 1888

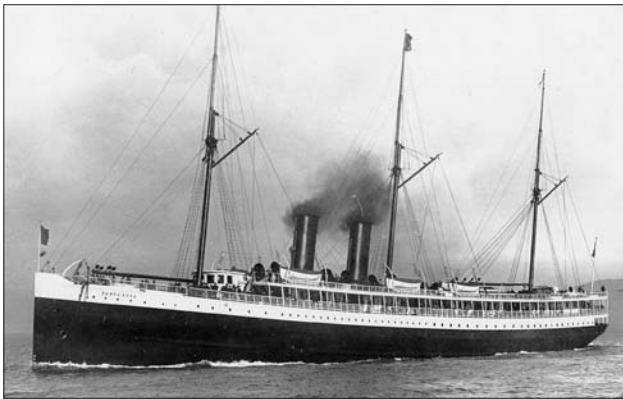
Gary Scharnhorst

Although she is virtually unknown today, Kate Field (1838-1896) was “one of the best-known women in America” during her life, according to her obituary in the *New York Tribune*.<sup>1</sup> A member of the expatriate community in Florence in the late 1850s, she befriended the Brownings, the Trollopes, and Walter Savage Landor while she was still in short dresses. She covered Charles Dickens’s final American speaking tour in 1867-68 for the *New York Tribune* and published her account of the trip under the title *Pen Photographs of Charles Dickens’s Readings* (1868). A popular lecturer and prolific writer, author of the best-selling travel books *Hap-Hazard* (1873) and *Ten Days in Spain* (1874), Field was also the model for the character of the journalist Henrietta Stackpole in Henry James’s novel *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881).<sup>2</sup> More to the point, Field visited San Diego and Ensenada for seven weeks in February-March 1888, and the record of her visit silhouettes the region at the height of the local “boom” here and in Lower California.

Field left New York on the longest lecture tour of her career in January 1887. She spent February in the Great



Carte de visite photographic portrait of Kate Field, ca. 1870s, from the Cairns Collection of American Women Writers. Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Field arrived in San Diego on the Pacific Coast Steam Ship Company’s steamer *Santa Rosa*, pictured here off Point Loma in 1890. The ship carried passengers between San Francisco and San Diego for over eighteen years. ©SDHS, #1857.

Lakes states; March in Kansas and Nebraska; April and May in Colorado and Utah; June in the Pacific Northwest; most of July in Alaska; and August through December in San Francisco. In January 1888 she headed south to Santa Barbara, then in early February to San Diego. She arrived on the steamer *Santa Rosa* in the evening of February 7 and immediately ferried

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across the bay to Coronado Island, where she registered at the Hotel Josephine, a three-story, Eastlake style building on Orange Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. A reporter for the *San Diego Bee* was waiting for her there, though Field rebuffed his attempt at an interview. She had docked at half-past seven, she explained, and “it is now 9,” so her “knowledge [of the area] is limited to the wharf and an omnibus.” She begged for a chance to tour the city before she was asked to express an opinion of it, though like a civic booster she declared that she expected the city to prosper — it was “the manifest destiny of the Pacific Coast” — through tourism and investment. She planned to linger several weeks “in order to become acquainted with this marvelous State,” particularly with its southern part. “I want to see San Diego thoroughly and shall be glad to be shown the way, as I come a perfect ignoramus.”<sup>3</sup> A reporter for the *San Diego Union* also pressed her for comment, and she finally acknowledged that San Francisco “needs to recognize in San Diego a rival.” The progress of southern California, she thought, was “wonderful and very interesting, and I shall know more about it after I have seen your city by daylight.”<sup>4</sup>

A day or two later she began to speak her mind. With a population of about 35,000, San Diego and Coronado Beach in the winter of 1888 boasted five daily newspapers (the *Bee*, *San Diegan*, *Union*, *Sun*, and the *Coronado Mercury*), and Field was repeatedly interviewed by each of them during her visit. She told the *Sun* on February 8 that “she likes the town, the climate, and the people,”<sup>5</sup> and she informed the *Union* the same day that she was “delighted with the climate here.



