


HISTORY
OF
TEHAMA COUNTY
CALIFORNIA.
WITH
ILLUSTRATIONS.
1880



TEHAMA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA.

ILLUSTRATIONS

DESCRIPTIVE OF ITS SCENERY,

FINE RESIDENCES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, MANUFACTORIES, HOTELS,

FARM SCENES,

BUSINESS HOUSES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, MINES, MILLS, ETC.

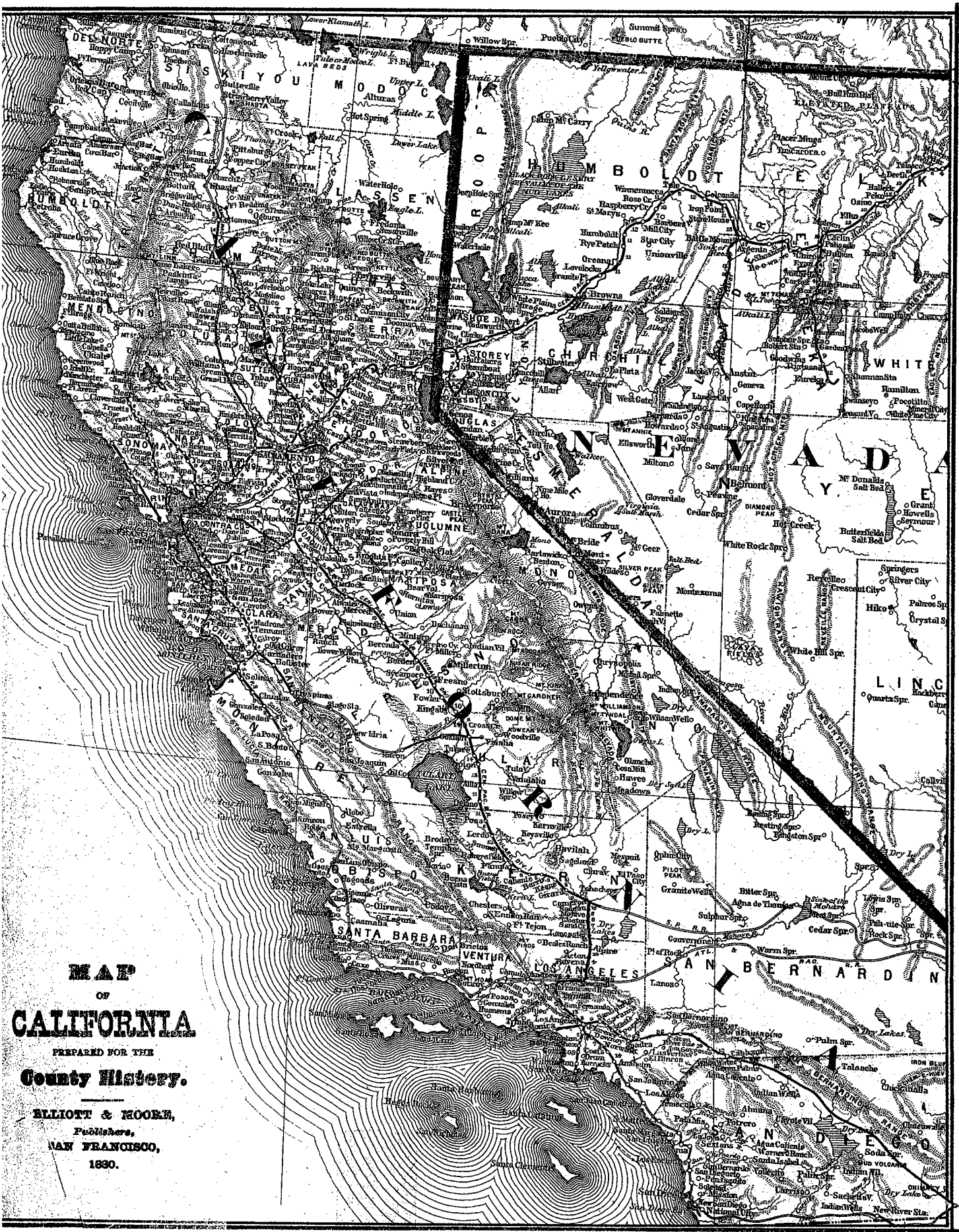
From Original Drawings by Artists of the Highest Ability.

WITH HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE COUNTY.

ELLIOTT & MOORE,
PUBLISHERS.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.
1880.



C. J. Lewis

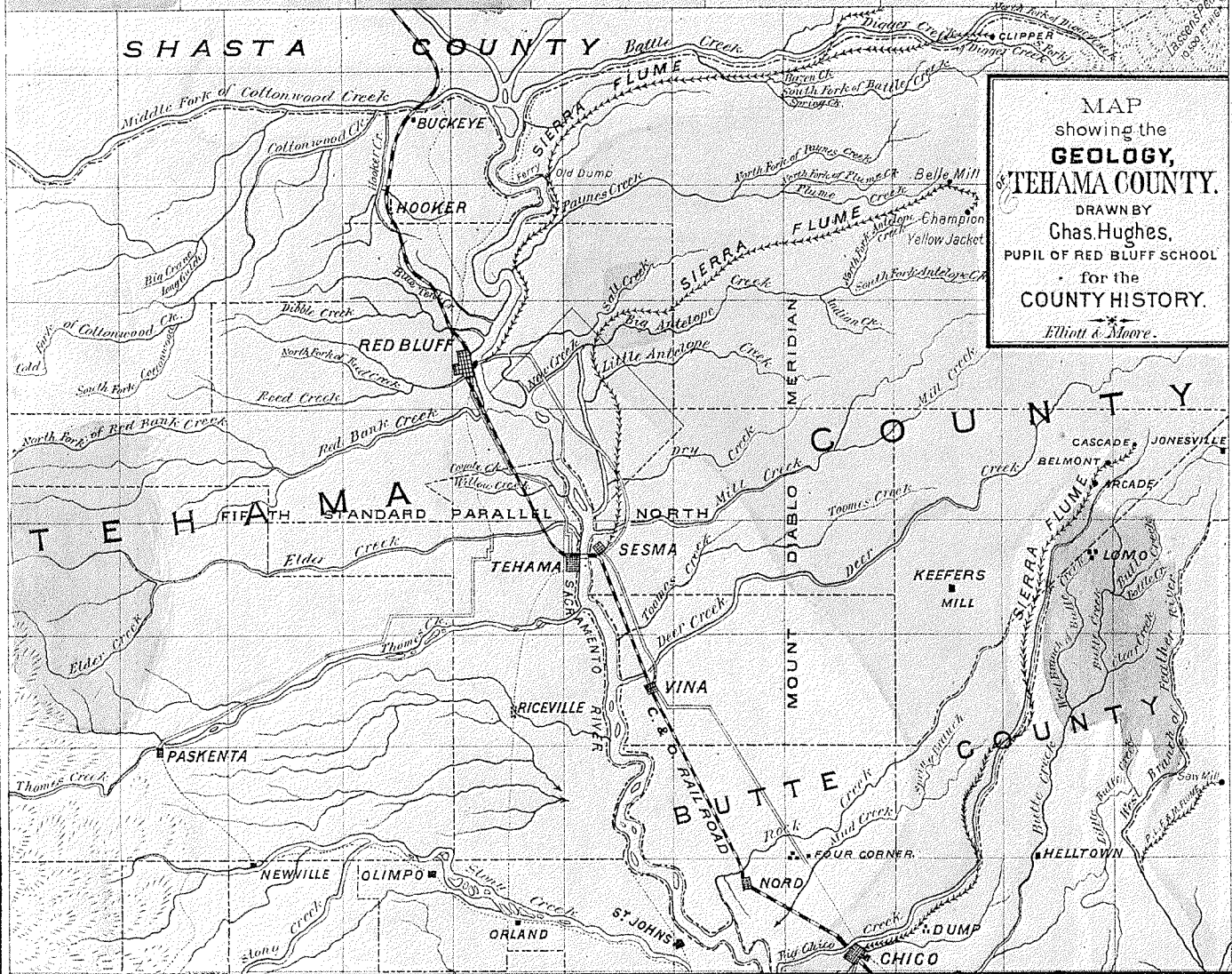


MAP
OF
CALIFORNIA

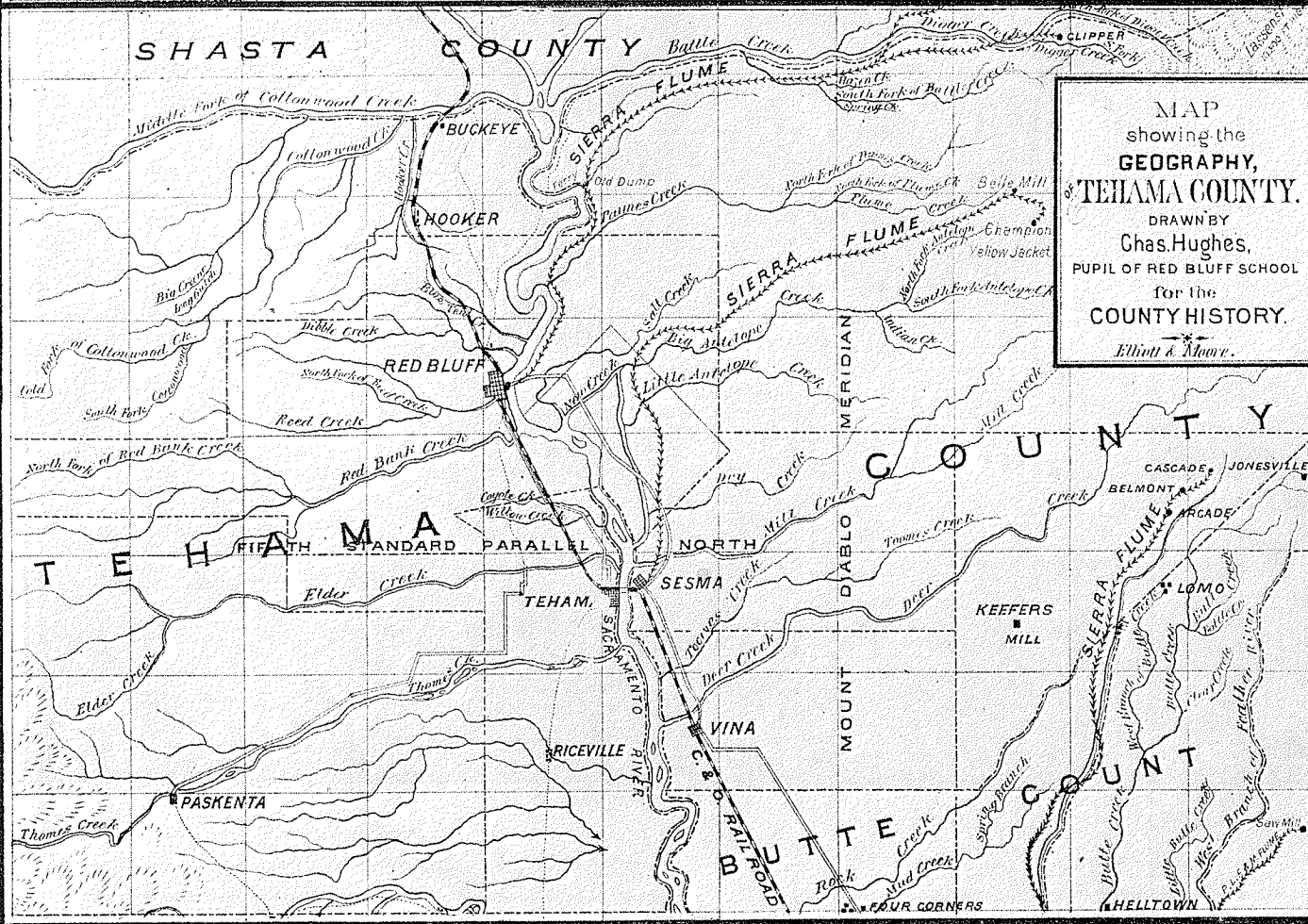
PREPARED FOR THE
County History.

ELLIOTT & MOORE,
Publishers,
SAN FRANCISCO,
1880.

SLATES CRETACEOUS EOCENE METAMORPHIC LAVAS DRIFT ALLUVIAL



MAP showing the **GEOLOGY**, TEHAMA COUNTY.
 DRAWN BY Chas. Hughes, PUPIL OF RED BLUFF SCHOOL for the COUNTY HISTORY.
 Elliott & Moore.



MAP showing the **GEOGRAPHY**, TEHAMA COUNTY.
 DRAWN BY Chas. Hughes, PUPIL OF RED BLUFF SCHOOL for the COUNTY HISTORY.
 Elliott & Moore.

GEOLOGICAL CHART.

Diagram No. 1.

Section of the Lava of the Sedimentary rocks on Butte Creek, near Helltown.

