

a brother-in-law in the lumber business. Two years later he went to New York and joined his brother Levi³⁸⁴, who was engaged in refitting vessels for sea. In the spring of 1849 he took the "California fever," joined a company of twelve men at Buffalo (one his brother Albert³⁸¹) and took the overland route for California, which the survivors reached in one hundred days. The party were attacked by cholera on the Platte River, near Fort Laramie, and four of their number died (his brother one of them). William³⁸⁷ survived, and also an attack of the mountain fever at South Pass. His only remedy was a "tea made from white oak bark in a skillet borrowed from Daniel Boone, a grandson of the old trapper." Starvation threatened the whole party, and, making the best provision possible for the sick man, they had pushed on one day when two of the strongest returned, and were able to take him on to join the party. "During the last few days before arriving [at Sacramento], they would have perished from starvation had it not been for a government supply train, sent out to succor them." He remained in California nearly two years, "mining, building, and contracting," and set out on his return by steamer from San Francisco *via* the Isthmus. The steamer was wrecked in Southern California, 700 miles from San Francisco. Four miles back from the coast was a Spanish ranch, from which a passenger attempted to reach San Francisco, by riding from ranch to ranch by a relay of horses. Another party, however, succeeded in procuring a steamer at a nearer post, which was then just leaving the harbor, and stopped for the castaways sixteen days after the wreck. "Here Mr. Hayden met with a great misfortune. While going through the surf the boat capsized, and when the wave went back his carpet-bag, with \$4,000 in gold, together with his clothes, were taken with it, and all his wealth was gone." "The next dilemma was how to get home—he had no money with which to pay his fare—when, to his great relief, the wife of the governor of California started a subscription on board the steamer, and raised for him \$240." The Isthmus was crossed safely, but the steamer for New York was caught in a gale, and obliged to put into Kingston, Jamaica, for repairs, and when off Cape Hatteras one of the boilers burst, and the boat took fire; but the fire was subdued, and the crippled boat with one engine and one wheel finally