*Hotel Josephine, located on Orange Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets, Coronado, ca. 1898. ©SDHS,*

The temperature is remarkably equable throughout the day and night."<sup>6</sup> As she wrote her friend Lilian Whiting in Boston:

Coronado Beach is across the bay from San Diego and is well situated for view of ocean and mountain. The day is lovely, and as I look out upon mountain, sunshine, and the glitter of a placid sea, I wish you were here to enjoy its loveliness. An Eastern woman is playing Mendelssohn extremely well in the adjoining parlor. *Les extremes se touchent* [the extremes touch]. I know *you* would exclaim at the fine scenery, the delightful air, the glorious sun, delicious fruit, and the general *dolce far niente* [pleasant idleness].

Over and over again I wish you were here. It is so lovely and so lazy. I can't do anything—not even write a letter without an effort. The work I came here to do remains undone, and I am desperate in one sense while utterly indifferent in another.<sup>7</sup>

On February 9, Field toured the new and fashionable Hotel del Coronado on the southern shore of the peninsula. It would not officially open its doors until February 14, but some guests had already registered. Field promised to transfer her lodgings there in a few days,<sup>8</sup> but she did not, probably because the rooms were too expensive. Besides, she was satisfied with her accommodations at the Hotel Josephine.

For better or worse, Field was regarded during her residence in San Diego not only as a professional travel writer but as something of a travel expert, and so she was expected both to comment on the attractions of the region and on how to enhance them. Privately, she allowed that she was more impressed with San Diego than with Santa Barbara. "The climate is drier and the nights and mornings are less cool," as she wrote a friend in San Francisco. "Coronado Beach will soon be very attractive. Send your friends to my hotel which is pretty, clean and quiet."<sup>9</sup> Publicly, she warned against the threatened industrialization and commercialization of the island. It was "a beautiful little place—a regular little gem—and you might have here an ideal spot, but I don't like the notions of foundries and factories, and oil refineries and



The Hotel del Coronado opened for business in February 1888. ©SDHS, #OP 16114-2.



Field described Coronado as a "pretty, clean, restful spot" that "should be kept entirely for fine residences, beautiful gardens, and lovely drives." View along A Avenue, Coronado, 1888. ©SDHS, #1292.

machine shops coming here. Coronado is such a pretty, clean, restful spot that it should be kept entirely for fine residences, beautiful gardens, and lovely drives, and it is a mistake to contaminate its Heavenly breezes and Edenic sunshine with the smoke and dirt of iron works." Coronado should become "the abode of artists and scholars," she declared, like such bohemian enclaves in the East as Saratoga Springs and Greenwich Village.<sup>10</sup> In their history *Coronado: The Enchanted Island*, Katherine Carlin and Ray Brandes quote some of these comments by Field, whom they describe as "a noted authoress and lecturer of her day."<sup>11</sup> As for San Diego, Field added, "I really think Old Town is the best place over there. The ruins of the old Mission are very attractive to me, and already I have visited there several times since I came here, and I hope to go many times more." She criticized the myopic members of the San Diego City Council, who had "well-nigh ruined" the route to Old Town by granting overlapping franchises to steam motor lines and railways and then proposing "to build a fine boulevard parallel with their tracks."<sup>12</sup> Still, Field predicted "a great future for the city, and there is no reason why a great commercial center will not develop here in time." She also expected San Diego to become an agricultural center. Though the city at that time had to import "fruits and vegetables to supply the demand," Field noted that many local Chinese farmers were planting "vegetable gardens, and they will become rich in a short time at the business."<sup>13</sup> She also recognized the strategic value of San Diego harbor, potentially the most important port south of San Francisco.