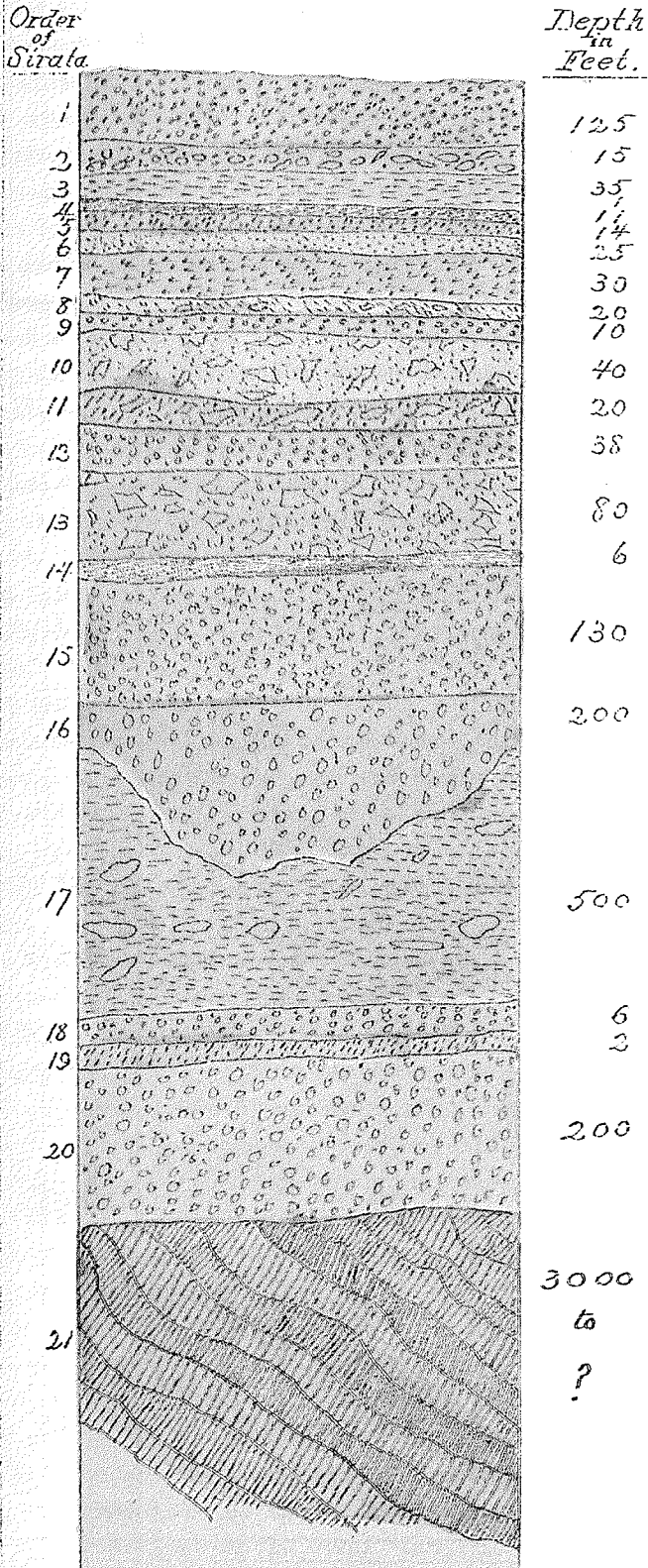
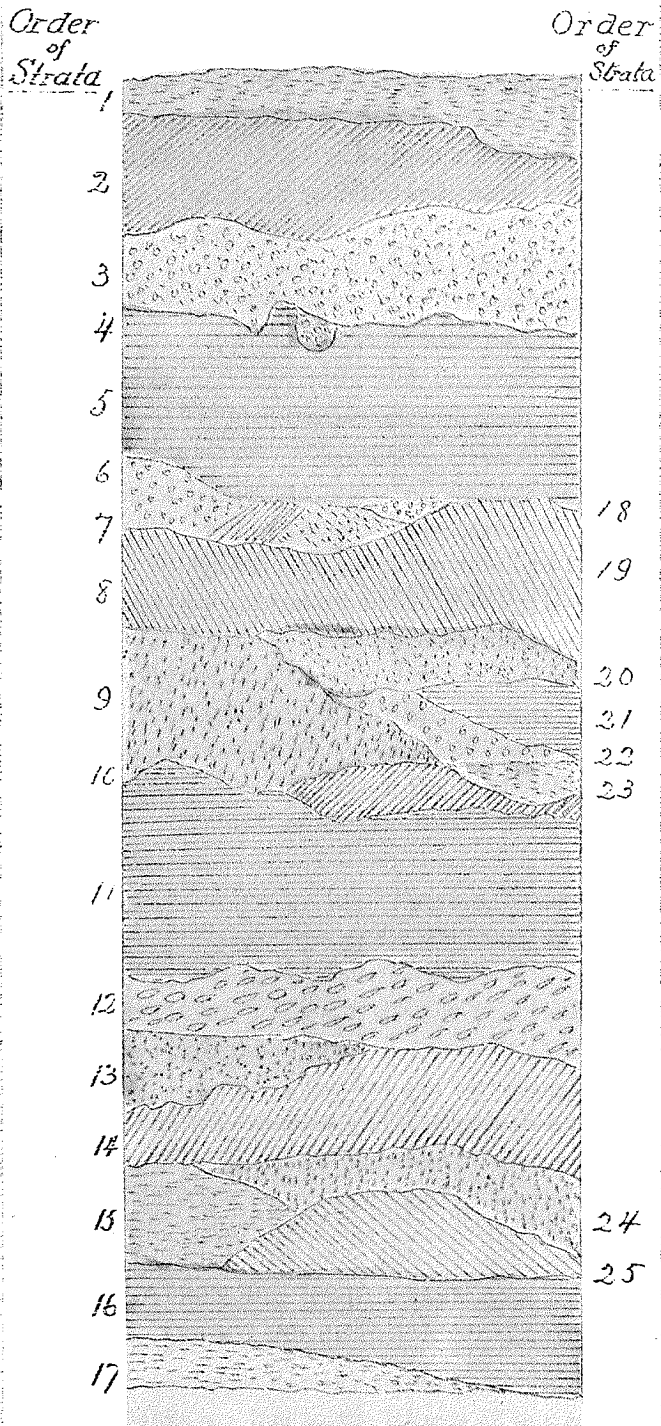


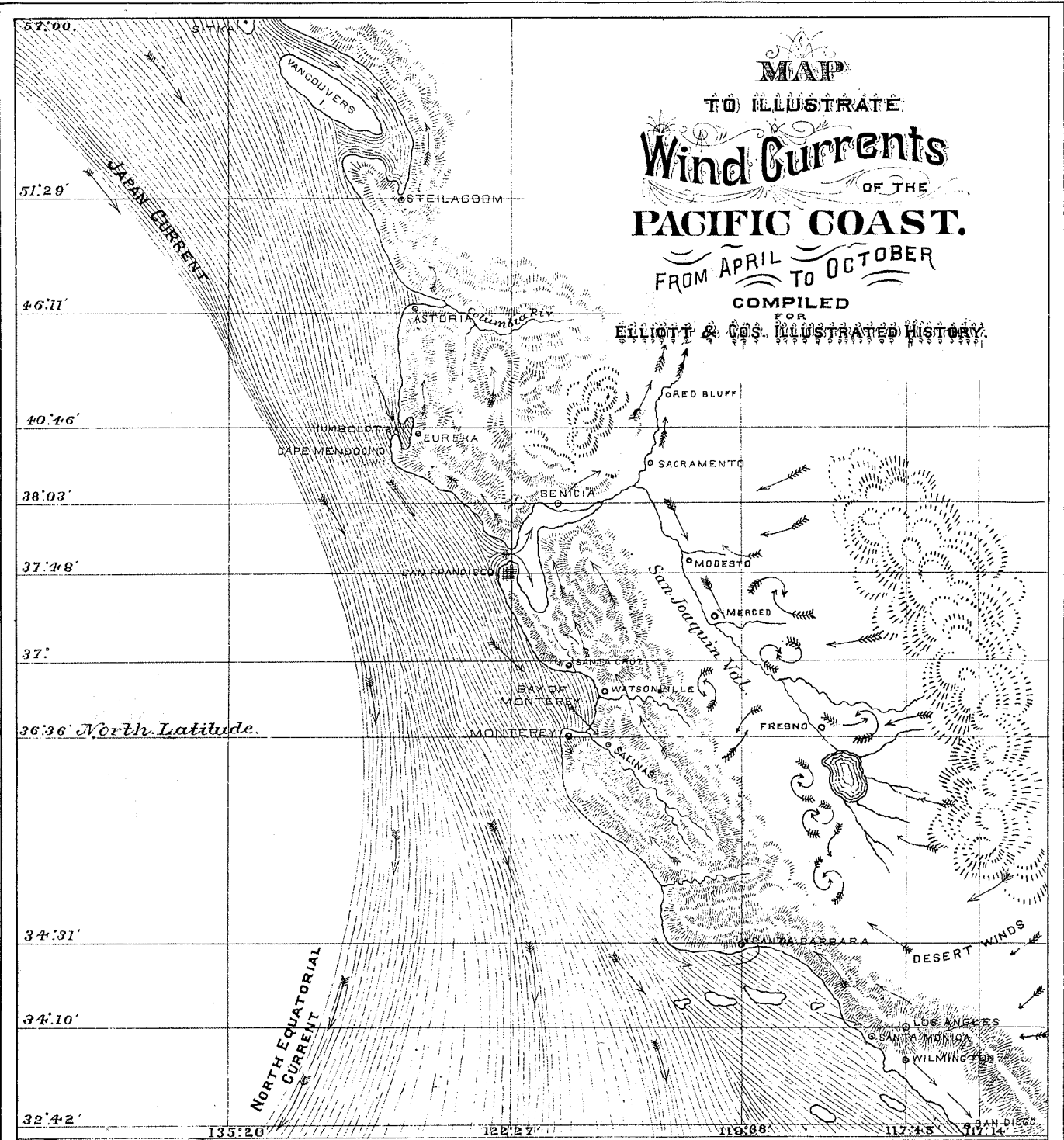
Diagram No. 2.

Section in front of Durcan's Residence. Bluff on the West side of the river at Red Bluff.

Bluff 72 feet high.



River Level.



EXPLANATION OF CHART.

THE SCALE OF THIS MAP, HAS BEEN MUCH SHORTENED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, IN ORDER TO BRING THE MOST IMPORTANT COAST OPENINGS WITHIN A SHORT SPACE, THE LINES THAT CROSS HORIZONTALLY SHOW THE POINTS WHERE YEARLY AND MONTHLY TEMPERATURE AND RAIN FALL HAVE BEEN ASCERTAINED, AS EXPLAINED IN TABLE ON ARTICLE ON WIND CURRENTS.

INTRODUCTORY AND EXPLANATORY.

We hope our efforts to represent Tehama county may cause its inhabitants to understand more fully its resources; to know more about its grand scenery, healing springs, broad productive wheat fields, extensive business houses, excellent public and private schools, fine churches, and in fact every needed requisite for desirable residence or business, the truth of which needs only to be known to attract attention everywhere.

We hope it may induce the citizens to think well of their own county, which has so many attractions for the farmer or business man who is looking for a mild and healthful climate, as well as productive soil. The traveler or resident may here enjoy the delights of the tropics without their penalties; a mild climate, not enervating, but healthful and health-restoring; a wonderful and variously productive soil, without tropical malaria, and the grandest of scenery.

It has been our sincere wish and conscientious aim to make a work that citizens of the county may feel proud to show to their friends, or the people who yearly visit it in search of health, pleasure or profit, as truthfully representing its true condition.

To many old settlers, whose years of honorable toil have transferred the wild lands into harvest-laden fields, we acknowledge our obligations for historical and biographical incidents connected with the early history of the county. A few more years and all pioneers will have passed over the river. Many now lie among the golden sands that allured them hither. Let no unmerited blot be cast upon the grand army of adventurers who covered these western shores, and brought with them the foundation of our society, schools and homes.

To the old settler, to the pioneer citizen, the events recorded in these pages, many of them in which he has figured, and which have been gradually and surely fading from the mind, will be as a revival of by-gone associations. The ground that he rescued from the wilderness will be made holy, while children will be taught to look with reverence upon the book which holds the annals of their parents' wanderings, and the rise and progress of their county.

One object of this publication is, to represent by pictures the most important features of the county, as presented in residences, farms and business. It is conceded that every handsome residence, good business block, or improved farm is a monument to the taste and prosperity of the community in which they are situated, and no written description alone can adequately portray them to the world. Our task has been to endeavor to reproduce these features; to make history *by pictures* as well as *by words*.

Every picture was made from fresh, new and original designs, and passed through various processes by different persons before completion. Before hasty criticism is made, it would be well to occupy the artist's stand-point, where he carefully noted everything with his pencil. In these sketches we consulted the parties interested and not the general public.

Few persons without actual experience can comprehend the care and pains necessary to complete a work of this description. Articles were printed from more than a hundred different hand-writings, and often as to dates and names very difficult to decipher.

We were very fortunate in securing Gen. E. J. Lewis to prepare his personal "Reminiscences of Tehama County." It was universally acknowledged that no other person was better prepared to give a correct history of the events of thirty years than he who had been conversant with them during this long period. We are under obligations for the able and impartial manner in which he has presented the important interests of the county, as well as scenes of early days.

To this history has been added contributions from other citizens on the schools, societies, climate, geology, botany and other features of the county. Among these we especially desire to mention Gen. N. P. Chipman, Jerome Banks, Prof. L. Van Fossen, E. S. Campbell, L. D. Clark, Robert Roseveare and Prof. E. S. Gans, all of whom cheerfully prepared able articles on various subjects. To Charles Hughes for the accurate map of the county. To Prof. L. Van Fossen for geological charts and articles.

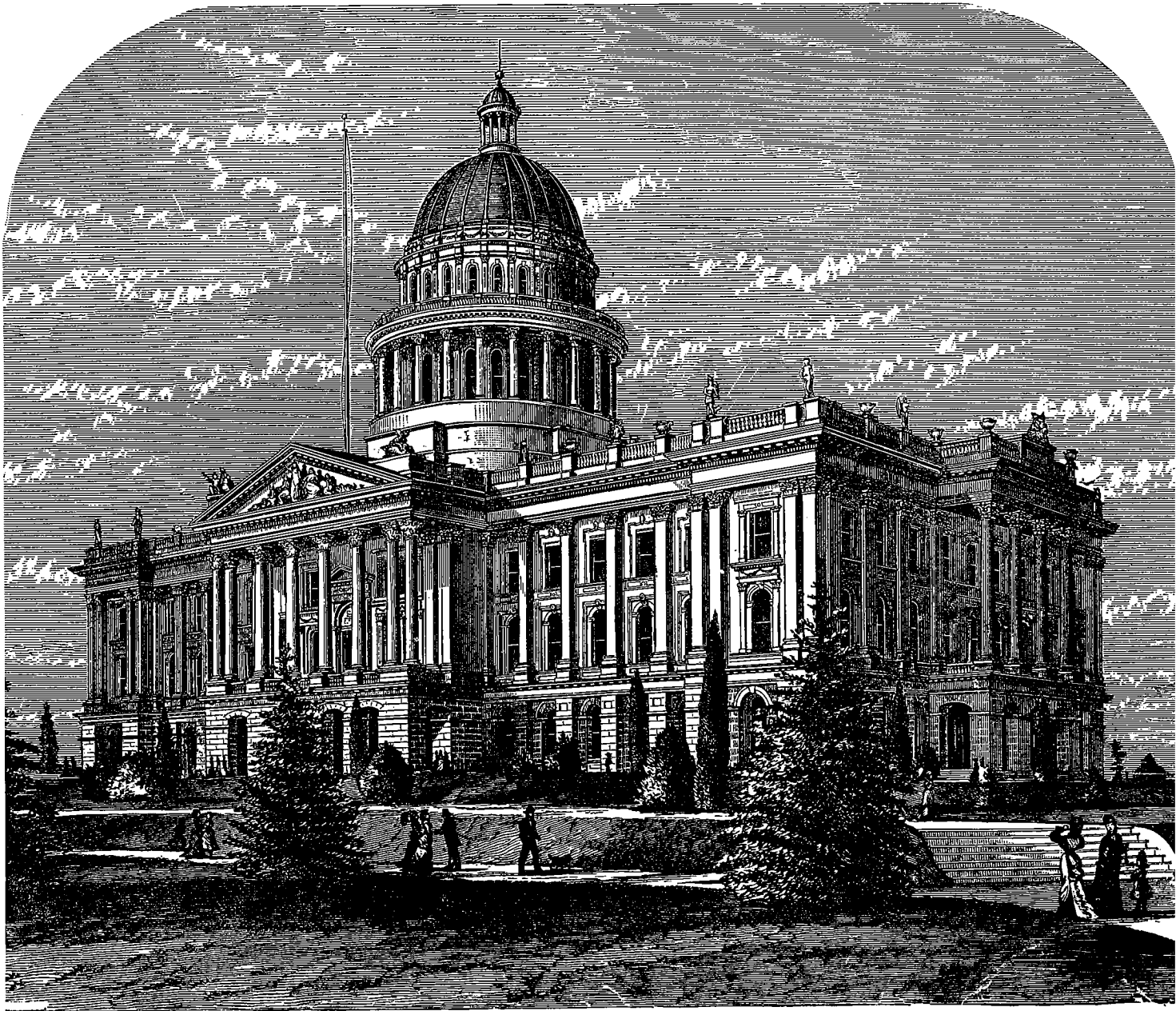
To these have been added "Personal Notices" of citizens, which contain matter not strictly belonging to the county, but generally explanatory of matters incidental to early times in California and first settling of the county. These articles give statements of the variety of crops produced on different farms, as well as manner of cultivation and harvesting.

