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Reminiscences of **MARCUS KATZ**

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drygoods store for the next five years before the discovery of gold in California lured him to San Francisco. After spending two years in that thriving city without undue success, he drifted south -- first to Los Angeles and then San Bernardino. Apparently his newly found neighbors here were impressed by the young man's qualities for, as he later recalled, "I was asked to join the Mormon church and marry five or six wives. I thought that would be nice, but upon reflection I concluded there would be five or six mothers-in-law, who would secure no peace for me upon this earth or good-will among the wives... so I declined with thanks."

After living in the fort for a year, he moved to San Diego to start a book, stationery and newspaper business, and also married Miss L. G. Jacobs. In 1857 he returned to San Bernardino for good and ran on the anti-Mormon, Independent Party ticket for county treasurer, but was soundly defeated.

In 1858 most Mormons returned to Salt Lake City, to defend that city against expected invasion by United States troops. Fortunately peace was restored before any blood was shed, but the Mormons had lost their influence in San Bernardino forever. The same year Katz was appointed county treasurer by the Board of Supervisors and was re-elected in 1861 and 1863 before being defeated in 1865.

A vertible "Man for all Seasons," he was also appointed San Bernardino agent for Wells Fargo and Company in 1858 (a position he held until 1874); served as a governor-

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SAN BERNARDINO was only a small Mormon supply point in the fall of 1852 when an enterprising young merchant named Marcus Katz arrived from Los Angeles to start a store in the old fort.

Katz, who was born in Germany on September 20, 1820, emigrated to America in 1845, landing at Baltimore, Maryland, where he clerked in a large



MARCUS KATZ, circa 1880