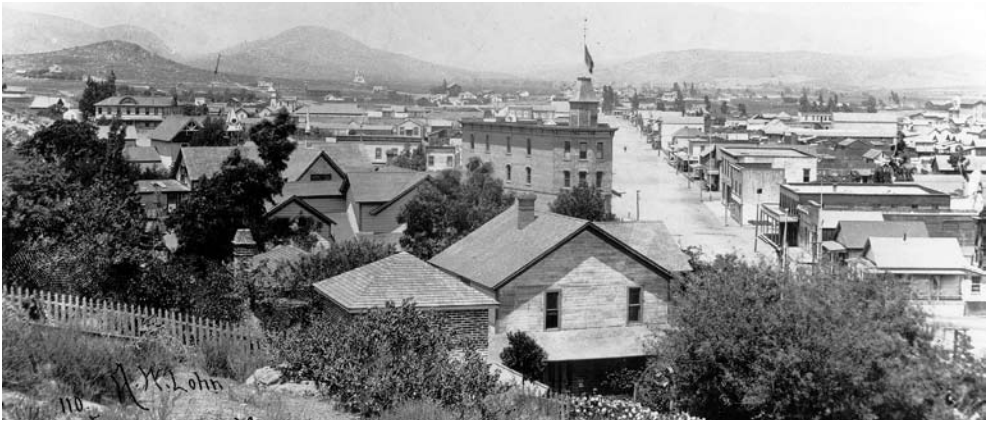
As for the vexing problem of potable water, Field offered a suggestion. To be sure, some people "can drink lime-water and be benefited thereby, but many more are seriously injured." In fact, she insisted, bad water may do "as much harm in its way as bad whisky." But the residents of the city "have the remedy in their own hands if they choose to use it." While the water channeled from the mountains may be "freighted with lime," she wrote:

Heaven sends you rain, pure and soft and health-giving. Every house should have its cistern, and *if* every house *had* a cistern, nobody would be obliged to drink lime in solution. Were it known to travelers that soft water was provided at all hotels and boarding-houses, many an invalid would gladly come to breathe your balmy air. . . . The dew or fog or whatever you please to call the moisture in the air on this coast is sufficient, if caught, to supply every family with soft water.

Field cited the example of J. B. Elliott, a former railroad official credited with planting the cypress and eucalyptus trees along the rail corridor from Leucadia to the ocean. Elliott lived half a mile from the beach and had never dug a well because "his cistern supplies all the water necessary for domestic purposes." His 2400 square foot roof captured 140 gallons of water every day, over 51,000 gallons per year "without counting the rainfall." Similarly, the Hotel Josephine supplied its guests with drinking water from a cistern. Though they "bathe in hard water," Field noted, "they drink rainwater twice filtered, and thus avoid laying the seed of ill-health."<sup>14</sup>

On February 16 she sailed on the steamer *Montserrat* for Ensenada in company with former Nevada congressman Thomas Fitch and his wife.<sup>15</sup> The region had recently been opened to immigration by the International Company of Mexico, a





Field found herself to be "agreeably disappointed" by Ensenada, shown here ca. 1885. She looked forward to the construction of a 600-room hotel at Punta Banda. ©SDHS, #81:11110.

U. S.-Mexico partnership dominated by American businessmen. On board she "met prominent railroad officials who had come from the East with their families; I met brilliant lawyers, shrewd capitalists and charming women, all bound for what the old Mission fathers christened more than a hundred years ago *Tierra Perfecta*."<sup>16</sup> Field registered at the new Hotel Iturbide in Ensenada with its magnificent view of the bay of Todos Santos. "Here I am on Mexican ground—only 65 miles south of San Diego and yet out of my own country!" as she wrote her friend Laurence Hutton.<sup>17</sup> With a population of about 1,400, Ensenada was "prettily situated," but the cuisine there was "not what it ought to be. Fancy living on salt water and having no fish!"<sup>18</sup> Still, she had met "unusually agreeable people" in the town, "some of whom I had either known or long heard of in New York society."<sup>19</sup>

On February 20, she was interviewed by telephone by the *San Diego Bee*. "I am agreeably disappointed" by Ensenada, she admitted. "I was told that I'd be disgusted in half an hour. I've been here four days and I'm not disgusted yet."<sup>20</sup> The bay "is beautiful, and the finest bit of it, to my thinking, is Punta Banda," a prominence on the southern side, which she predicted would eventually become a popular resort for Mexican and American tourists. "The scenery is fine, and the estuary at this point forms a lake that will be capital for boating and fishing. Close beside this lake is a hot spring of great medicinal value, while back of it rise hills, most easy to climb, and from the top of which there is a beautiful view of the Pacific coast." The journalist Charles Nordhoff (1830-1901), author of *California for Health, Pleasure, and Residence* (1872) and *Peninsular California* (1888), had purchased a thousand acre ranch near Punta Banda where "he threatens to build himself a retreat from the madding crowd," and his son, Walter Nordhoff (1855-1937), had "a farm of 100 acres in the valley near by." The American hosteller Gabriel S. Erb (1843-1895) also planned to erect a 600-room hotel in Punta Banda as soon as a pier was completed.<sup>21</sup> "The intended big hotel at Punta Banda," she declared, "will undoubtedly be a capital resort for Mexicans and Americans."<sup>22</sup> On February 25 she again went to Punta Banda for a clambake and "tea squall" and to enjoy the "sun and mountain and sea and peaches in bloom!"<sup>23</sup>

