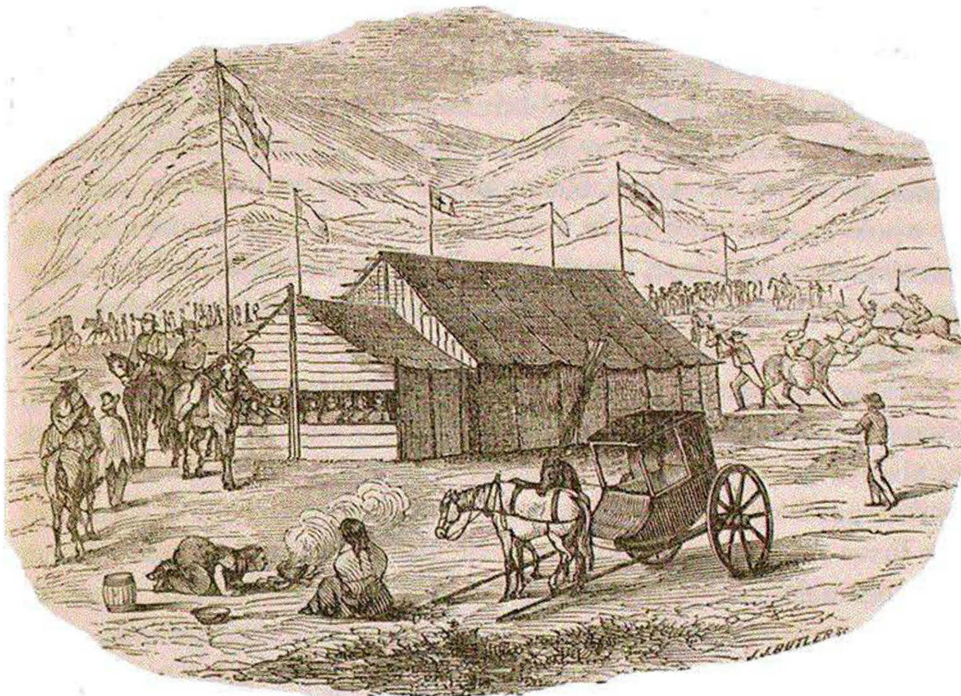


abundance in the place where the festival is held; and the decoration extends even to the horses and mules, as well as to the booths and vehicles. As the day advances, the crowd increases. No 4th of July in our own country could equal the uproarious drunkenness that ensues.



AMANCAES' FETE.

Dancing is the favourite amusement. The dance in which they most delight is a national one, called the samacueca, and no words can give an idea of its vulgarity and obscenity. I think it a happy circumstance that it is confined to this country. One Amancaes' day would upturn a whole year of morals. As intoxication ensues, it goes to extreme lengths. Italia, or rather, pisco, is pledged to every one, and many are seen with bottle and glass passing about, and pledging happiness and prosperity, in the hope of getting a small reward. The music to which they dance consists of a small guitar, accompanied with the voice, and beating of time; the time is quite monotonous, somewhat resembling the Spanish seguidilla. The crowd is great, consisting of cholos, zambos, negroes, and whites, variously dressed and jumbled together; some singing, some begging, fighting, swearing, laughing; no order, all confusion. This is the centre of the fray. On the out-