We especially desire to return thanks to the editors and publishers of the newspapers of the county, who have at all times aided us. We also are under obligations for their cordial support and patronage, they being among the first to encourage our enterprise.

We must not fail to acknowledge many acts of encouragement from the several county officers and Board of Supervisors, who have assisted us in many ways.

Our thanks are due to the citizens of this county for the cordial good feeling manifested toward our enterprise, and that aid and support which can only be expected from prosperous and intelligent people.

THE PUBLISHERS.



STATE CAPITOL BUILDING,
SACRAMENTO, CAL.

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HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES

—OF—

TEHAMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

BY E. J. LEWIS.

Tradition is not the most reliable agent upon which to depend in writing a history, which must of necessity reach back beyond the observation of the living; yet, in the absence of records and living witnesses, we are compelled to invoke the aid of the best evidence attainable, and trusting partly to my own memory, but principally to the information kindly furnished me by General John Bidwell, and the statements of those who have gone from us forever, I am induced to give in as reliable a manner as possible some of the leading incidents concerning that portion of the State of California now comprising the county of Tehama; and that it may be known what my facilities have been to ascertain the early history of Tehama county, it will be proper for me to state, that I have lived in this section of California since 1849, and have been intimately connected with most of the early pioneers, who in advance of civilization opened up this magnificent region to American enterprise.

FIRST AMERICAN SETTLERS.

Many an hour have I spent an attentive and admiring listener to the stories of Wm. G. Chard, A. G. Toomes and R. H. Thomes, as they related in their own intelligent and convincing way, the mingled pleasures and hardships which they experienced in 1844, when they became the first white settlers in what is now Tehama county.

I think it was in August, 1844, that a party of Americans, consisting of Gen. John Bidwell, Wm. G. Chard, A. G. Toomes, R. H. Thomes, Job F. Dye, and Major P. B. Reading, came to the upper Sacramento to look out a location for settlement. Little was known at that time of this portion of the State, and until 1843 had never been visited by white men, save an occasional expedition of trappers in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company, and a small party of Wilkes' exploring expedition, which came by land from Oregon in 1841.

GEN. BIDWELL'S VISIT TO TEHAMA, 1843.

In 1843, Gen. John Bidwell visited this section and found it wild but beautiful and productive, and so well pleased was he, that he made a map of the county from memory, named most of the streams, and became so enthusiastic in its description that general attention was directed to the Upper County, and a great curiosity was manifested by the few Americans to behold this locality so favored by nature.

FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF OTHERS.

In the same year (1843), another party of Americans who entered California by way of Pitt river, passed through this section on their way to Sutter's Fort. Among that party was Major P. B. Reading, Major S. J. Hensley and J. B. Childs. They were also delighted with the country and enthusiastic in its praise. Of course, the observations made by these parties were not extensive, it was simply what they had seen in passing up or down the Sacramento river; and it can be easily imagined what kind of impressions would be left upon the minds of men who had for months, and perhaps years, only gazed upon the monotonous sage brush of the sandy and desolate plain, or the rocky and rugged peaks of the Rocky mountains, when they suddenly come upon the broad, level and fertile acres of the upper Sacramento, covered with the most luxuriant growth of vegetation, and unfolding a panorama of nature as beautiful as the eye of civilized man ever beheld.

EXPERIENCE OF FIRST SETTLERS.

To those who were acquainted with the party of Americans who in 1844 came to this section to settle, it is not surprising that they were infatuated with the glowing accounts of the

county as given by Gen. Bidwell and Major Reading, both of them reliable men, and not easily carried away by enthusiasm, but both capable of correct and reliable geographical description; and it is not out of place here to remark, that the hardships of pioneers never fell upon nobler men than these first settlers of Tehama county. No shadow of dishonor ever cast its gloom over their good names, and those of them who have gone from us forever, have left behind them enduring monuments of noble and charitable deeds that will last as long as the good in men are remembered, and those who are yet living, are the prototypes of their dead companions. They were men not only inured to the hardships of pioneer life, but were men of excellent business capacity; temperate and moral in their habits, and possessed of qualities that taught them to honor the grand and admire the beautiful.

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF A. G. TOOMES.

Many a time when seated around the camp-fire of a pleasure hunt with Mr. Toomes, have I listened with admiration to his native eloquence in relating the thrilling stories of danger, with Indians and wild beasts in the early settlement of the Upper Sacramento. His descriptions were true to life, and he betrayed a love for the beautiful by his matchless descriptions of the charming scenery which opened to his view the first morning after his arrival at Elder creek, where, as if directed by destiny he afterwards lived, and died within sight of at last.

FIRST SETTLERS DELIGHTED.

I am quite sure it was on the first day of August, 1844, that this party of pioneers encamped on Elder creek, where Mr. R. H. Thomes died in 1878. They looked about them and saw a vast body of rich alluvial soil, entirely unoccupied except by Indians, and large herds of elk and antelope, with an occasional grizzly, as if to add to the wildness and grandeur of the scene. All kinds of vegetation was most prolific, the wild oats reached to the saddle skirt, and the stately oaks afforded the grandest of nature's shelter from the summer sun. They looked to the north, and saw that the Coast Range and Sierra Nevadas converged together and formed a barrier to their northward journey, while to the south, a broad luxuriant plain stretched out before them laden with vegetation and sparkling with myriads of Nature's fairest gems. They unanimously agreed that this was the "Promised Land," this should be their future home; and they immediately, as if that little assembly under the branches of that spreading oak (which now stands) were sovereigns, partitioned to each other the great and productive ranchos which became their future homes, and which were afterwards granted to them by the Mexican Government.

PIONEER SETTLERS SELECT LOCATIONS.

Mr. Thomes selected five leagues of land south of Elder creek, on the west bank of the Sacramento river, Mr. Chard took the same quantity north of Elder creek, Mr. Dye selected his land on the east bank of the river opposite Mr. Chard's, and Mr. Toomes chose five leagues south of Mr. Dye's, on the east side of the Sacramento river. Afterwards Major Reading selected his land north of Cottonwood, in what is now Shasta county, and General Bidwell became the owner of the celebrated Chico ranch. Josiah Belden, a friend and acquaintance of the original party, made application and obtained five leagues of land north of Mr. Chard's grant, which he lived on only a short time, and sold it in 1847, I think, to Wm. B. Ide. After remaining here a few weeks and fully exploring the head of the Sacramento valley, they all returned to Monterey to remain during the winter, and to purchase horses and cattle to stock their new ranchos.

SETTLERS SECURE TITLES.

The next thing to be done was to secure title to the land as had been agreed upon between themselves. At that time this was Mexican territory, and to obtain title in their own name, they must become citizens of the Mexican Republic. I am not familiar with the naturalization laws of Mexico, but I think that a simple declaration of intentions with an oath of allegiance, was all that was necessary without reference to the length of time that the applicant had resided here, at least they all became citizens of the Mexican Republic, and in the spring of 1844 made their applications for a land grant described within certain boundaries to the General Assembly of California, which made the grant, and was issued to them under the seal of Mexico, and signed by Micheltorena, then Governor of California, and were subsequently confirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States. And so each one became the owner of the land they had divided among themselves under the shade of the spreading oak, on Elder creek, when they first claimed the land by right of discovery. Energy and will had led them to this beautiful eden, and perseverance in future years had made them wealthy, and a life of rectitude and honor had given them a whole community as mourners to mourn their death at last.

STERLING CHARACTER OF FIRST SETTLERS.

To those familiar with the characteristics of early pioneers, it may seem a little strange that these men were all possessed of such exemplary habits, and such noble and sterling qualities. There was not one of them given to dissolute habits or to wild and boisterous boastings which is so peculiar to, and such a



C. F. Foster
SHERIFF.



E. H. Shields
CLERK.

COUNTY OFFICERS.



J. E. By
ASSESSOR.



H. A. Mayhew
JUDGE.



J. H. Mudgett
SURVEYOR.



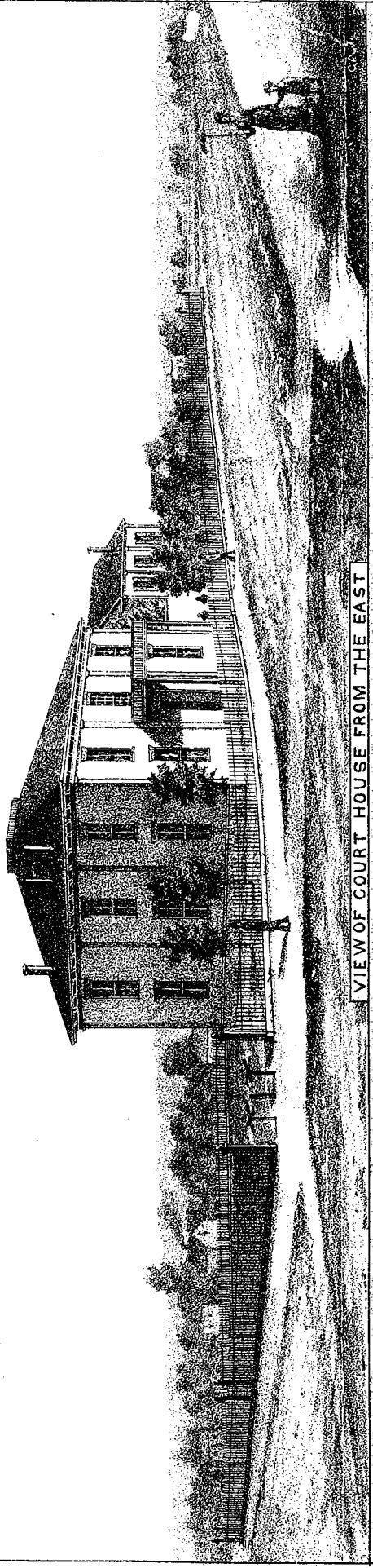
J. M. Banks
DISTRICT ATTORNEY.



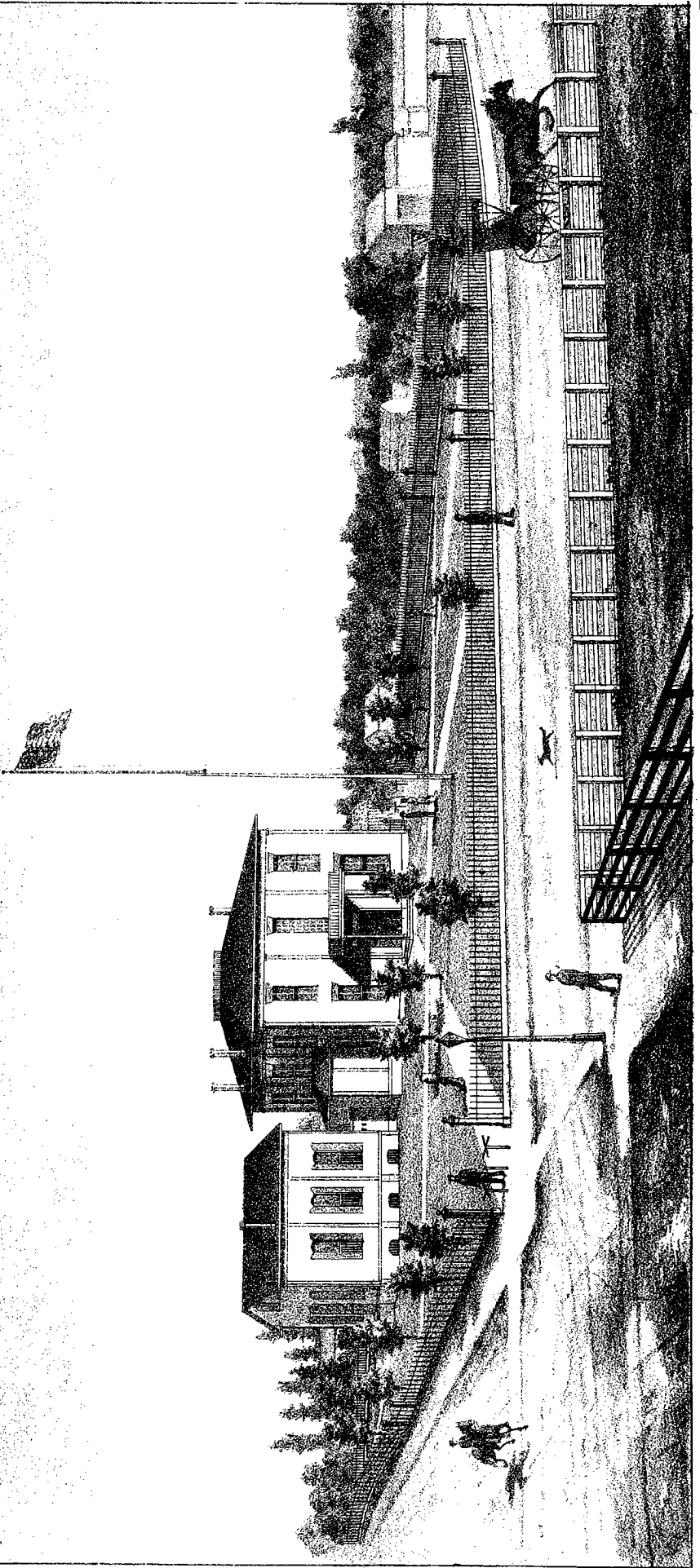
A. W. W. Sewell
TREASURER.



W. S. Campbell
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS.



VIEW OF COURT HOUSE FROM THE EAST



striking characteristic of men who have become used to the wilds of nature and the associations of a frontier life. One would naturally suppose that a life in the Rocky mountains and on the plains, would lead to wild and reckless habits, and that deeds of daring and desperation would be the most prominent traits in their character. But not so with these men, they were all men of more than ordinary education, and showed by their manly acts an early training, which only comes from intelligent and educated parents; and while they were resolute, bold and brave, a sound judgment and an honorable discretion controlled them in every act. They faced danger not as desperadoes, but with a cool determination which even the wild savages saw and interpreted with that unerring instinct which even the animal kingdom never mistakes. Their treatment of the Indians was kind and forbearing, instead of living in constant fear of them they found them their friends, and they reaped the reward in Indian labor of their kind and humane policy.

TRIBUTE TO CHARACTER OF THE PIONEERS.