Between February 20 and 24 she toured the San Rafael valley. "One beautiful morning I sat in a buckboard behind two roadsters" bound for the valley twenty-



*American mining engineer George Playter Brown brought his family to Baja California in 1900. Field anticipated that the discovery of gold and other minerals would attract colonization and development firms. ©SDHS, #13638-5.1.*

six miles east of Ensenada, as she later reminisced. "Up mountain and down," they traveled until noon before eating lunch "on the ground in the pneumoniac month of February!" Field was impressed by the commercial potential of San Rafael valley, "twenty miles long north and south and ten miles wide" with a flowing river "and more than one marsh" indicating "how near water lives to the surface of the earth." With good reason, she thought a gold rush to the region was imminent. "Toward the north end of the valley sleeps the small town of Real del Castillo," she explained. A generation before

there rose up this Mexican town with the hope of great fortune. Much gold was found and successfully extracted at a primitive mill adjoining the town, but . . . mines, to be properly worked, need capital; thus it comes to pass that the fecund mountains of San Rafael have been left almost undisturbed. But the coyotes will not be masters of the situation much longer. The prospector is going in with his pick. Mining companies are already setting up claims.<sup>24</sup>

Field predicted that the coming gold rush in Lower California, "a boom that will surprise many people in California," would "do more toward opening up the country than all the advertising in the world" by insuring the construction of railroads. San Diego would benefit, too, because "all the supplies, for the present at least, will have to be sent into the lower country from and through the city." Field conceded that "some San Diegans will be greatly disgusted to read so much praise of their next door neighbors," but "I believe in telling what to me is truth" and "I also believe that Southern California and the entire Pacific Coast will be benefited by additional emigrations."<sup>25</sup>

Though rich in minerals, the valley was even better suited to farming than to mining, according to Field. "Nature has dedicated the fifty thousand acres of San Rafael valley to agriculture," she explained. "Portions of the soil are a rich black loam with clay subsoil, while other portions consist of fine comminuted granite. Cereals, grasses, roots and every fruit but such belong to the citreous family can easily be raised, while all kinds of stock thrive with no danger of drought." While gazing across "the cañon, sheltered from winds and rich in foliage," she imagined



Baja California, ca. 1900. ©SDHS, #13638-5.3.

“a not distant future when its fertile valley would be the home of the olive and the walnut, and its hills would be terraced with grape vines.” Had the valley been located in San Diego county “instead of being seventy-six miles south of it in Mexican territory,” she averred, “there would be much beating of drums and tooting of horns.” In all, the San Rafael valley was “capital farming country, and will soon be inhabited by thrifty farmers, the only people who ought to think of going into that region—unless it be a few mechanics and carpenters.”<sup>26</sup>

Field was so enthusiastic about the prospects for Lower California that, an unapologetic economic imperialist, she recommended that the U.S. buy the peninsula from Mexico just as William Seward had bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. It belonged, she insisted, “to us by necessity.”<sup>27</sup> Field was hardly the first person to express this idea. The original draft of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ceded Lower California to the United States, and the notorious freebooter William Walker planned in 1853 eventually to join his self-proclaimed and slave-holding “Republic of Lower California” to the U.S. Similarly, Field asserted that the “comparatively unknown peninsula” might legally be owned by Mexico, but it was “more remote from [Mexico] than from the United States.” She expected that eventually the Mexican government, “seeing the absurdity of holding onto a peninsula she cannot reach overland except by going through our territory and which she will never develop,” would sell it. Indeed, “President Díaz has already sold eighteen million acres to the International Company of Mexico.”<sup>28</sup> Field approved wholeheartedly of the elaborate colonization scheme sponsored by the Company. It was, she said, “a magnificent enterprise.” The promised internal improvements would require “time, money, and brains,” but “I have faith.” The Mexican Government seemed no less determined than the American investors to make “the International Company’s grand scheme a success. Let the piers be finished at Ensenada and Punta Banda and the railroad be built to Yuma and Lower California will cease to be an unknown country.” Field was at pains to assure her friends that, unlike their countrymen to the east, “the Mexicans of Lower California are an amiable, peaceable people, from whom little trouble need be expected.”<sup>29</sup> The local people were so docile, she suggested, that they could easily be trained to perform all domestic labor: the “amiable Mexican and Indian women” can be “taught far more readily than can the common variety of emigrant that condescends to serve American citizens for a valuable consideration.” George

