

Berk Lib
917.94
St 63

Stoddard, Charles Warren
In the Footprints of the Padres,
San Francisco, 1902.

29-38. St.
Nantrop

335 1/2p

Narrow Gauge Railway

pp 161-63.

There was nothing to disturb one in the land, after the musical mania, save the clang of the cymbals on the long, lonely track; the cry of the sea-bird wheeling overhead, or the occasional bang of a rifle. Even the narrow-gauge railway, that stopped diversely just before reaching the village, broke the monotony of local life but twice in twenty-four hours. The whistle of the arriving and departing trains, the signal of the occasional steamer. Ah! but for these, what a sweet, sad, silent spot were that! I used to believe that possibly some day the unbroken stillness of the wilderness might again envelope it. The policy of the people invited it. anything like energy, or progress was discouraged in that latitude. When it was discovered that the daily mail

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Narrow Gauge railway

Mentony.

2-9-38. J. (2)

per Narrow Gauge was arriving regularly and usually on time, it began to look like indecent haste on the part of government agents. The beauty and the chivalry that congregated at the post office seemed to find too speedy satisfaction at the general delivery window; and presently the mail-bag for Mentony was dropped at another village, and later carried twenty miles into town. The happy uncertainty of the mail's arrival caused the post office to become a kind of forum, where all grievances of the populace was turned loose and generally discussed.

Then it seemed possible that the narrow gauge might be poisoned down altogether, and the locomotive warned to cease trespassing upon the green pastures of the El-Capital. It even seemed possible that in course of time all aliens might require a passport and a recommendation from their last place of residence before being permitted to enter in and enjoy the society of the authorities brooding over that plumbrous village.

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