

ROMANTIC CALIFORNIA

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Romantic California by Ernest Peixotto

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ERNEST PEIXOTTO

**ROMANTIC
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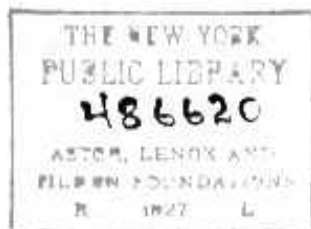
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BY
ERNEST PEIXOTTO

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TO MY MOTHER
THESE SKETCHES OF MY NATIVE STATE
ARE DEDICATED

PREFACE

CALIFORNIA'S fruitfulness, her equable climate, the wealth of her fields and flowers, have long been sung, and well sung, and all the world admits the beauty of her garden spots. Her mild winters are known, but she has, too, cool summers when the mountain fastnesses are open, when the sky is ever cloudless and the sea breezes blow fresh from the Pacific.

Her Spanish discoverers had just been reading Ordoñez de Montalvo's then but recently published translation of Loboira's "Amadis de Gaula" and the additions thereto that he had entitled "Las Sergas de Esplandian." So, when they came upon this rugged shore that they mistook for an island separated from the mainland by a long gulf, they named it in honour of that imaginary isle, California, "at the right hand of the Indies and very near the Terrestrial Paradise" described by Montalvo in these Exploits of Esplandian. This wonderful land was peopled with dusky Amazons who bestrode great beasts and fought griffons and other monsters. They owed allegiance to their queen Calafia; their arms were all of gold as well as the trappings of their horses, no other metal being known upon the island!