H. Sisson, a San Francisco engineer, vice-president and general manager of the Company, and reportedly “a remarkably clever man,” certainly “has a great opportunity to distinguish himself.” Field’s only regret was that the central office of the Company was three thousand miles away in Hartford when it “ought to be in San Diego.”<sup>30</sup>

Field returned to San Diego from Ensenada aboard the *Montserrat* early in the morning of March 1 in order to keep a lecture date. Among her fellow passengers was W. E. Webb, the Land Commissioner of the International Company, who was returning to his home in New York. Her arrival was delayed by stormy weather some twelve hours, however, which cemented her belief that a rail should be laid between the cities. “I have never experienced more misery in less time than during last night’s gale,” she acknowledged, “but the *Montserrat* behaved well, and barring seasickness I am none the worse for the journey--perhaps the better.”<sup>31</sup> In retrospect, she did not recommend travel to Lower California to anyone except visitors to San Diego, though she did envision “a future for this region.” She urged her friend Hutton to wait three years, until railroads were built and hotels more comfortable, before booking a trip. Then “Lower California will be worth your seeing.” The region “is more interesting than Southern California. The climate is better and the Mexicans and Spanish language give it a novelty.”<sup>32</sup>

As promised, Field delivered her lecture “The Mormon Monster” to a full house at the First Methodist Church at the corner of Fourth and D streets on the evening of March 5. Attired in a garnet silk dress cut low in front with a long train, short sleeves, and a collar trimmed in white lace, *pince-nez* in hand, she was introduced by Judge M. A. Luce and proceeded for the next hour to decry Mormonism as a form of treason, to condemn the “inefficiency” of the Edmunds anti-polygamy law, and to call for a standard national marriage law. As the *San Diego Sun* reported the next day, “No public speaker was ever greeted with a finer audience in San Diego than the one which gathered in the new Methodist church last evening to listen



Field delivered several lectures to audiences in downtown San Diego. Photograph looking west on D Avenue from Sixth Street, 1887. ©SDHS, #1432.



to Miss Kate Field's lecture."<sup>33</sup> Ever an apostle of culture, Field praised Charles Dickens before a large audience at a meeting of the Unity Club at the Unitarian Church of San Diego at the corner of Tenth and F streets a few days later.<sup>34</sup>



American Ostrich Company breeding farm on Coronado, ca. 1888. ©SDHS, #83:14700.

Over the next couple of weeks she visited the American Ostrich Company breeding farm on Coronado Island;<sup>35</sup> she rode around the island with the manager of the Hotel Josephine in his "stylish four-in-hand";<sup>36</sup> and on the evening of March 22 she delivered her famous lecture "An Evening with Charles Dickens" to another large and distinguished audience--the "wealth, beauty, fashion, and intellect of San Diego, young and old"--at the Methodist Church. Stylishly dressed in "a white silk skirt *en train* and a crimson satin waist faced with old gold lace," Field reminisced about "Boz" for an hour and a half, her anecdotes punctuated with "frequent applause and expressions of pleasure."<sup>37</sup>

Two days later, as her visit was drawing to a close, she was again asked her impressions of San Diego by a local reporter and her answers were by turns caustic and cautious. "I have seen very little [in the city] that is uncomplimentary," she began, but she quickly added that "you have given yourselves and have received from others more treacle than is good for you. Your digestion is out of order in consequence." She also warned against the adventurers who would prey "upon the unwary and extract the very gold from their teeth if police do not stand by with cocked revolvers." San Francisco had resorted to vigilantism to maintain order in the 1850s, she reminded the interviewer, but San Diego "will have no need of such committees if your best citizens go to the polls and elect honest intelligent men to office. It will be a great pity if so promising a seaport falls into unscrupulous hands." Nor should San Diegans brag that their city is "no worse than New York.

