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The Courts of California

PRIOR AND SUBSEQUENT TO THE ADOPTION OF THE
CONSTITUTION. THE COURTS AND JUDICIAL
OFFICERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY.
STOCKTON BAR.

PREPARED FOR THE STATISTICAL COUNTY DIRECTORY BY

A. VAN R. PATERSON.

OF STOCKTON BAR.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which Upper California became a portion of the United States, was ratified May 30th, 1848.

It was expected by those residing in the territory thus acquired that Congress, at its session the following winter, would provide a new government for California, to replace that which existed under Mexican rule. This, however, Congress failed to do, which failure left the people very much embarrassed to know what were valid laws, and who were duly authorized officers.

The Secretary of War appointed General Riley Governor of the Territory—not as military governor, which is usual under such circumstances—but as the chief executive of the civil government as then existing. The military government ended with the war between Mexico and the United States; and the Mexican laws in force and operation at the time of the treaty, not inconsistent with the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States, were to be continued in force until changed by competent authority. The situation of California was very