The inhabitants of the San Pedro River Valley at this time were the Sobaipuris; who, until they abandoned the valley about a century and a half ago, served as a sort of buffer for their relatives, the Gila River Pimas and the Papagos against the Apaches. In an interesting report, the most warlike among all the Pimas are those we call the Sobaipuris, for they are born and reared on the border of the Apaches; but they have become tired of living in constant warfare, and have, during the present year of 1762, abandoned their beautiful and fertile valley, retiring, some to Santa Maria Sanacca, and some to San Xavier del Bac and to Tucson, thus leaving to the enemies a free entrance to the high region of the Pimas.

Some interesting notices of the Sobaipuris are given by Bernal, Kino, and Mango, in their writings of 1697 to 1706, and the names and locations of a number of Sobaipuris villages are mentioned in the same and on Kino's map of 1702. An abstract of a military expedition sent down the San Pedro River (which the Spaniards called Rio Quiburi after a leading town of the latter name upon it) to the Gila by General Jironca on November 1697, from the presidio of Corodeguachi (later Fronteras), by way of Santa Maria Sanacca, is given in Bancroft's North Mexican States and Texas, Volume I., 1864-1865. The expedition consisted of Lieutenant Cristobal Martin Bernal in command, with Alfonso Francisco Acuna, Francisco Javier Barrejon, Sergeant Juan B. Escalante, and twenty soldiers of the Flying Company of Sonora, and at Quiburi was joined on the 9th by Kino and Mango, who with ten servants, thirty horses, the viatic, and a few trifling gifts for the Sobaipuris, had left Dolores on the 2d.

It had a friendly reception throughout Quiburi Valley, and its course is marked on Bancroft's map. As listed by Bancroft, the following native villages were visited by the expedition on its way down the Gila River: Quiburi; Alamos, 10 leagues; Quezac, 10 leagues; Cacopi, 10 leagues; Sosa, 10 leagues; Jasepi or Rosario, 21 leagues; Muiva, 1 league; S. Pantaleon, 2 leagues; and S. Aristobala, 6 leagues.

The route of Lieut. Bernal's force was: from Corodeguachi to Terrenate; thence to Quiburi; thence to Rio de Santa Maria; thence to San Joaquin; thence to Quiburi.
Footnote (continued)

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The route of the combined expedition, from Quiburi, was down the San Pedro for 4 leagues (82 miles), thence to San Panteleon Aribaiaba, as follows: from Quiburi 10 leagues to Alamos, — so called in 1697 as well as much later, but now better known as Tres Alamos, where the old Butterfield Overland stage-road crossed the river about 16 miles north of present Benson; on the Kino and other 19th century maps, this Alamos is called San Salvador from Alamos, 16 leagues to Casac, called also San Marcos; then Captain Remirez, previously penetrated the valley as far as thirty 2 leagues to Jiaspi or Rosario; thence 1 league and across the river to Muiva (perhaps the same as the San Eugenio of Kino's map); and thence 6 leagues to San Panteleon Aribaiaba, probably near Arivaipa Creek and near the mouth of Arivaipa Canyon. According to Hinton's reproduction of the Kino map, there were no native villages immediately upon the San Pedro river below Arivaipa Creek, San Eugenius being near the mouth of the latter, i.e., on the west side of the river.

Possibly, therefore, the expedition's next two advances beyond San Panteleon Aribaiaba — 3 leagues to Tutoida, and 3 thence to Comarsuta — were northeasterly, up Arivaipa Creek. These two settlements were probably quite small, for they were not christened with the names of saints, nor entered on Kino's map. On this contemporaneous map, our chief cartographical authority, Victoria Ojio ("Victoria"), the last visited before the Gila River was reached, is placed (if we may trust Hinton's lithographed copy) between Arivaipa Creek and the Gila River, somewhat nearer to the latter than to the former, and in the east of the river San Pedro. This is the position of the place shown on Wheeler's Atlas Sheet No. 83 of the U.S. Geographical Survey West of the 100th Meridian, as the "Cottonwood Spring," where crosses a north-south and an east-west trail, the former connecting it with San Carlos and the latter with Pecos and of the river San Pedro. The Venegas map (1757) has it in the same position, D'Anville places it in a similar position with reference to the streams Gila and Arivaipa, but nearer the San Pedro. That it was in fact somewhat away from the streams is indicated by the itinerary quoted by Bancroft, which shows that the Bernal-Kino-Mange expedition travelled 6 leagues from Victoria Ojio to reach the Gila at or near the embouchure of the San Pedro; a thing it could not have done from any place directly on San Pedro River north of Arivaipa Creek, since the mouth of this creek is only about 4 leagues distant from the Gila.

The Gila, shown on the map, a considerable distance east-northeast of the Gila Quiburi junction and nearly north of Victoria, which are the directions of San Carlos respectively from that junction and from Cottonwood Springs.
That the Spaniards at this time used poisoned arrows, is shown by the following, from Bancroft, Volume XV, page 274:

"Early in 1698 the savages directed their raids chiefly against the Pimas of the Alteo of the frontier, either converts or at least friendly to the Spaniards, and, what was much more important to the Apaches, well supplied with corn and livestock. Three pueblos were plundered and burned with considerable loss of life, including Coodepera, where Padre Contreras barely escaped with his life after being wounded. The soldiers killed thirty of the foe; but it was reserved to Coro of Guiburi to strike the most decisive blow. Immediately after an Apache attack on Santa Cruz del Guerro, or Jaibanipita, Coro with five hundred warriors fought against the enemy all day, killing sixty men on the field, and fatally wounded a hundred and sixty-eight more with poisoned arrows."