It ought to be better. New York is the nation's metropolis. It daily receives the scum of Europe and has much to contend against. San Diego is beginning its career, has no such infliction and can readily dispose of its lawless element." Field also cautioned against too-rapid growth. Too many developments had been planned "for the good of the town," she thought, and some real estate brokers "have resorted to lying in order to put money in their purses."<sup>38</sup> Among the "deadheads" she mentioned privately were Douglas Gunn (1841-1891), the editor of the *San Diego Union* and later mayor of San Diego, and Theodore S. Van Dyke (1842-1923), author of *Millionaires of a Day: An Inside History of the Great Southern California "Boom"* (1890).<sup>39</sup> Such ruses were unnecessary, of course. "San Diego has an excellent harbor, a fine climate, and good scenery. With such a blessed trinity it is your own fault if you do not steadily advance."

As for "your present drawbacks?" According to Field, the city had hardly begun to address its sewerage problems. Rather than widespread use of cesspools, the city ought to adopt the system of drainage designed by the sanitation expert George W. Waring (1833-1898), with all houses connected to sewer mains. As it happened, Waring was in San Diego at the time to advise city officials. Field argued that property owners should be required by law to connect to the mains. "When people are too stupid or too careless to do their duty to their towns they should be fined until they experience a change of heart," she insisted. "With all your sewers laid you can then pave your streets, and thus avoid much of the dust and sand with which San Diego can now be afflicted." The city planners might then lay out boulevards and select sites for parks. "Of course, you should have an opera house," too. If all "respectable citizens" led by someone like Bryant Howard, the president of the Consolidated National Bank, supported "high license" or the sale of beer, wines, and light spirits, "you'll do more good to your town than prohibitionists ever dreamed of." The reorganization of the Flume Company under the direction of the developer E. W. Morse (1823-1906) guaranteed "this valuable system of irrigation will be speedily completed, and then your pretty valley of El



*Drilling a well for water on Coronado, ca. 1886. Potable water was a serious problem for San Diegans. ©SDHS, #1603.*

Cajon will have all the water it needs to blossom as the rose." More local transit lines would also benefit the tourist, "the dairyman, and market-gardener." Finally, in order to integrate Coronado Beach with the city, Field recommended "better and more frequent ferry-boats" across the bay "at more moderate fares." Then an amazing prediction that would not be realized for over eighty years: "The day may not be far distant when a bridge will span the bay."<sup>40</sup>

Two days later Field packed her bags and left San Diego by train. She lectured on Dickens in Riverside that evening before continuing north to San Bernardino and Pasadena.<sup>41</sup> She wrote Hutton from Los Angeles on March 31 that she enjoyed the view of the San Gabriel mountains but "nothing can compensate for the lack of water" there. She thought most Los Angeleans "uninteresting," with real estate virtually their only topic of conversation "and 'booms' the rage." She had speculated in property in Washington, D.C., Omaha, Nebraska, and Atchison, Kansas, while traveling across the continent months before; but if she had invested instead in southern California—particularly in San Diego "with its beautiful harbor," as she admitted, "I'd be a howling squillionaire."<sup>42</sup>

Ironically, her expectations for Lower California were disappointed by the end of the "boom" in San Diego, the economic recession of 1888-90, and the bankruptcy of the railroad project she had hoped would speed immigration and increase trade. Gabriel Erb began construction on the Hotel Erb in the spring of 1887 but never completed it. "Some day Punta Banda will be a famous watering place," she reiterated in 1891, correctly enough, "but not until millions of dollars and thousands of people have found their way to this remote corner of North America." As Field anticipated, mining companies developed the gold fields around El Alamo, sixty miles southeast of Ensenada. Without them, the recession in Lower California would have been worse. But her faith in the "magnificent" project of the International Company of Mexico and its "remarkably clever" manager Sisson turned out to be unwarranted. Sisson was implicated in a filibustering scheme which helped discredit the Company, and he transferred all of its assets in mid-1888 to the Mexican Land and Colonization Company. Field was disgusted. The reborn company, she complained, "can never be satisfactory to us, as it is English in the worst sense of the term." The Díaz government eventually charged the company with fraud.<sup>43</sup>