Messrs Toomes, Thomes, Chard and Dye were the only ones of the original party who settled in what is now Tehama county, and as my narrative must be limited to the geographical boundaries of this political subdivision of the State, I must of necessity omit an extended notice of the remaining members of the original party, to-wit, General Bidwell and Major P. B. Reading; yet, in taking leave of them, as an historical part of this feeble and limited narrative, it is with the pleasing knowledge that their names have hitherto become so prominent in this State, and so inseparably connected with its early history, that a pen more competent than mine will inscribe their noble deeds upon pages far more enduring than these. Their history is a prominent part of the history of the State, and it would be a most difficult task to attempt to write the history of California, without ranking General John Bidwell and Major P. B. Reading among the most conspicuous as well as most honorable characters in such a history. It was my good fortune in days gone by, to have been intimately acquainted with both of these gentlemen, and to have been permitted to call them my friends, and when I reflect upon the past, and contemplate the noble bearing, the genial smile, and kind heart of Major Reading, it fills me with sorrow when I realize that all things earthly must pass away, and the silver cord of friendship must be severed by the hand of death.

LASTING FRIENDSHIP OF PIONEERS.

The lasting friendship which existed between these early pioneers was most wonderful. They all appeared to be bound together by "hooks of steel." No rivalry, nor jealousy existed among them, they were attached to each other, as it seemed to me, by a brotherly affection and common instinct; and at all

times were ready to make any sacrifice for the welfare of each other; death alone divorced these noblest of all men. But space compels me to turn from the very pleasant reflections upon the good qualities of these noble men, to the practicable events which followed their settlement in Tehama county.

HOMES OF FIRST SETTLERS.

Mr. Toomes and Mr. Thomes were both skillful carpenters, and as might be supposed, their first thoughts were directed to building houses. There was no lumber except in its natural state; but a short residence in a Spanish town, had enlightened them considerably in the art of primitive architecture, and Yankee like, they put to use their observation and experience. Mud was plenty and Indians numerous, one beef was ample compensation for a week's labor for a hundred Indians.

FIRST HOUSE BUILT.

An adobe was constructed where the old Tehama House stood, which was destroyed by fire in 1858, in the present town of Tehama. This was the first dwelling erected by white men in this section of the State, and was owned by R. H. Thomes, which was made general head-quarters for a short time for the four enterprising pioneers.

OTHER DWELLINGS ERECTED IN 1846.

The following year Mr. Toomes built an adobe on the opposite side of the Sacramento river, about one mile below where the flouring mill now stands, and took up his residence there; and Mr. Chard constructed a log cabin on the Sacramento river, about four miles north of what is now the town of Tehama, which for a long time was known to the early traveling public as the Sacramento House. These buildings were constructed in 1846.

BUILDINGS ERECTED IN 1847.

I am not quite sure, but I believe that Mr. Dye in the following year (1847), built an adobe on Antelope creek, where the old adobe now stands, on the ranch owned at present by Major Joseph S. Cone, and within a short distance of the present residence of Mr. R. H. Blossom. And the same year, Mr. Wm. B. Ide settled with a portion of his family on the ranch purchased from Josiah Belden, and built a house on what has since been known as Ide's Bottom, a few miles below the present town of Red Bluff. I have no means at hand to enable me to give the exact date of Mr. Ide's settlement in Ide's Bottom, but I think it was in the summer of 1847.

A country like this, which at that time possessed all the attractions of any spot under the sun, could not remain long unsettled, and notwithstanding the flag of Mexico waved over

this vast region, as an emblem of the sovereignty of that Republic, the booming of cannon on the Rio Grande told in unmistakable terms, that the great progressive and irresistible people would, before many months, plant the standard of American enterprise on the Sierras, and invite to this new found eden the citizens of a great government whose motto is onward, and whose mission is civilization and progression.

News of the conflict between our government and Mexico was slow in reaching our remote pioneers in the Upper Sacramento, and while they waited with almost breathless anxiety the issue of the conflict, they never for a moment doubted the result; and with longings as pure and true as the most devoted patriots for the final success of our arms, they were not unmindful of the obligation they owed to that government, which with a lavishing liberality had bestowed upon them their princely dominions; and when the "Bear Flag" was raised by their impulsive, but less considerate companions, they stood aloof from the miniature rebellion, and counseled submission to the authority which had bestowed upon them such magnificent gifts. But tidings came at last that the contest was over, and without a struggle on their part, and as imperceptible as the dew of morning, they were transformed from citizens of a benighted government, to their own great and grand Republic.

California became American territory, an event which was celebrated by our pioneers with a ceremony primitive in its character, but full of devotion to their country and admiration for their flag.

OTHER SETTLERS BEGIN TO COME.

In the spring of 1847, there began to appear upon the trail from Oregon occasional emigrants, who had learned something of the greatness of California, and even in those early days, the migratory and nomadic instincts of this roving people, had become a subject of jocular remarks with Californians; a strange characteristic of the "Web-feet" people, which has lost nothing by a lapse of thirty years, but the expression "movers," as applied to them, has ripened into a truism, and is as applicable to them, as it is to the periodical movements of the flocks of wild geese that come with the fall and depart in the spring.

Our pioneers soon discovered other evidences of the presence of their white brethren, cattle were found dead along the trail with the choicest pieces taken and the rest left for Indians and vultures. The owners remonstrated with the invaders, but they were told that the cattle were wild, and belonged to them as much as to anybody else. Horses were also frequently missing, but the web-feet were generally the strongest, and the discovery of the horse by its owner was by no means an assurance that he could be recovered. At this time horses and cattle were of but little value, and it was thought by the

owners that it was better to lose their property than to engage in a contest, the issue of which was at least doubtful.

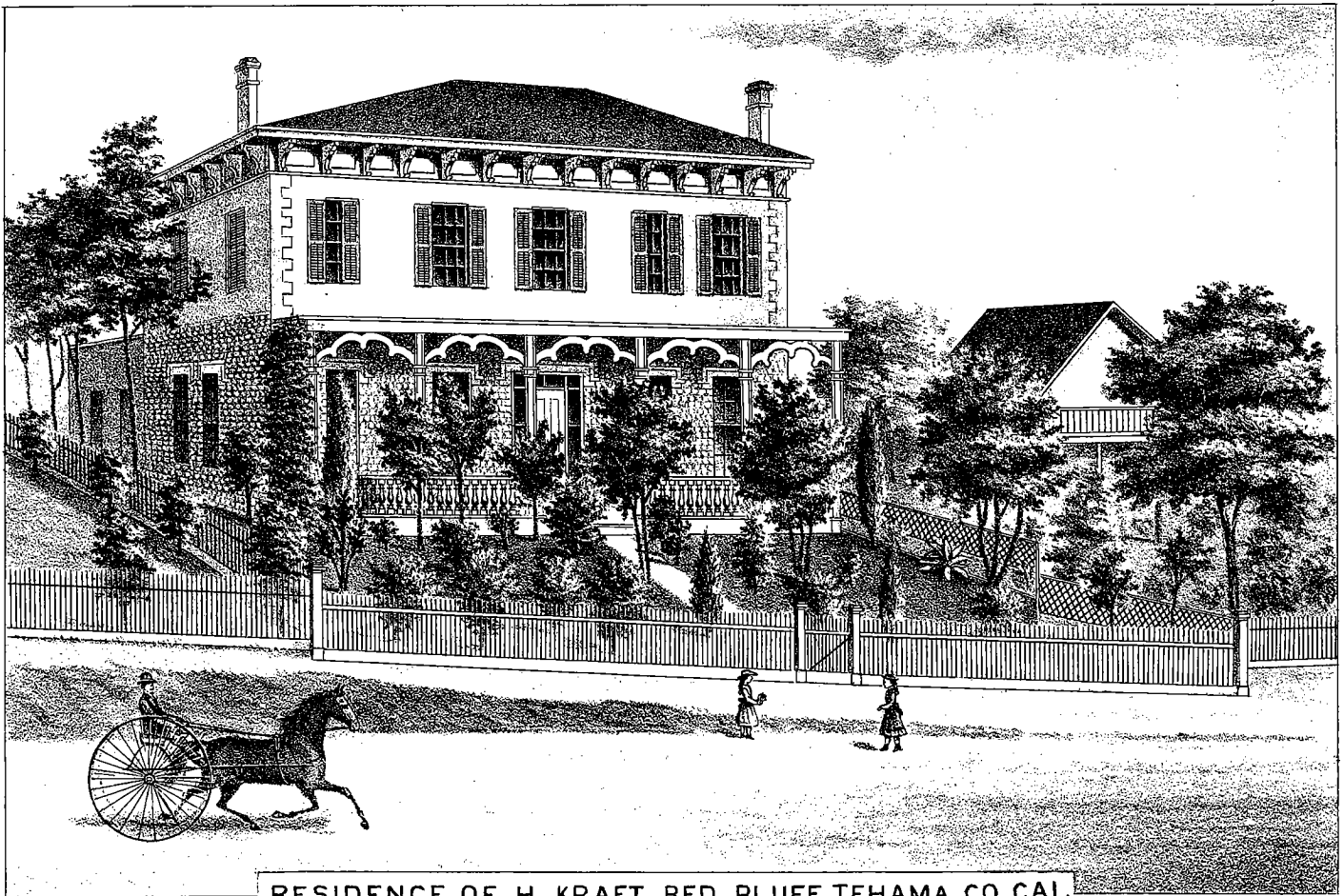
NEWS OF DISCOVERING GOLD.

At last the great event of the Nineteenth century broke upon us, the effect of which was felt in the remotest portions of the globe. Gold in great quantities had been discovered by a man by the name of Marshall, on the American river. I think it was in February, 1848. The news reached this section of the State in the month of April of that year. At first it was regarded as a hoax, the stories told concerning its quantity, were as extravagant and absurd as the story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp. At last Mr. Toomes arrived from a short visit to Monterey, he had actually seen the gold, and if I am not mistaken had some with him. The reliable information was like a spark to the magazine, all was excitement, horses, cattle and ranches, were all left, and away upon a wave of enthusiasm went our sturdy pioneers to delve amid the sand bars of Feather river for gold, which they found in great abundance, and returned in the fall with mules actually loaded with the precious metal. At that time Mr. Dye, and Uncle Billy Moon, who had been with the pioneer party, were in Monterey, and became like victims to the new excitement. I think I can state with safety, that ninety-nine out of every one hundred Americans then in California started for the mines, and nearly all realized large fortunes; but as that subject is a departure from the narrow limits within which I must confine myself, I must leave it to others and return to the locality about which I am at liberty to write.

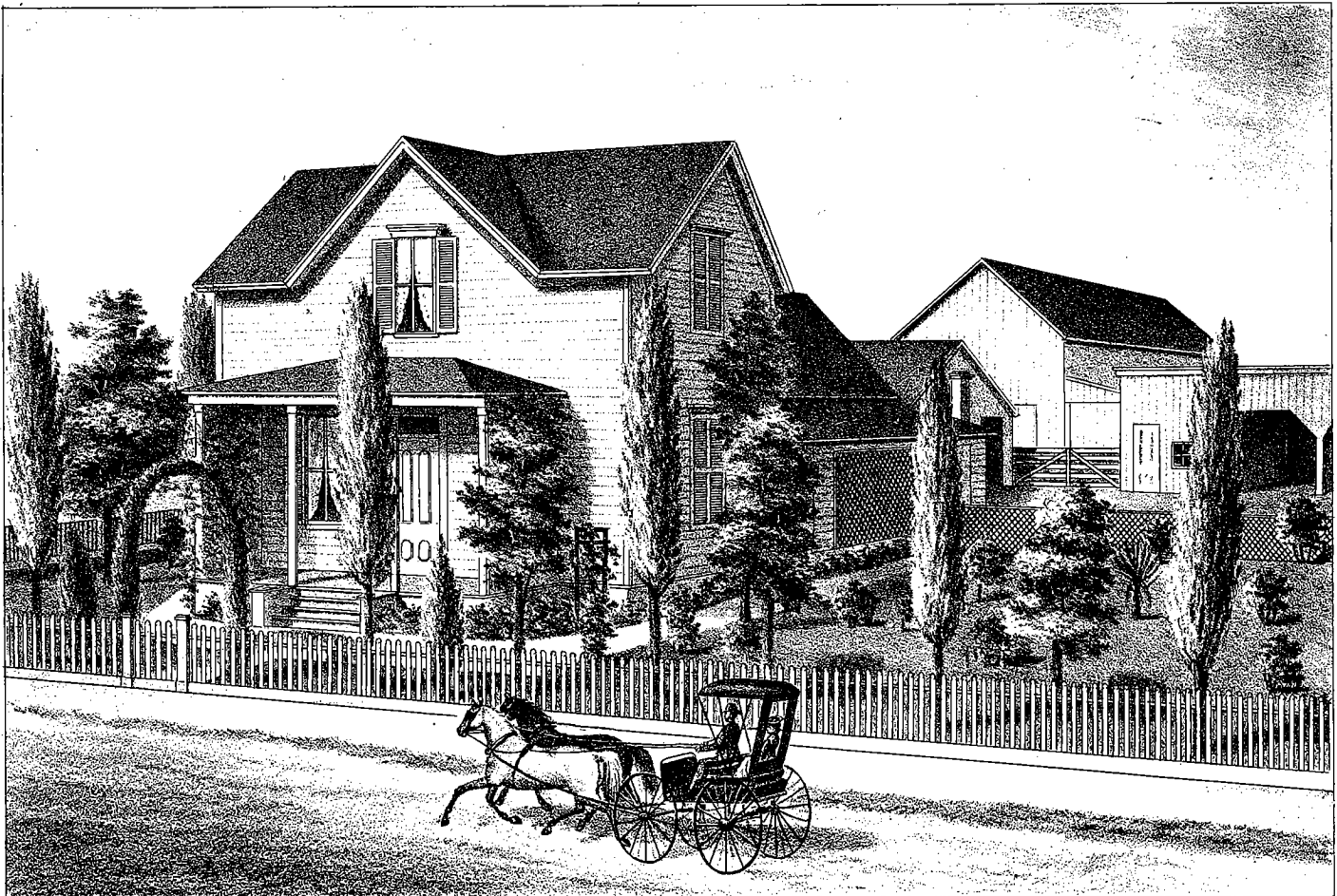
THE PIONEER, PETER LASSEN.

I should have mentioned before that in 1844 another white man made his appearance in what is now Tehama county, and although of limited intellectual attainments, and little given to the embellishments and ways of civilization, his name was destined to figure extensively in the early history of California. That man was Peter Lassen; and there are many persons now living to my own knowledge, who followed the meanderings of the "Lassen Cut Off," in 1849, who have doubtless repeated his name hundreds of times, mingled with the profane and bitter imprecations which the weary and worn out emigrants know so well how to use when they have been lured into a "Cut Off" which proves to be a much harder and longer route than the one they left to hazard a dangerous experiment.

