



An 1850 voyage: San Francisco to Baltimore by sea and by land

J. D. B Stillman

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Jacob Davis Babcock Stillman (1819-1888) was Sen Leland Stanford's personal physician, and was partner of railroad magnate Mark Hopkins dating He was born in Schenectady, NY, to a family of "strict 7th-Day Baptists." He is "credited with counseling Mrs Stanford sufficiently so that after 18 yrs of marriage, she bore son, Leland Jr, in whose memory Stanford University was established by his father." His narrative of his extraordinary trip back home to Baltimore from San Francisco in 1850 is chronicled in this book. In Sept, 1850, he decided to return to New York. Recovering from fever and jaundice, he decided to return East via overland route thru Nicaragua due to high incidence of cholera thru-out the Isthmus of Panama. He took passage on a ship called The Plymouth, which was bound from San Francisco to Realejo, and then a canoe trip to the town Next he traveled overland by carretta and horseback. There were two attempts to run the length of Lake Nicaragua in canoes which sank. He ended up crossing the lake on a larger boat and then he went back to Baltimore. It was a seven ship and horseback journey. On a 24 day voyage from San Francisco to Realejo, he described an 80 ft whale who constantly swam under the boat. This 113 day adventure is described in his book "1850 Voyage, San Francisco to Baltimore, By Sea & Land." He described for first time sharks in fresh water, shipwrecks, rescues at sea, harpooning etc. On way to Baltimore, he asked to be put off at island of Old Providence in Caribbean. While on the island, he accidentally poisoned himself by eating manchineel, supposedly fatal fruit. He survived, however, after serious illness



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