During the winter of 1891-92, Field returned to the topic of southern California in a pair of essays written for her weekly paper *Kate Field's Washington*. She was still bullish on the region. "San Diego is our only harbor on the Pacific coast south of San Francisco," she reminded her readers:

Consequently the growth of this town is as inevitable as the growth of population on the Pacific coast. Gross exaggeration has lured many an adventurous soul to San Diego who has heartily wished himself at home; speculators have overleaped themselves and cut up more farms into town lots than can be peopled in years; but, after deducting the enthusiasm of born "boomers" and the lying of unscrupulous real estate agents, the fact remains that San Diego has a fine harbor, a fine climate, a back country, good scenery, and is the natural terminus of the railroad systems passing through our southern territory.<sup>44</sup>

# THE JOURNAL OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY

Four years after her seven-week visit to San Diego and Lower California, Field continued to insist on the attractions of the region. "Perhaps Uncle Sam may some day discover San Diego on the map and conclude that for strategic importance it has not its equal south of San Francisco," she averred. "Not only should San Diego Bay be a naval station, but Coronado should be the site of a fortified garrison."<sup>45</sup> Who could have guessed that, a half century later, Field would be proved so prescient?



*San Diego's real estate market was booming when Field left the city. Realtor B. L. Muir promoted Coronado Beach in 1886. ©SDHS, #1583.*



## NOTES

1. "Kate Field Dead," *New York Tribune*, May 31, 1896, 7:5.
2. Gary Scharnhorst, "James and Kate Field," *Henry James Review*, 22 (Spring 2001), 200-206.
3. "Miss Kate Field," *San Diego Bee*, February 8, 1888, 8:3.
4. "Kate Field," *San Diego Union*, February 8, 1888, 8:5.
5. "Field Notes on San Diego," *San Diego Daily Sun*, February 9, 1888, 4:1.
6. "Kate Field," *San Diego Union*, February 9, 1888, 8:4.
7. Lilian Whiting, *Kate Field: A Record* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1899), 456-57.
8. "Coronado," *San Diego Bee*, February 10, 1888, 5:4; "Personal," *Daily San Diegan*, February 10, 1888, 8:1.
9. Kate Field to Sarah B. Cooper, February 13, 1888, Missouri Historical Society, Ludlow-Field-Maury Collection, folder 6.
10. "Coronado: The Impressions of a Distinguished Visitor," *Coronado Evening Mercury*, February 14, 1888, 2:3. In a *San Diego Sun* article, Field was quoted as saying, "This beautiful strip of land [Coronado Beach] should be preserved for residences; not a mill, or a shop, or a factory should be located here. I understand that it is proposed to build several large factories here. If this is done there will soon be great black smokestacks belching forth their clouds of nasty smoke, and the result will be that the people will not come here to live. No, Coronado Beach should be a tract for residences, where people may live and enjoy themselves, and it is a poor-sighted policy that prompts the owners to build factories here. They should hold in reserve all this unsold land and not allow a factory to be built here." "A Woman's Opinion: Kate Field Talks Freely on Local and Other Matters," *San Diego Sun*, February 14, 1888, 5:5. Her comments apparently touched a nerve. Two days later, the *San Diego Sun* noted, "Coronado Beach has just such a future as Miss Field would like it to have. It will indeed be 'a tract of residences where people may live and enjoy themselves.'" "The Future of Coronado Beach," *San Diego Sun*, February 16, 1888, 4:2.
11. Katherine Carlin and Ray Brandes, *Coronado: The Enchanted Island* (Coronado: Coronado Historical Association, 1987), 47.
12. "Coronado: The Impressions of a Distinguished Visitor." Field was quoted as saying, "The other day I drove out to Old Town with some friends, and we did nothing but cross and recross railway tracks all the way. Seems to me one cannot drive a half mile in San Diego without crossing a lot of railways. If it is true, as I am told, that the road to Old Town is to be flanked on one side by the California Southern and on the other by a motor line, with the driveway between, I blush for the wisdom and sense of your City Council. In fact such an arrangement is pure idiocy, and I am perfectly willing that you should say so." "A Woman's Opinion: Kate Field Talks Freely on Local and Other Matters."
13. "Kate Field by Telephone," *San Diego Bee*, February 20, 1888, 1:5.
14. *Ibid.*
15. "Under Mexican Skies," *Coronado Evening Mercury*, February 16, 1888, 2:3.
16. Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California," *Kate Field's Washington*, November 25, 1891, 346-48.
17. Field to Laurence Hutton, February 25, 1888, Princeton University Library, Rare Books and Special Collections, C0080, Box 4.
18. "Miss Field's Return," *San Diego Bee*, March 3, 1888, 4:3.
19. "Miss Field's Return," *San Diego Bee*, March 3, 1888, 4:3.
20. "Kate Field by Telephone."
21. "Miss Field's Return." Four years later, Field again averred that she did "not know a lovelier bit of scenery on this continent than Todos Santos Bay, with its amphitheatre of mountains, its half moon beach extending nine miles south and west, its nine miles of estuary forming a charming lake, its hot spring and its promontory of Punta Banda." Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California."
22. "Miss Kate Field," *San Diego Sun*, March 1, 1888, 5:5; see also "Ensenada," *Lower Californian*, March