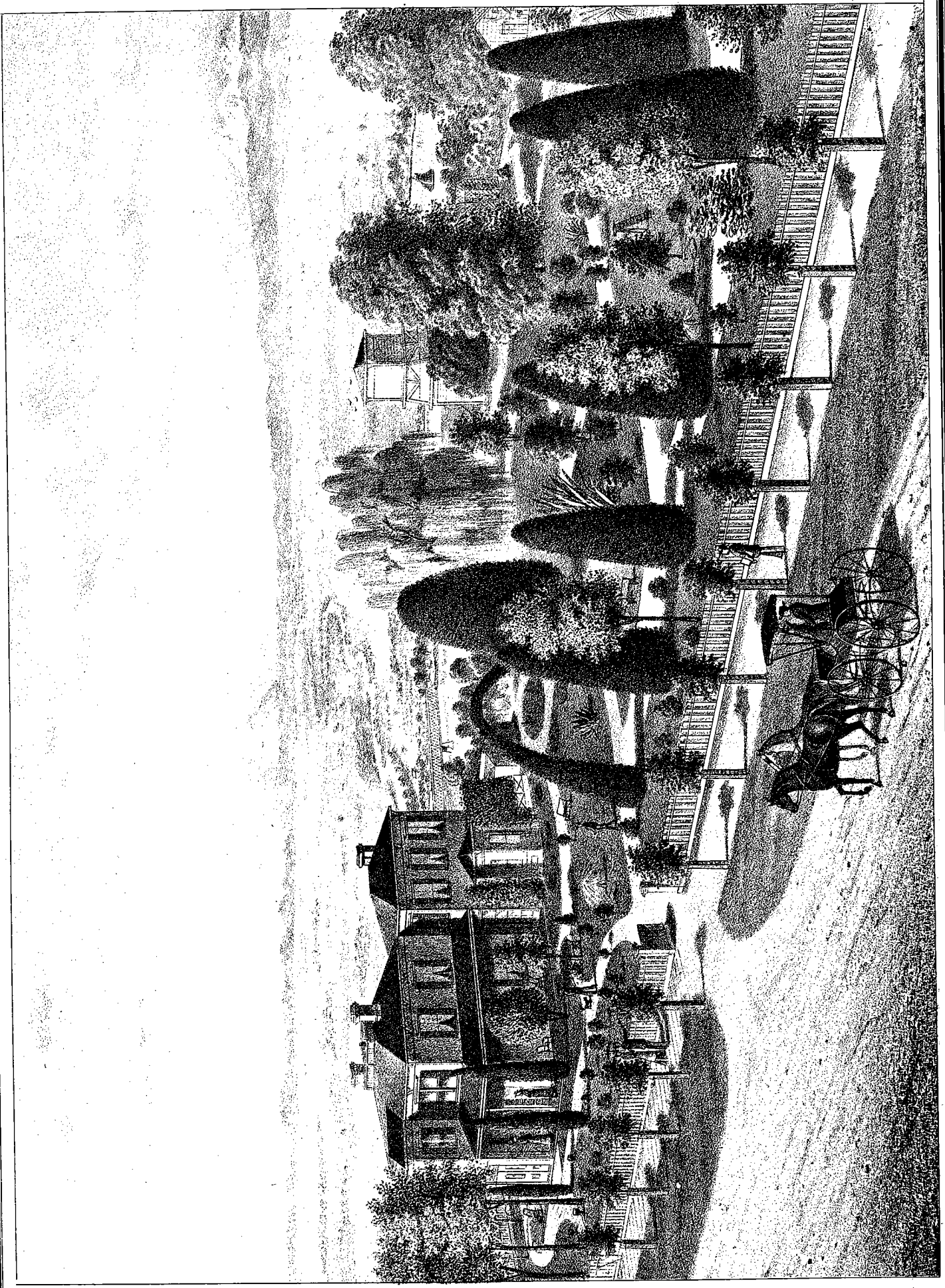
Uncle Peter, as he was familiarly called, with all his simplicity and teutonic reticence was ambitious, not that kind of ambition which impels the soldier to accomplish rapid marches, and reduce what appears to be impregnable fortifications; or which induces the statesman to produce political results which will immortalize his name, and result in the welfare and pros-



RESIDENCE OF H. KRAFT, RED BLUFF, TEHAMA CO. CAL.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE LUMAN KINGSLEY, RED BLUFF, TEHAMA CO. CAL.



RESIDENCE & GROUNDS OF MAJ. G.G. KIMBALL. RED BLUFF CAL.

perity of his country; his ambition pointed in other directions, it led him to the solitudes of nature, to the evergreens of the mountains and to the peril of Indian associations. It was not upon the pages of history that Peter Lassen desired to see his name, but upon the tree in the forest, indicating to the traveler the road to the land of gold; and although that road might have led to misery, starvation and sometimes death, it was the "Lassen" road, and in that fact, there was to Uncle Peter, a world of consolation and satisfaction; and when he succeeded in giving his name to that lofty and rugged peak of the Sierra Nevadas, which rises in such stately grandeur in the eastern horizon, he had accomplished all that his ambition demanded. He attempted to settle down to a life of civilization on his grant, which consisted of five leagues on the east side of the Sacramento river, and south of Deer creek. He built a large adobe and blacksmith shop, and obtained a local distinction as a manufacturer of bridle bits and Spanish spurs.

LASSEN RUNS FIRST STEAMER.

In the year 1849, which brought to California such a tide of emigration, he saw a great demand for the necessaries of life which could not be had in this section of the State, and a brilliant commercial idea possessed him. Nature's great artery of commerce, the Sacramento river, caught his eye; a steamboat would not only astonish the natives, but would be a source of untold wealth to the owner. The mines had yielded up their treasures to him most bountifully; he gathered up his gold and started for the Bay. A small craft called the "Lady Washington," seduced the trapper and woodsman, she was purchased at an enormous price, and in the winter of 1849-50, was loaded with goods and started upon her journey. She was about five months in reaching the mouth of Deer creek, about two hundred miles, and as might be expected was not a profitable enterprise. This is a small item, but as the "Lady Washington" was the first steamer that ever sailed on the Upper Sacramento, it becomes important as a matter of history.

LAST DAYS OF PETER LASSEN.

Uncle Peter lingered a few years on his ranch, but was not equal to the emergencies that shrewd business men heaped upon him. Business and traffic were not his fort; he would cast his eyes longingly up the mountain sides, and see the tall pines waving in the breeze, and weep to recline beneath their cooling shade. There was his home, civilization had brought upon him financial ruin, he would remain no longer. He sold his land grant to Henry Gerkeo, its present owner, and bid adieu to the shackles of traffic and commercial imprisonment. He located somewhere in what is now Lassen county, the name of which was to Uncle Peter another victory for the simple pioneer. He was killed by Indians about the year 186-

Uncle Peter was true to his friends, and never forgot a kind act. In 1846, he gave to Daniel Sill, Sr., one league of land on Deer creek, where Mr. Sill remained until his death. Mr. Sill was also a trapper, and that occupation led him to this country. In 1849 he sent for his son and daughter, to join him in his home where he had permanently settled, which they did in the following year. Mr. Daniel Sill, Jr., now resides on Deer creek, near the old homestead, and the daughter, Miss Harriet Sill, is now the wife of W. P. Mayhew, both old and beloved citizens of Tehama county.

PERMANENT SETTLERS IN 1848.

There were in 1848, in addition to the names heretofore mentioned living in what is now Tehama county, a few persons of little prominence, who have passed out of my memory, but they were generally old broken down trappers who had brought their infirmities upon themselves, and were living with the settlers as objects of charity.

R. H. Thomes on Elder creek, Wm. G. Chard on the Sacramento river, A. G. Toomes at or near the mouth of Mill creek, Jake F. Dye on Antelope, Peter Lassen and Daniel Sill, Sr., on Deer creek, Capt. Henry L. Ford and William Moon on the Sacramento river opposite the mouth of Deer creek, Judge W. B. Ide and his family, at Ide's Bottom, and Meyers who lived with Peter Lassen, were all the Americans who were permanently settled in what is now Tehama county in the fall of 1848, but during that fall and winter, and the spring of 1849, these men were all absent in the mines where they accumulated large fortunes which they afterwards enjoyed.

SETTLERS CROWD INTO TEHAMA.

We now enter upon a new era, one hitherto unequalled in the history of the world.

The life of a civilized community resembles in many respects the lives of individuals. They are characterized by birth, infancy, manhood and declining old age; and while communities are as a general thing of much longer life than individuals their state of infancy is proportionately lengthened, and it is seldom the case that the life of the individual is of sufficient length to witness all the transitions of a civilized community, from its birth through infancy to full-grown manhood; but California is an exception to the general rule, especially those parts where the level, rich and alluvial soil invites the toil of the husbandman and promises an abundant reward for his labor. Tehama county possesses all of these natural inducements, and as might be expected, when in the fall of 1849, the flood of emigration came pouring over the Sierras and in through the Golden Gate, that a people whose leading impulse was energy and enterprise, would not long be satisfied with a search for gold, but would turn their attention to other occupa-

tions more suited to their former habits, and more congenial to their tastes and comfort. One of the results of this enterprising spirit was the rapid settlement of that section of the State embraced within the present limits of Tehama county. In the fall of 1849 hundreds of people had gathered around the ranches of the old settlers, and instead of their dwellings being the adobe of a single individual, the tents and temporary buildings gave to the locality the appearance of a future city, and the pack-trains and mule and ox-teams going to and returning from the mines, and the throngs of footmen suddenly dissipated the thought of a community in its infancy, and we beheld the infant of a day, transformed into full grown manhood.

A NEW ERA IN AFFAIRS.

I now come to the difficult part of my narrative. I must not only be exactly correct about my dates, but must compress into a few pages a subject which demands unlimited space, that full justice may be done. And when I reflect, that I am writing pages which may possibly live beyond my own existence, and perhaps referred to as authority, I am possessed with feelings of mingled pride and embarrassment as I proceed with great timidity to my task. It is history; although minature as it is, and feeble as the wording may be, it is intended to be truthful and reliable. Harmonious sentences and jungling paragraphs are of easy construction when the fancy is only to be reached and the imagination pleased, but when the task is to lure the reader by pleasant words to reliable information, the labor is not only embarrassing, but the result exceedingly hazardous; and if as a faithful chronicler of events, I should happen to say things which may fall harshly upon the ears of some, or entirely omit to mention others who believe that their lives are entirely indispensable to the existence of this community, it will not be because I harbor revenge or cherish malice, but that the truth of history may be vindicated and justice done.

NO LEGAL AUTHORITY GOVERNED PIONEERS.

Law and order is essential to all civilized communities, not only for the immediate protection of life and property, but for the convenience of aiding business intercourse. Until the fall of 1849, there had been no semblance of legal authority in this section of the State. General Sutter, at Sutter's Fort, near Sacramento, was the only magistrate north of San Francisco. The rapid settlement of the Upper Sacramento, which consisted of people from every State in the Union, with ideas as varied as their different natures, certainly could not exist, as a body politic, without some established and recognized rule of action to govern them in their intercourse with one another. There was not even the usual territorial form of government. General Riley commanded the forces of the United States on this coast, and exercised the functions of a Military Governor,

but his authority was so remote that it was as little felt as if he had been Governor of some of the South Sea Islands.

The disciples of Blackstone will tell us, that "law is a rule of action prescribed by the supreme power of a State, commending what is right and prohibiting what is wrong," but in this case there was no "supreme power" of State that could be reached. The Federal Government had not had time even to organize a territorial government for us, and before the weavers of red tape at Washington could realize that California was American territory, she became, as if by special direction of destiny, a first-class State in the American Union.

ELECTION OF FIRST ALCALDES.

Until the 9th of September, 1850, there was no available supreme authority in this section of California. Some sort of authority was indispensable, and at Lassen's ranch on Deer creek, an election was held, by general consent, which resulted in the choice of Capt. J. D. Potts, and Col. Wilson as alcaldes, with supreme jurisdiction as well over the lives of the citizens, as in all cases of law and equity.

UNLIMITED POWER OF ALCALDES.

To those who have devoted the best energies of their lives to the study and practice of the law, a Spanish Alcalde as we found them in the interior of California in 1849, was a legal nondescript. In him was merged all the powers of civil government. He tried, condemned and executed or pardoned, as suited his will. He could settle a dispute involving the value of a dime, or could issue, in some places, letters patent to an entire city. He was committing magistrate and court of last resort, all at the same time, and no power could reverse his judgment unless he willed it.

BLACKBURN THE NOTED ALCALDE.

The power of an alcalde was well illustrated by Blackburn, an American by birth, but for a long time a citizen of California, and alcalde at Santa Cruz in 1840, and an old intimate friend of Wm. G. Chard, who has many times related the story to me. A Spanish Indian of the Santa Cruz Mission had been guilty of some kind of depredation, perhaps murder. Alcalde Blackburn issued an order for his arrest, Blackburn heard the evidence, and at once pronounced a sentence of death, but the Indian escaped and took refuge in the church, where, under the protection of the Priest he rested in fancied security. A messenger was immediately sent to Los Angeles, to obtain a pardon for the condemned man from the Governor of California. An order came from the Governor, directing the alcalde to suspend the execution until the case could be investigated; this order was sent to the condemned

man in the church, and thinking himself secure left the church in company with a padre; when Blackburn immediately seized and hung him, and as near as I can recollect, wrote to the Governor about as follows: "I received your order to suspend the execution of the condemned man, but for fear that he might escape, I have hung him. When I see your Excellency we will investigate the matter." I was well acquainted with Blackburn, having served one or two terms with him in the Legislature of California in an early day, and while he did not care to converse on the subject, he substantially admitted the whole story by saying, that "in those days alcaldes were all powerful." But an American community that had been accustomed to a government of co-ordinate departments of limited powers, could not be expected to submit long to such an extraordinary mingling of sovereign elements, and the judgment of an American alcalde was only submitted to when it harmonized with the will of the people, which was nearly always the case.

FIRST MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

The alcalde's first official act was to solemnize the marriage contract. The parties were Mr. Webber and Miss May Hall; and his next official act, was to join in wedlock Mr. Bessy and Miss Harriet Sill. The first wedding took place in 1849 and the second in 1850.

CHIEF ALCALDE OR MAGISTRATE.

Capt. J. D. Potts became the principal alcalde or magistrate, and dispensed justice with a sound judgment and discretion which always met with the approval of the people. Had the community of 1849 been composed of the same kind of people as is the community of to-day, the jurisdiction of our alcaldes would have been expanded to their utmost capacity, in not only settling disputes as to property, but in administering its penal laws. But a wise Providence seems to have assumed especial care and protection over us, and to have selected as the advance guard of our civilization, an army of men with peculiar fitness for the emergency. Law is unnecessary to compel honest men to do their duty, yet it is absolutely indispensable to protect honest men in their rights.

EARLY SETTLERS LIVED HARMONIOUSLY.

In the community of 1849 it was an exceedingly rare thing to find a man who desired to wrong his neighbor, and as such a thing as a crime seldom occurred, penalties were seldom inflicted; but when it became necessary to protect the community by imposing punishment, it was most generally of that swift and severe nature which prevails in all newly settled countries, and which leaves such a terror in the minds of evil disposed persons as to deter them from crime, and leave the

public calm in the enjoyment of their natural rights and privileges. I think I may say with moral certainty, that no country under the sun ever possessed a population so noble in impulse, so generous, so brave and honest, as did California in 1849; and if it were possible for a community to exist, without law or public authority, but depend entirely upon the spirit of justice that would prompt every man to do his whole duty towards his fellow creature, the community of 1849 would come nearer to that idea than any that ever existed before or since; and if I were called upon to explain the reason for the change so visible from that time to this, I should answer, to my own satisfaction at least, that there are few forty-niners left.