There are several considerations which show that Jaramillo's "deep and reedy river" is:

In the first place, the Gila is deep and sometimes in the summer rainy season it is flooded. It was deeper in former years when the surrounding basin was not completely drained. The overgrowth of the banks, destruction of the riparian vegetation by fire, and flooding.

"About 1542 Elsewhere in this Paper it will be found that Coronado was probably in the immediate vicinity of this river from the evening of June 20th until the morning of June 21st, Old Style; which is equivalent to the end of June and beginning of July, New Style.

This river and other rivers to erode their banks and year by year become broader and shallower. Note the conscious efforts of the Spaniards to build rafts to cross it.

It is not very deep but that it can be forded. Which agrees with the fact implied by Jaramillo, that no rafts had to be built to cross it, the name "River of Rafts" being reserved, as we shall see, for the Salt River.

Again, the Gila was a reedy stream; for among the plants collected by Lieutenant Emory during the march of the Army of the West to California in 1846, and named in Professor Torrey's botanical report, we find "Arundo Thragmites," better known as Phragmites communis, the common reed, listed from "along the Gila;"

Footnote: Emory's Notes, Appendix II, page 154.

in his "Preliminary Botanical Report," in the 1875 Report of the Wheeler Survey, page 123, Doctor Rothrock wrote of that part of the Gila River which he observed in 1874, in the vicinity of the crossing of the military road and Apache, "Cottonwood trees of fair size grew quite abundantly along the Gila River, where, with willows, bulrushes, and the "large reeds", an almost impenetrable thicket is formed."
Moreover, the Gila River is reached, and, in accord with Jaramillo's itinerary, is the first deep river reached in traveling toward any northeastward quarter from that section in which Coronado left the Nezper-San Pedro.

The name, Gila, was already current in 1630. According to Bancroft (XVII, 162, 163), its supposed earliest appearance is in the Memorial which, in that year, Father Alonso Benavides presented to Felipe IV, King of Spain. This Memorial mentioned the "Apaches de Xila," and called the distance from the Piro pueblo of Saescui to the "Xila province" 30 leagues; which is about the distance from the site of that seventeenth century pueblo (on the Rio Grande, near San Antonio) to the eastern border of the Gila River Basin. The term, "Rio Gila," appears in 1609, in the diaries of the Buenos-Kino Mance expedition to the middle segment of Gila River. The name, Gila, seems to mean Spider, if we may judge by the fact that the German term "Spinnfluss" (for Spinneluss, meaning Spider River) appears as an alternative name for this stream (spelled "Hila") on Kino's Tabula California. Whether it was throughout the Gila Valley, or near its head, or in some other particular part of it, that spiders (tarantulas?) were so abundant as to give rise to the geographical name, Gila, does not appear; but that tarantulas were by no means scarce on the borders of the Gila and Kino Range, is indicated by Emory, who in his journal entry of October 27, 1845, tells us how he encountered a "settlement" of them a short distance up the Gila Bonito River, - his river "San Carlos."

A brief study is now necessary, to determine the average distances which Coronado and his army No. 1 were marching, per day, in different parts of their route.

Coronado's Letter to Mendoza* calls it 300 leagues from Culiaca to Cibola. Casteada makes Chichilticalli synonymous with "the edge of the wilderness" and calls it 320 leagues from Culiaca to the edge of the wilderness, and 80 leagues from Chichilticalli to Cibola; thus making it 300 leagues from Culiaca to Cibola. The Relacion del Suesco* makes the distance the same; dividing it into

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Footnote

150 leagues from Culiaca to Valley of Hearts, and an equal distance from Valley of Hearts to Cibola. That 150 leagues is very nearly correct for the distance from Culiaca to the Valley of Hearts, or Ures, allowing for necessary deviations of route, is apparent from modern maps. But that 300 leagues is too little for the route
from Culiaca to Cibola-Zunfi, notwithstanding the estimates of Coronado and the other authorities above cited, seems certain.

The Traslado de las Nuevas says that it is "350 long leagues" from Culiaca to Cibola; and this is partially confirmed by the Relación Postrema de Sivola, which says, "It is more than 300 leagues from Culiaca to Cibola."* We farther note that if it were only 300 leagues from Culiaca to Cibola, then, seeing that the early narratives and recent maps agree that it is 80 leagues from Cibola to the Chichilticali edge of the wilderness, there would remain only 70 leagues between Chichilticali and Valley of Hearts; or, in other words, only 184 miles between the Pueblo Viejo Valley and Ures. But the latter distance measured back from the Pueblo Viejo Valley to the Sonora River, along a road somewhat winding in its northern half, falls very far short of Ures. It takes only about to where the sources of that river are intersected by the parallel of 30° 45' N., near Mututicachi, leaving yet 40 leagues (or really more, as we shall see,) between that place and Ures; for the distance from Valley of Hearts to Chichilticali, measured along the approximate route on recent maps, is 110 leagues. If to that 40 leagues we add 10 leagues for multitudinous river-crossings and other minor windings in the canons and gullied vales of that portion of the way that led along Sonora River, the correction will be none too large.* There

*According to Bandelier (Final Report, Pt. II, p. 483), "from the Ojo de Agua del Valle, where the Sonora river rises, to Babidoora, in a distance of about one hundred and twenty miles [which he says is only 85 miles in a straight line], the traveller has to cross and recross the stream more than a hundred times."

is thus an actual road distance of 50 leagues not accounted for by either Coronado or Castañeda nor in the Relacion del Suceso; and we have for the corrected distance from Valley of Hearts to Chichilticali, nearly if not quite 120 leagues. If to this we add the 150 leagues between Culiaca and Valley of Hearts, and the 80 leagues between Chichilticali and Cibola, we have approximately 350 leagues. We adopt, therefore, the 350-leagues estimate, reported in Las Nuevas, as approximately the true distance travelled by Coronado between