# THE JOURNAL OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY

- 8, 1888, 1:5.
23. Field to Laurence Hutton, February 25, 1888, Princeton University Library, Rare Books and Special Collections, C0080, Box 4; "Ensenada," *San Diego Bee*, February 25, 1888, 5:7.
24. "Miss Kate Field," *San Diego Sun*, March 1, 1888, 5:5; see also "Ensenada," *Lower Californian*, March 8, 1888, 1:5.
25. "Miss Field's Return."
26. Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California," 347; "Miss Field's Return."
27. "Exit Kalakaua: What Next?" *Kate Field's Washington*, January 28, 1891, 49.
28. Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California," 347. Technically, the sale had occurred during the presidency of Porfirio Díaz's crony Manuel González.
29. "Miss Field's Return."
30. Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California," 347; "Miss Field on San Diego," *San Diego Bee*, March 25, 1888, 4:1-2.
31. "From Lower California," *San Diego Bee*, March 2, 1888, 5:3.
32. Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California," 347; Field to Laurence Hutton, March 2, 1888, Princeton University Library, Rare Books and Special Collections, C0080, Box 4.
33. *San Diego Union*, March 6, 1888, 5:4; "The Mormon Monster," *San Diego Bee*, March 6, 1888, 8:1-2; "Miss Kate Field's Lecture," *San Diego Sun*, March 6, 1888, 1:5-6; "Kate Field, the Lectress," *Coronado Mercury*, March 6, 1888, 1:1.
34. "Dickens and America," *San Diego Union*, March 18, 1888, 4:1-2; "The Unity Club," *San Diego Sun*, March 17, 1888, 5:5; "Boz," *Coronado Mercury*, March 17, 1888, 4:2.
35. "Coronado," *San Diego Bee*, March 9, 1888, 8:3.
36. "Coronado," *San Diego Bee*, March 19, 1888, 8:5.
37. "An Evening with Dickens," *San Diego Union*, March 23, 1888, 5:3; "Last Night's Lecture," *San Diego Bee*, March 23, 1888, 1:6; "An Evening with 'Boz,'" *Coronado Mercury*, March 23, 1888, 4:1. See also Scharnhorst, "Kate Field's 'An Evening with Dickens': A Reconstructed Lecture," *Dickens Quarterly*, 21 (June 2004): 71-89.
38. "Miss Field on San Diego," *San Diego Bee*, March 25, 1888, 4:1-2.
39. Field to Will M. Clemens, March 20, 1888, Indiana University, Lilly Library, Manuscripts Department, S. C. Woodward Collection.
40. "Miss Field on San Diego," March 25, 1888.
41. "Personalities," *San Diego Union*, March 28, 1888, 5:5.
42. Carolyn J. Moss, ed., *Kate Field: Selected Letters* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1996), 199.
43. Field, "A Glimpse of Lower California," 347. A filibuster is one who engages in illegal military action in a foreign country. The term is not much used in modern parlance, though it was often used in the nineteenth century to refer to William Walker's expeditions to Mexico and Nicaragua.
44. *Ibid.*
45. "People and Things," *Kate Field's Washington*, February 3, 1892, 77-78.