AMICABLE SETTLEMENT BY PIONEERS.

It is not surprising that a community composed of such men should manage their own affairs with such perfect success, and so seldom invoked the aid of public authority to settle disputes; in fact there were no disputes. Amicable settlements of misunderstandings and unavoidable controversies, dispensed with disputes, and when the State was admitted into the Union, and a State and county governments were organized, the change was so imperceptible, that we hardly knew, or could be made to realize, that we had just emerged from a government of general agreement and consent, to take a place in a government of perfect system and organized law.

STARTING OF RIVAL TOWNS.

In the winter of 1849, Mr. Thomes' ranch became a small town, and Deer creek, seven miles to the south, became its rival. I cannot give any reason why these two places were selected as future cities, or account for it on any geographical theory or advantage, unless it was, that at Thomes' ranch, there was a ferry across the Sacramento, and Deer creek was the end of the Lassen route, and for that reason the weary travelers could go no further, and like the wanderers from Troy, concluded they would found a city, but it proved to be neither Rome nor Carthage, but retrograded into a quiet, prosperous ranch under the supervision of Mr. Daniel Sill, Sr.

TEHAMA SETTLED AND NAMED.

But Thomes' ranch was more fortunate, while it was far from success as a city, it became a noted and prosperous point in this section of the State, and by some person christened Tehama. The appropriateness of this name, or where it originated, I am not able to say. I once had occasion to ascertain its origin, and was told by some that it was the Indian name for plains, or prairie, but the Indians knew nothing about it whatever. I remember of reading in Gibbon's Rome about an Arabian town called Tehama, not far from Medina in Arabia,

and was in some way of small consequence in the days of the original Mohammed, but further than that I can give no satisfactory explanation of the word "Tehama." But there is little in a name, and we would not be justified in wasting too much time over so small a matter. Tehama was confidently looked upon by its inhabitants, in the winter of 1849, as the future metropolis of this section of the State, and it must be confessed that for a short time appearances justified the hope.

TEHAMA VILLAGE FLOURISHES.

The spring of 1850 found the town of Tehama without a rival in this section of the State. It boasted of a hotel of no inferior order. I believe a man by the name of Leonard was the first hotel-keeper in the then embryo city, which was kept in the old adobe erected by Mr. Thomes in 1846. A city of the pretensions of Tehama, in the spring of 1850, must devote some thought and attention to system. It would not look well in future years to find buildings where streets ought to be and *vice versa*. To avoid future embarrassment and expense, the city was regularly laid out, a map was made, and that was all that was necessary to stamp Tehama a full-fledged city. I saw that map a few days ago, and I could discover no change whatever in the map since 1850, but the town has changed some. There has been a very disastrous fire there since the map was made, which of necessity changed the appearance of the town a little, but in all other respects it remains the same.

DANVILLE, THE RIVAL CITY.

Danville, one of its rivals on Deer creek had collapsed, and the whole city had become embraced within the adobe walls of Mr. Daniel Sill's house. Benton, another town elaborately laid out by Uncle Peter Lassen at the mouth of Deer creek, had floated down the river, and where that city once stood there is nothing to indicate its previous existence.

FIRST SETTLERS NEAR TEHAMA.

In the fall and winter of 1849 quite a number of people located in or near Tehama. Judge Newell Hall, with his mother, brother and three sisters, erected a building on the road south from Tehama about seven miles, and started a hotel, which they made quite prominent as an enjoyable place to stop, in consequence of the general intelligence which characterized each member of the family. There was no place in this section of the county more prominent, and I may add, more respected than the home of the Hall family. It was in those days of hardship a rare thing to find a house relieved by the smiles of women of such high moral character, and when the rough miner, who in the winter of 1849 would approach that house, the intelligent and modest demeanor of its lady inmates would

at once command his respect and esteem; and although thirty years have elapsed since the Hall family located there, and nearly all have passed away, yet the recollection of the genial family is as bright and sparkling in the memory of their many friends and admirers as it was when their kind hospitality made them so dear to hundreds of early Californians.

About the same time, that is in the fall or winter of 1849, Mr. John Myers erected a hotel about thirteen miles north of Tehama, where Red Bluff now stands, and as near as I can recollect the spot, about where the new water-tank now is; and in the following spring, Mr. Cooper erected a small adobe house where the first residence of Stephen Brearcliff was located, and Mr. William Ide built another adobe about two miles north of Red Bluff, and established a ferry, which has since that time been known as the adobe ferry. These, I believe, with the residences before spoken of, were all the houses of any kind that the spring of 1850 developed in that section of the country, now known as Tehama county, but from this time forward we cannot be expected to give an account of the buildings as they were erected.

Tehama saw, as the summer of 1850 passed on, that her dreams of becoming the great commercial city of the north were a cheat and a delusion, and they suddenly vanished as the steamer "Orient" started from her landing for Red Bluff, the "head of navigation," twelve miles north of Tehama and at the extreme head of the Sacramento valley.

RED BLUFF THE COMMERCIAL CENTER.

Tehama found in her new rival something more to vanquish in a commercial sense than either Danville or Benton City. The hope that the winter's flood would wash it away was utterly dispelled as the founders of Tehama gazed with admiration upon the elevated plateau which offered such great natural inducements to build a city; secure against inundation, above the poisonous malaria so destructive of health in the lower bottoms of the Sacramento, at the very head of navigation, it possessed such a combination of advantages that a prosperous future seemed secure beyond question; and now after a lapse of thirty years, experience has proved the truth of the prophecies that Red Bluff would one day become the commercial center for the northern portion of the State. And so it is to-day, she has no rival as a commercial center north of Marysville and Sacramento. Her capital and her energies are felt not only over the entire northern portion of California, but southern Oregon and a large portion of western Nevada look to that locality as their storehouse, and are tributary to her commercial prosperity.

In 1876, the President of the United States made a request that in all towns where a celebration of the Fourth of July was had that year, a brief synopsis of the history of the town should be read as a part of the exercises of the day, and a copy of the

same forwarded to Washington and there deposited in the archives for future reference. Agreeable to this request the following was prepared by myself and read by Mr. Edward Sweeny, which I here adopt as a concise statement of dates and events concerning Red Bluff.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

In the month of May, 1856, the county of Tehama was organized. It embraced all that part of Shasta county south of Cottonwood and Battle creeks; of Colusa county, all that portion north of Stony creek; and of Butte county, all that portion north of Rock creek—thus placing Red Bluff near the center of the new county of Tehama.

In March, 1857, the question of the location of the county seat was submitted to a vote of the people, which resulted in the choice of Red Bluff by an almost unanimous vote, and the county seat was accordingly located at that place, where it has since remained.

FIRST HOUSE IN RED BLUFF.

In the year 1849, the first house where Red Bluff now stands was erected by John Myers, which was kept as a hotel for the accommodation of the traveling public. The character of this house was of the same premature type which characterized all public houses in the early settlement of this State. Sleeping facilities were wholly dependent upon the capacity of the traveling guest to bear the burden of his own bed; and the unfortunate or feeble searcher for gold, who could not or would not "take up his bed and walk," was compelled to accept of the boards of the floor or the earth for a mattress, his boots for a pillow, and for his covering the starry canopy served as a comfortable mantle. A hotel more commodious than the first was erected by Captain Reid, in the lower portion of the town, which stands to-day in a dilapidated condition, and serves as a connecting link between the golden days of 1850 and the commercial and agricultural solidity of the present day.

UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER.

In the year 1851, commercial attention was attracted to this point upon the fact being demonstrated that the Sacramento river was navigable for small steamers. The extensive mining regions in the northern part of the State demanded some point of supply nearer than San Francisco or Sacramento, where mule-teams and pack-trains could meet water communication.

THE FIRST STEAMER.

The whistle of the steamer "Orient" was the first to break in upon the silent air and announce to the industrious miners of the north that Red Bluff was the point which nature had ordained to be the town which in the future would supply their

wants. As the steamers "Orient" and "Plumas" arrived and discharged their cargoes, buildings began to be erected by men engaged in the mercantile business.

COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES OF RED BLUFF.

Red Bluff is situated at the head of the Sacramento valley, at an altitude of three hundred and thirty-seven feet above the level of the sea, and two hundred and sixty miles from the city of San Francisco. In 1853, Red Bluff had become the principal commercial town in the northern portion of California. The streets were thronged with large mule-teams and extensive pack-trains; steamers arrived almost daily; large numbers of people were constantly arriving to engage in business; buildings arose as if by magic; streets were laid out, a school-house was built, and Red Bluff became a prominent point upon the map of the State. The population of Red Bluff in 1854, from the most reliable sources of information, was about one thousand people, mostly adults. In the year 1860, the population of Red Bluff had reached nearly two thousand.

RED BLUFF AS A BUSINESS CENTER.

The country south and in the immediate vicinity of this place, is among the most productive of California. In the north, the land is mostly devoted to grazing purposes. The commercial interests of Red Bluff outside of the county of Tehama extend several hundred miles to the north. The people inhabiting the large and fertile valleys in the northern part of this State and southern Oregon, find it to their interest to bring their wool to this market and purchase their yearly supplies. Besides the mercantile and farming interests of Red Bluff, it is the business center of the great lumber interest of the Sierra Flume and Lumber Company, an extended account of whose operations is given elsewhere. All of these facilities tend to make Red Bluff the leading town in northern California, and, if we may judge of the future by the past, it will at no distant period be one of the leading towns of the State.

RAILROAD COMMUNICATION.

In the month of December, 1872, the Oregon and California Railroad was completed to Red Bluff, which superseded river navigation, and since that time all commercial intercourse with San Francisco and the lower portion of the State has been transacted by said road.

Red Bluff at the present time contains about four thousand inhabitants, and is increasing rapidly.

BACK TO 1850-51.

Apologizing for a departure from my narrative by following Red Bluff up to the present day, we will now return to the early days of 1850-51.

LAND CONSIDERED WORTHLESS.

The buildings that were erected in this section of the State in 1850 and 1851 were in nearly every instance intended for hotels and used as such. The idea of farming was never once dreamed of. Gold was the object of all ambition; to obtain that, tables were set and bacon and dried apples were served for from one to three dollars per meal, but in the first-class hotels the luxury of fresh bread was frequently placed upon the table without extra charge. Our flour in those days was all imported from Chili, and it was not an unusual thing at hotels, that had no sieve in the culinary department, that meat and bread were served at the same time; but we were not particular in those days, and a few skippers, weavel and embryo flies were easily managed if we could only make them stick to the dough until we got it into the oven. Everything was excitement; activity was the general motto; push and drive without regard to appearances seemed to impel all men, and the drone or lazy man generally terminated his existence on the sunny side of a temporary whisky-mill, surrounded by the imaginary demons and clammy serpents which always attend with fiendish joy the last hours of those who yield to the deathly appetite for rum; when without a tear, a sigh, or a friendly word, he was rolled in his blanket and "planted" under a few feet of dirt, there to remain forgotten forever.

I have witnessed many such formless, simple funerals, and have heard many a joke which caused merriment at the grave, which, if heard by the dear old mother far away, would have broken the heart-strings of her who once looked upon her first-born with the brightest hopes, and pictured in her imagination a long and honorable manhood. The fate of an old school-mate who passed away over this gloomy highway, comes vividly to my mind, over whose grave there were many tears shed, but there is nothing to indicate his final resting-place, and his sad and horrible fate is yet and will ever remain a secret from his friends at home.

In those days this was no country for persons dependent upon others; every man had to look out for himself, and he who was compelled to look to, or lean upon a friend to assist him in the great struggle, was generally left by the wayside, and if he met his friends again, it was regarded as a "streak of luck," or the kind interposition of a superhuman power. But shortly the great fever and excitement subsided, and we began to think as early as 1851 and 1852, that the mines were worked out, and we must turn our attention to other pursuits.

The choicest parcels of land were settled upon by a few enterprising men, who had made up their minds that this was a good country, and an agreeable place to live and not a bad place to die. Most of the land now so prosperously farmed in this county, was then regarded as worthless, and it was thought would never be of any possible use.

NO SETTLEMENTS ON FARMS UNTIL 1852.

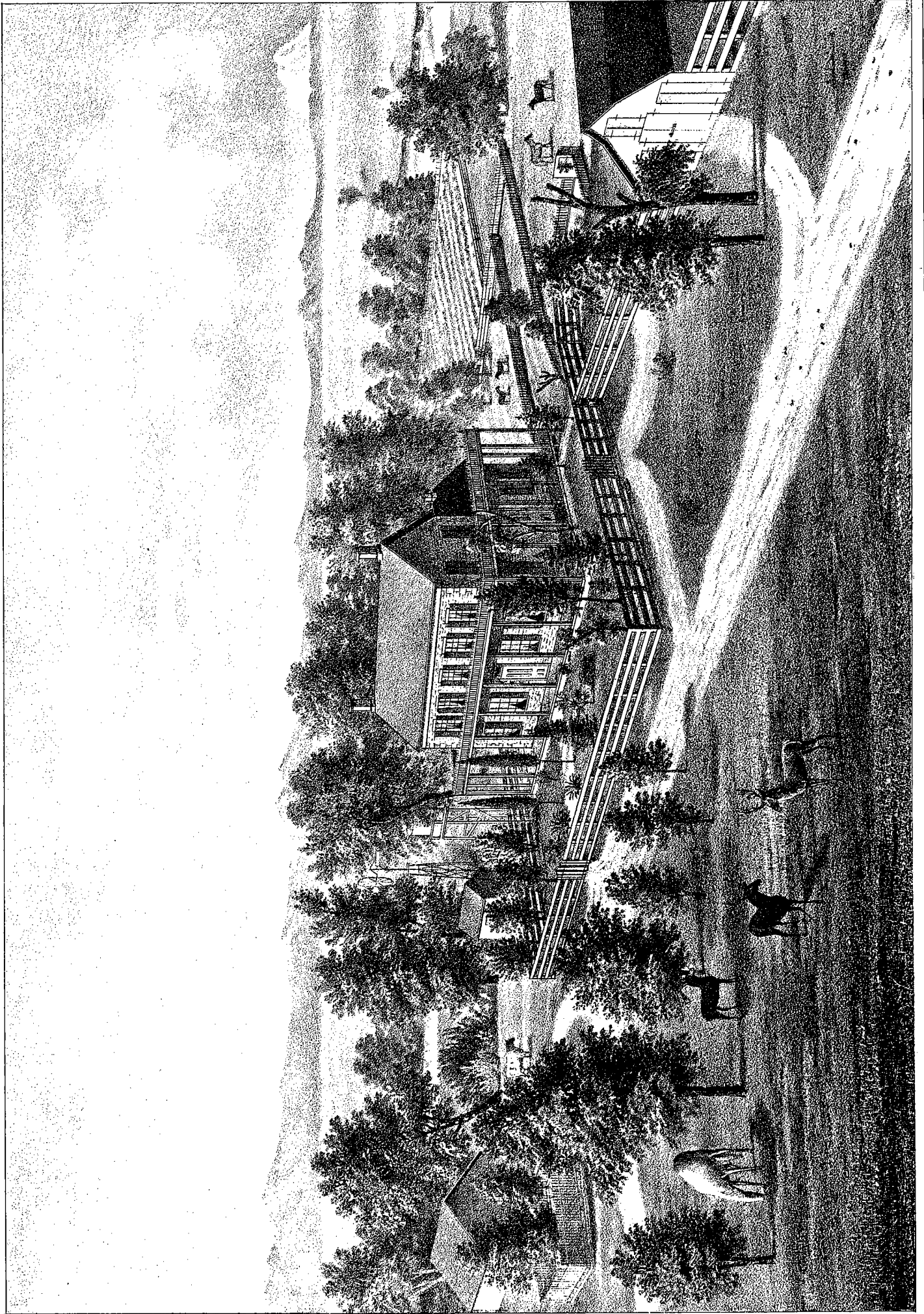
Besides the ranches of the pioneers before described, there were no settlements made in Tehama county outside of the towns until the year 1852. Early in 1852 Mr. Nathaniel Merrill and Augustus Eastman commenced farming on the Moon ranch, which Mr. Merrill has successfully carried on ever since, and is to-day one of the most respected and esteemed citizens of Tehama county. In the fall of that year, Henry Wilson and James M. Kendricks, who were then partners, located on Thomes' creek, where Mr. Wilson now resides, and commenced the business of farming and stock-raising, which they have both carried on until the present time, not as partners, but have been very successful, and have each accumulated large fortunes, the reward of life-long industry and honorable dealing. At the same time Andy Winemiller settled on Elder creek at the crossing, and kept a public house during the winter of 1852; J. G. Dall was at the time his partner although living in Shasta. Robert E. Warren, at present living at Chico, settled on Thomes' creek, about three miles below Wilson Kendrick's. Newell Hall, and his brother and sister, located a farm about one mile north of Tehama, and Thomelson and Woods had settled on the ranch now owned by the writer, about four miles north of the village of Tehama and eight miles south of Red Bluff.

J. C. TYLER SETTLED IN 1853.

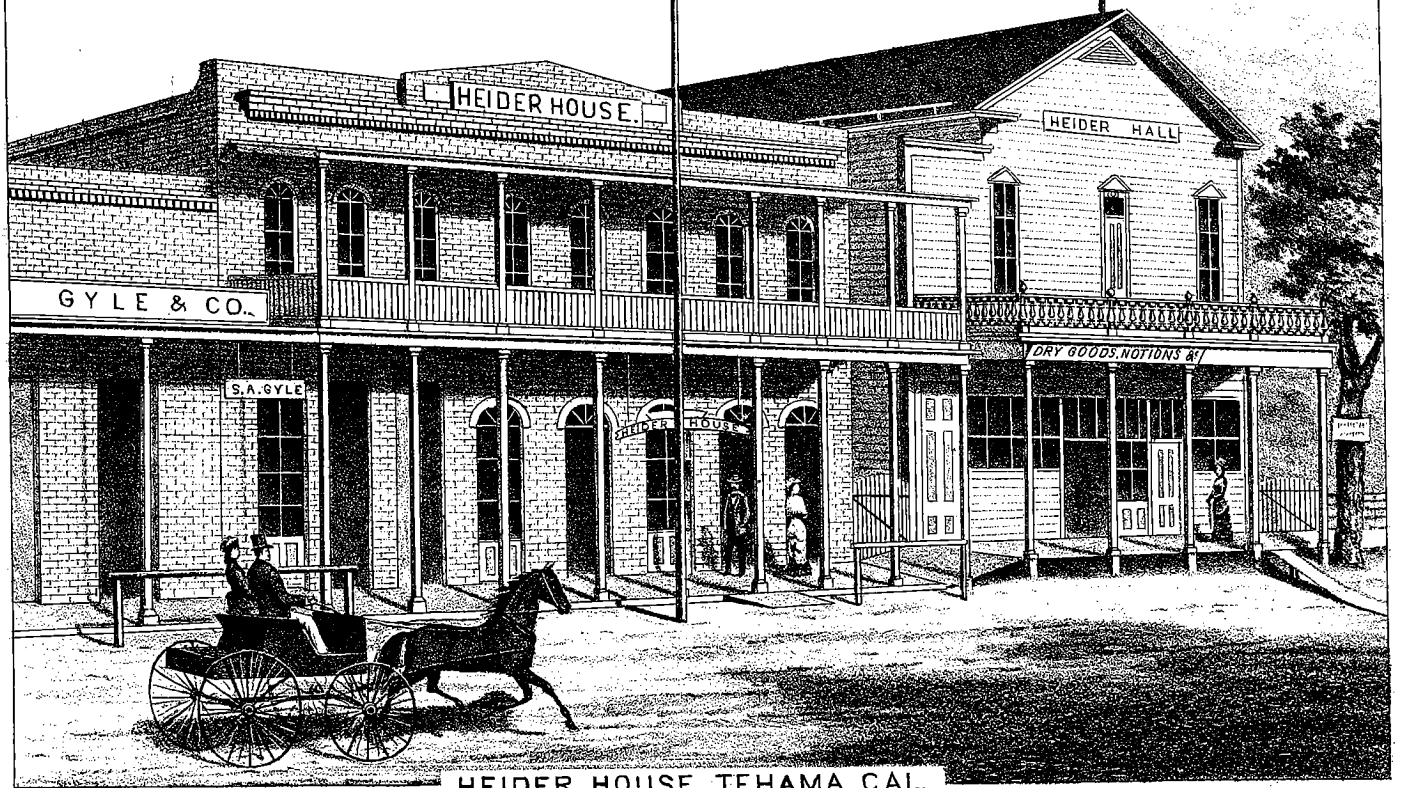
In the spring of the year 1853 Mr. J. C. Tyler bought out Winemiller and Dall, and settled permanently on the splendid ranch now owned by him, where he has reared a large family, honored and respected by the entire community in which he has lived for more than a quarter of a century, and has accumulated a fortune which will be carefully guarded by his industrious and beloved children. There were a few other buildings erected within the present boundaries of Tehama county, but they were used more for hotel purposes than as permanent farm settlements. Among the notable old landmarks was the "Massachusetts House," situated on the red land south of Red Bank creek, and if I am not mistaken was built by William B. Ide in 1851 or 1852, but as Red Bluff progressed it superseded the necessity of a hotel so near, and about the year 1856 the house was removed and the deep well filled up, and now there is not a thing to indicate its former location.

FIRST STAGE TO SHASTA.

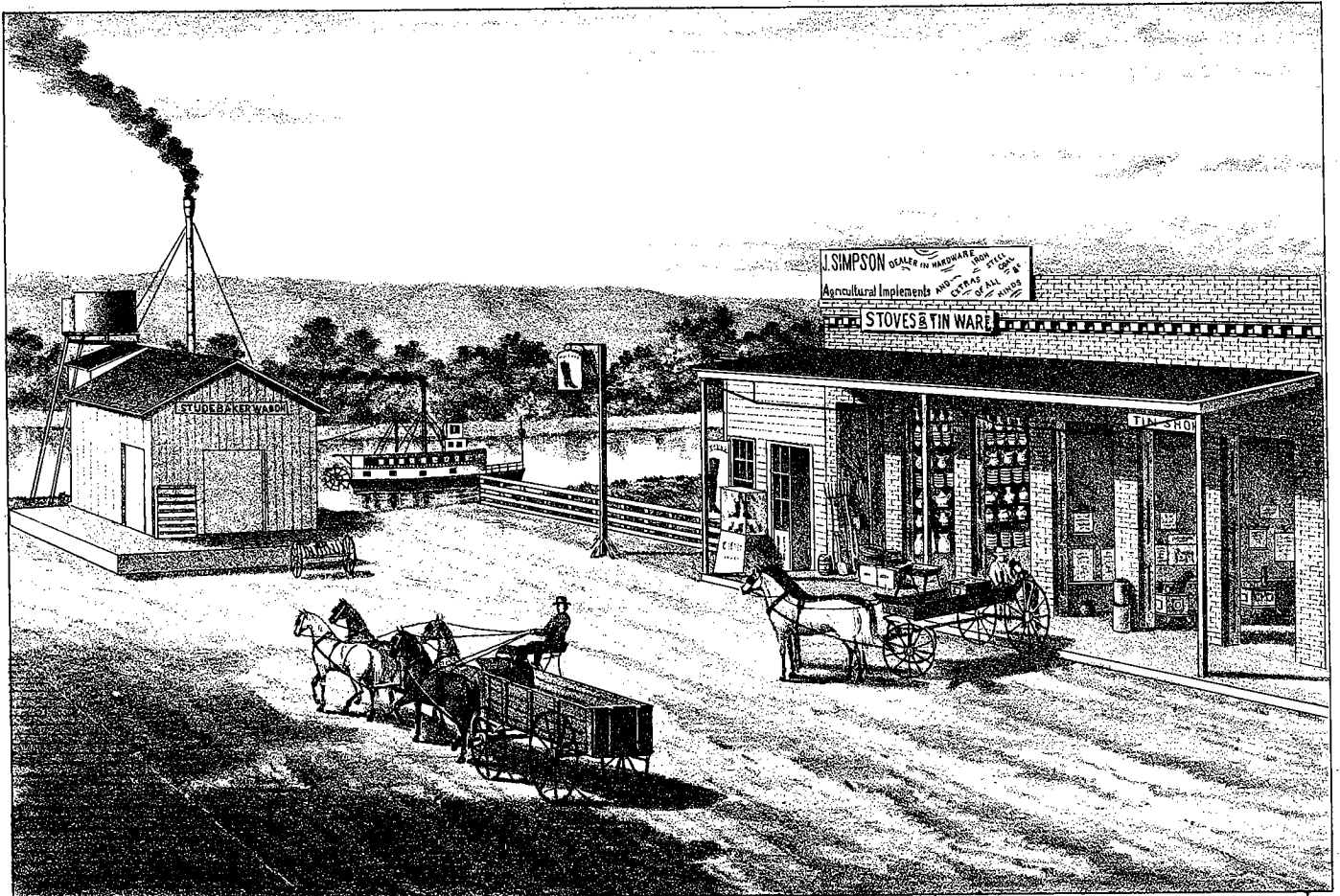
In the year 1851, the travel from the lower country to Reading Springs, Shasta and Yuba, became so great that a stage line was established by Baxter & Monroe from Colusa to Shasta, perhaps the first was from Monroeville to Shasta, I am not quite certain which; it was finally extended to Sacramento



HOME RANCH OF HON. H. C. WILSON. ON THOMES CREEK, TEHAMA CO., CAL.



HEIDER HOUSE, TEHAMA CAL.



JOHN SIMPSON DEALER IN HARDWARE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, CROCKERY, GLASS WARE, TOILET ARTICLES, STOVES AND TIN WARE, TEHAMA, CAL.

by Marysville, and in the spring of 1852 an opposition line was established by Hall & Crandall, which crossed the river at Tehama and went by General Bidwell's and Neal's ranch to Hamilton and Marysville.

FIRST STAGE-DRIVER.

Marshall McCummings, of Red Bluff, was the first man to drive a stage-coach into Tehama; ever since that time he has been a resident of this county and always in some way connected with the traveling public, either as a stage-driver, a hotel keeper, or as Marshal of Red Bluff, in which capacity his connection with the traveling public is to invite the modern tramp to leave town, which orders are always observed with reverence by the professional tramp. McCummings was an excellent driver, but not of the fancy sort, and was just the man for the opposition which followed when the two stage lines came together at Tehama. From Tehama to Shasta the opposition was immense; each held out inducements to the traveling public by the way of the most elaborate teams and coaches, and I think I may say with perfect truth, that in no country was staging ever carried on upon a more magnificent scale than it was in California in 1852 and 1853. Teams of six horses which were worth from two to four thousand dollars was not a rare thing in those days, and coaches carrying twenty-four passengers, and constructed in the most elaborate style moved along the highway with a majesty and grace only equalled by the dandy driver, who, with elevated elbows, under a Peruvian hat, gracefully balanced himself on the edge of his seat and foot-board as he puffed his Havana, elevated to an angle of forty degrees, and without removing the same, give a "cluck" to his team so loud that each horse would break into a run, when an artistic and most graceful movement of the whip terminating with a sharp crack, would give new life to the now excited team, and away at a break-neck speed over the plains leaving a cloud of dust behind, went the admired driver with his human cargo amid the occasional applause of the men, and always rewarded with the smiles of the ladies.

STAGE-DRIVING ARISTOCRATIC.

Stage-driving in those days was an aristocratic occupation, in fact, I am not sure but what it ought to be called a profession. The man who could gracefully handle the ribbons of a six-horse stage-team, could not only command the most exorbitant wages, but was at once regarded as the *crème-de-la-crème* of society, and the lady who was so fortunate as to be chosen as his partner for a ball, was regarded as a happy and favored female. In those days I was yet a youth, and I was possessed with but one hope and one ambition, and that was that the day would come when I could mount the box of a six-horse stage-coach as its regular driver; the anticipation of such

an event was more glorious to me than the contemplation of bronze statues, or marble monuments, and more desired than a seat in the highest councils of the nation; but, alas, my hopes were never realized, and I was doomed to the servile drudgery of the law; and now after thirty years of reflection, I have been induced to think that men have and may become popular and great who have never driven a six-horse stage-team.

As might be expected, a town where two great opposition stage lines met must of necessity be of some considerable importance. Quite a number of people found employment at Tehama in connection with the stage companies, and by reason of the promising outlook quite a number of business and dwelling houses were erected, and in consequence of the excitement, which in 1880 would have been called a "boom," a great number of people came to Tehama, and, Micawber-like, awaited for something to turn up.

Conspicuous among the number of people drawn to Tehama by the centripetal force of metropolitan greatness, was a small crowd of rakish and elegantly dressed gents known as "sports." I do not mean the sheep-herders' enemy of the present day, who bear the same relation to society that a coyote does to a sheep-fold, but a sort of high-toned, chivalrous gent, not particularly fond of work, nor given to vagrancy, but always willing to have a little game of draw on the square "for an ounce ante and shove the buck," or a lay out at monte and show you in the start that the cards were not waxed. He generally presented a neat appearance, with from one to four ounces of gold rings on his fingers, with a specimen pin of huge dimensions ornamenting the breast of his flannel shirt, a neat well-fitting boot and a pair of ivory-handled navy six-shooters hanging to his belt, which were the particular guardians of his money and honor. Such was the typical sport of early days in California, and in attempting to give an idea of current events in those days, he is almost an indispensable factor to the narrative. It seems as though this class of people were the evolutionary products of all new countries. They exist everywhere, and as the country becomes settled and society established, they generally degenerate into a class of criminal vagrants, who depend for a precarious existence upon their ability to filch the earnings of the drunkard and honest workingman who chances an encounter with the "tangle-leg" of deadfalls, and slumbers by the wayside in oblivious security. I have in my mind a few men who were, in 1850, regular "sports," but who have given up that vocation, and are now numbered among the very first men in the community.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

As early as 1852, men began to think seriously of farming as a permanent business. It was known that the soil was very productive, and any cereals properly cultivated would yield most astonishingly. Fifty to sixty bushels of barley to the

acre was a common average anywhere in the river bottoms, and the yield of wheat was known to be equal with barley.

FIRST FARMERS IN TEHAMA COUNTY.

Aside from the small patches raised by the old pioneers, I think Nathaniel Merrill, at the Moon ranch, and J. C. Tyler, on Elder creek, were the first men who farmed extensively in Tehama county. At that time wheat was not a marketable article. Barley and hay were the principal products of the farms. The stage company, the large mule-teams and great pack-trains, were the consumers of the farmer's produce, which was sold at a high price. I have known barley to sell as high as six cents per pound, and hay as high as one hundred dollars per ton; but then we did not raise such great quantities as we do now. Farming continued to be a business of great profit until the price of our wheat was measured by the Liverpool standard, when we commenced to move on with the tide of the surrounding commercial world, at an exceedingly small profit, and some years at great financial loss.

NOT AFFECTED BY DROUTH.

As a farming region, the county of Tehama, though not the most extensive, is certainly the safest and most productive in the whole State of California. After an experience of thirty years, we can boast of continuous good crops. The drouth has never seriously affected Tehama county. Every year the farmer has been rewarded by an abundant harvest; and while we have looked with regret upon the occasional desolation of the rest of the State, we have turned with satisfaction to our own smiling fields, to be assured that in years of want, drouth, and perhaps famine, Tehama county will be the store-house which will bountifully supply the suffering thousands who will appeal to us for relief. Its geographical conformation is such as to insure an abundant waterfall in the spring of the year, when rains are most needed for the cereals. It is conceded by men of learning who have made the subject a study, that within a certain distance of the foot-hills there is a current of air which in the spring is more heavily charged with moisture, and descends nearer to the earth, than where the valley is broad and beyond the effect of the foot-hill rain-belt. This county being at the head of the Sacramento valley, which is at the lower boundary of the county only about forty miles wide, the rain-belts of the Sierra Nevada and Coast range come together, and unite at a point near the southern boundary line of this county.

This is clearly shown by the vegetation, which is most luxuriant along the foot-hills of Butte county, on the Sierra Nevada side and the foot-hills in Colusa county, on the Coast range side; and those who make no pretensions to skill or science, readily observe that from some cause, which they do not

understand, there is more rain within fifteen or twenty miles of the foot-hills than there is at a greater distance; and consequently where the valley is from seventy-five to one hundred miles wide, the lack of spring rains makes farming exceedingly hazardous, and is given by many as the reason for the frequent failures by drouth.

CROPS A CERTAINTY IN TEHAMA COUNTY.

There are two things which are indispensable to success in a farming community: first, a productive soil; second, an accessible market. Tehama county has both, the first in an eminent degree; the second sufficient for agricultural success; and when we consider these advantages, together with the fact of a yearly crop to an absolute certainty, and sustained by thirty years of experience, we can say with a degree of certainty that reaches beyond speculation, that Tehama county is the Eden of California.

AGRICULTURE GIVES NEW LIFE TO TEHAMA.

As farming progressed Tehama gathered new life, and the stage company ceased to be the sole dependence of that enterprising town. Chard & Finch established business there in 1861, I think, and carried it on very successfully for a number of years, under the management of

CHARLES HARVEY.

He became their successor, and has remained ever since as one of the most respected and honored citizens. Mr. Harvey possesses in an eminent degree a quality which is very essential to a business man—integrity. He is a shrewd, honest business manager, and by his upright business transactions, secured the entire confidence of all the old pioneers, who intrusted most of their business to him, and as a further mark of their confidence and respect, invariably made him one of their executors without bonds, to settle up their vast estates, which duty he has performed with all the honesty which has characterized his honorable life. It is a most pleasing task to write fine things of a worthy member of society, and a universally admitted honest man; but we are frequently embarrassed in our labor by the thought that, while the subject of our esteem and admiration is among the living, we may be accused of a desire to flatter; or, perhaps, by some envious persons, accused of a meaner motive. But, fortunately, Mr. Harvey is not of that class who depend for reputation upon the glib words of a hired biographer. His standing and character are fixed facts, indelibly impressed upon the memory of all who know him, or who are familiar with his business transactions. In Tehama county he is among the first, and second to none of her worthy citizens.

NAVIGATION ABOVE THE BLUFFS.

The "Belle," of which Captain Pierce was pilot, went through the cañon in May, 1854. This was not attempted again until the "Annie" and the "Latona" each made a trip in 1856. The "Rainbow," Captain Pierce, went up in June, 1862, but in August of that year Captain Pierce took the "Banner" through, with a barge, on which was fifty tons of freight. The navigation of that point of the river was, however, always considered impracticable by the steamboat men. The above comprises a list of the trips made above Red Bluff.

INAUGURATION OF FARMING.

In the years which immediately followed the inauguration of the farming business in this section of the State, business of all kinds was most prosperous; all the good lands were immediately occupied and yielded a splendid return to the labor of the husbandmen. Nearly all the bottom lands, now within the limits of Tehama county, were embraced within the boundaries of the Spanish grants, owned by the old pioneers, and so well were their titles respected by the settlers, that when the grants were confirmed by the United States Supreme Court, in every instance they either purchased or paid rent to the owners for the use of the lands, and I am quite certain that the records of our courts will not show a single action of ejectment brought by the owners of the grants against the settlers. Wheat began to be raised in equal quantities with barley, which necessitated the construction of a flouring mill in this vicinity. Mill creek, which empties into the river a little above the town of Tehama, on the opposite side afforded a water-power unsurpassed by any stream in California.

FIRST SAW-MILL.

Mr. Payne had a few years before, I think in 1851, erected a saw-mill a short distance above the mouth of Mill creek on the Sacramento river, and appropriated a portion of the waters of that creek to run his saw-mill. Logs were furnished this mill from the vicinity of Shasta, floated down the river, and manufactured into lumber, and sold at an enormous price.

HOW THE FIRST FLOURING MILL WAS CONDUCTED.

Dr. Crosby, a shrewd business man, and citizen of Tehama, saw at once that Mill creek was a valuable water-power, and fully comprehending the necessities of the times, he at once, in company with a man by the name of Stone, commenced the construction of a flouring mill where the "North Star Flouring Mill" of M. C. Ellis & Son now stands, in the fall of 1854. This mill has been twice destroyed by fire, but has been promptly rebuilt, and ready each year to do its accustomed

work, and is now, after an experience of twenty-five years, regarded as the first and best flouring mill in northern California. It is needless to add, that the construction of this mill gave a new impulse to agriculture in this section of the State, while it is now but a small consumer of the great aggregate of wheat produced in Tehama county.

At that time, *i. e.*, 1855, we regarded it as the principal market for our produce, and the proprietors of the mill fixed the price of wheat by a standard entirely within their own conscience, with a sort of general understanding that the price of wheat must be the market price of flour, with the price of grinding and transportation to and from San Francisco deducted; that is, if you wanted one thousand pounds of wheat made into flour, the miller would charge you three dollars per barrel for grinding it, and in addition thereto, would charge just what it would cost to ship that wheat to San Francisco and back, claiming, that if that mill was not here, it would cost just that much to send your wheat to San Francisco and get the flour back. There is a kind of one-sided logic about this system of reasoning, which at once leads you to believe that the owners of the mill considered it a sort of portable institution (in their imagination), which, upon the receipt of a grist, the whole thing departed for the Bay city, and returned just as the last flour was sacked, and for which they were entitled to freight.

But competition and the natural laws of supply and demand soon put a stop to such outrageous extortions; another mill was erected at Red Bluff, which brought the price of wheat and flour something nearer to their natural standard, and through the active exertions of Captain Johnson, the steamboats agreed to carry wheat to San Francisco for six dollars per ton, which placed the farmers entirely beyond the mill monopolies in the disposition of their wheat.

FORMATION OF TEHAMA COUNTY.

This section of the State, by reason of the great inducement offered to the farmer, together with the easy and cheap mode of river transportation, induced great immigration, and as early as 1854, the question began to be discussed as to the propriety and convenience of a new county. What is now Tehama county, was then portions of the counties of Butte, Colusa and Shasta, the nearest county-seat being Shasta, a distance of fifty-five miles from the town of Tehama. Large petitions were sent to the Legislature of 1855, and Mr. J. L. McCutchan, the representative from Colusa, and a resident of the town of Tehama, used all means in his power to secure the passage of his bill to create a new county, but without success.

TEHAMA COUNTY ORGANIZED IN MAY, 1856.

In the election which followed, in the fall of 1855, the issue was again raised, and the writer of this article was elected to

the Legislature, and during the session introduced a bill to create the county of Tehama, which was passed and signed by the Governor, and according to the terms of that bill the county of Tehama was duly organized in the month of May, 1856. As to what transpired concerning the new county from May, 1856, the county records are the best history upon that subject. Let us, therefore, record some events which occurred before the formation of the new county, and before the establishment of a newspaper in this section.

EARLY INHABITANTS AND SOCIETY.

In the years preceding the organization of Tehama county, the free-and-easy rule which generally characterized California society, was the rule here. There were a number of women inhabiting this section, but few ladies—perhaps one dozen would embrace the sum total of those who were justly entitled to be called ladies. I might mention them separately, but for fear of leaving some one of them out, and thus unintentionally cast a reflection on a worthy lady, I will let it remain as it is, with the knowledge and assurance that a lady in those days was so prominent by reason of her being a lady, that her history is written indelibly on the memory of all who knew her, and what I might say would only tend to mar the beautiful story of their virtue and tender benevolence.

We must, therefore, speak of them in the aggregate, and whether it was that we only met a few ladies, and therefore more fully than now appreciated their worth, or whether it was a comparison which naturally forced itself upon our minds as we contemplated the holiness of virtue and the degradation of vice, which made us in those days so honor a respectable lady, I am not able to say; one thing is certain, a thousand weapons were ready to be drawn in an instant to defend the good name of a virtuous woman, and woe to the man that would libel or cast the least suspicion upon the reputation of a true lady. Some of the ladies of those days are now living, and I do not know of a single one of them but who retains the same respect in the declining years of life that they so universally possessed in younger, if not happier, days.

CAPTAIN JANE.

There was one woman of the world, however, who from her strange idiosyncrasy and unaccountable characteristics cut an important figure, and was a decided character in the early history of Tehama. Her name was Captain Jane—as strange in nature as her name was contradicting and absurd. I don't remember of ever seeing her in female apparel; she usually adopted the costume of a sport, and would handle a Colt's navy revolver with all the experience and dexterity of a Texan desperado. She was as charitable and benevolent as the Good Samaritan, and as vile and degraded as a fishmonger of

Newmarket. In money matters her word was as sacred as the best man's bond; her language was respectful and always free from profanity; she never drank to excess, and her outward appearance was that of an imprudent female, but honest and virtuous. Yet she peddled the virtue of a child of twelve years, whom she claimed as her own, from Yreka to Tehama, and at last left her to the usual fate of women of her class.

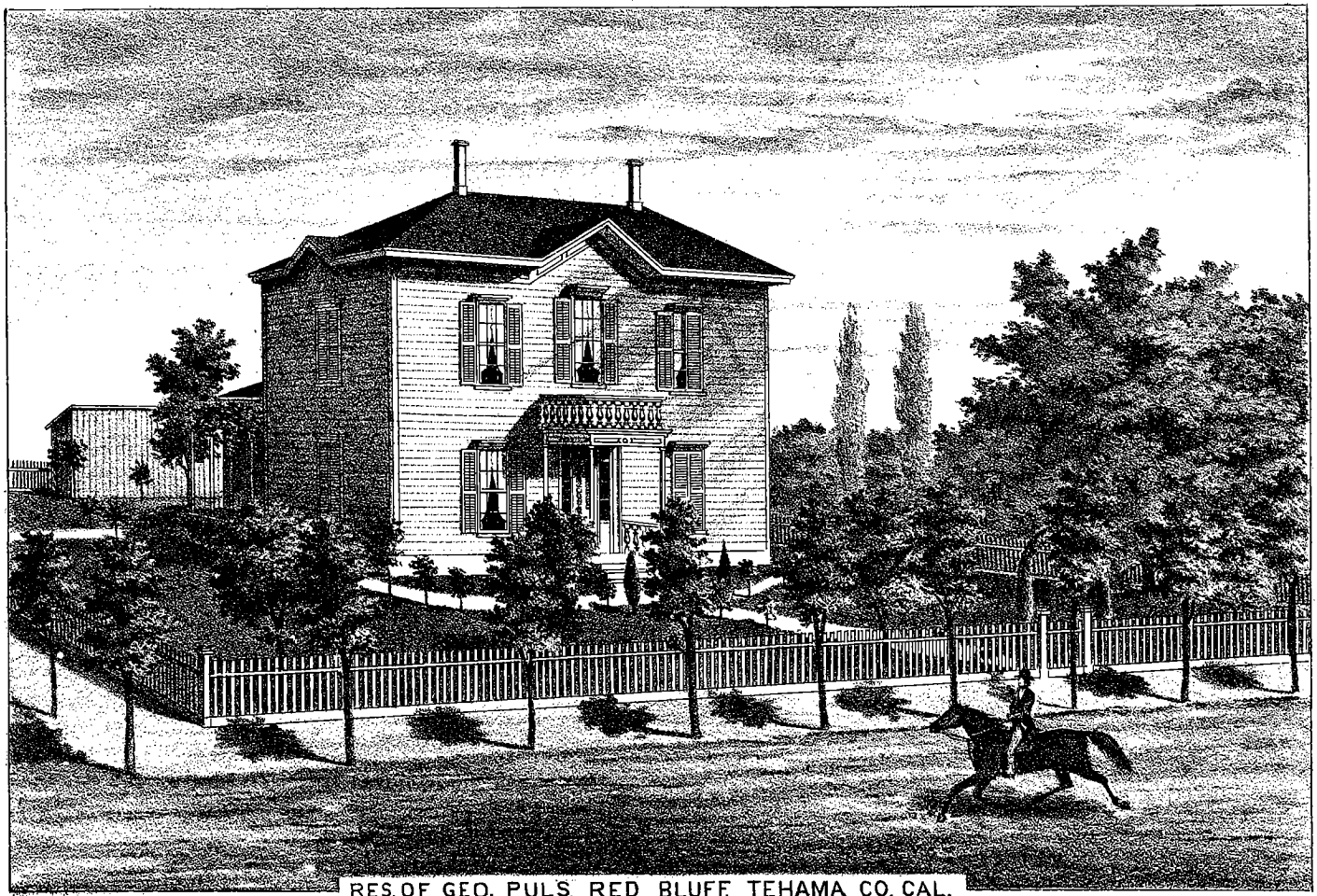
Captain Jane conducted a farm on Thomes creek with skill and profit, and was as prominent in the streets of Tehama in an early day discussing matters of public importance as the most active politician of the present day. Good deeds and honorable transactions were blended with the most revolting vice and horrible sin in this woman in such astounding medley that almost induces me to believe that opposites will mingle in perfect harmony if centered within the person of an abandoned woman.

Perhaps I have written too much about the Captain, and if an apology is necessary, I must say that Captain Jane was an exceedingly prominent person in the early history of Tehama county, and facts are what must characterize history, and not over-drawn pictures of ideal conception.

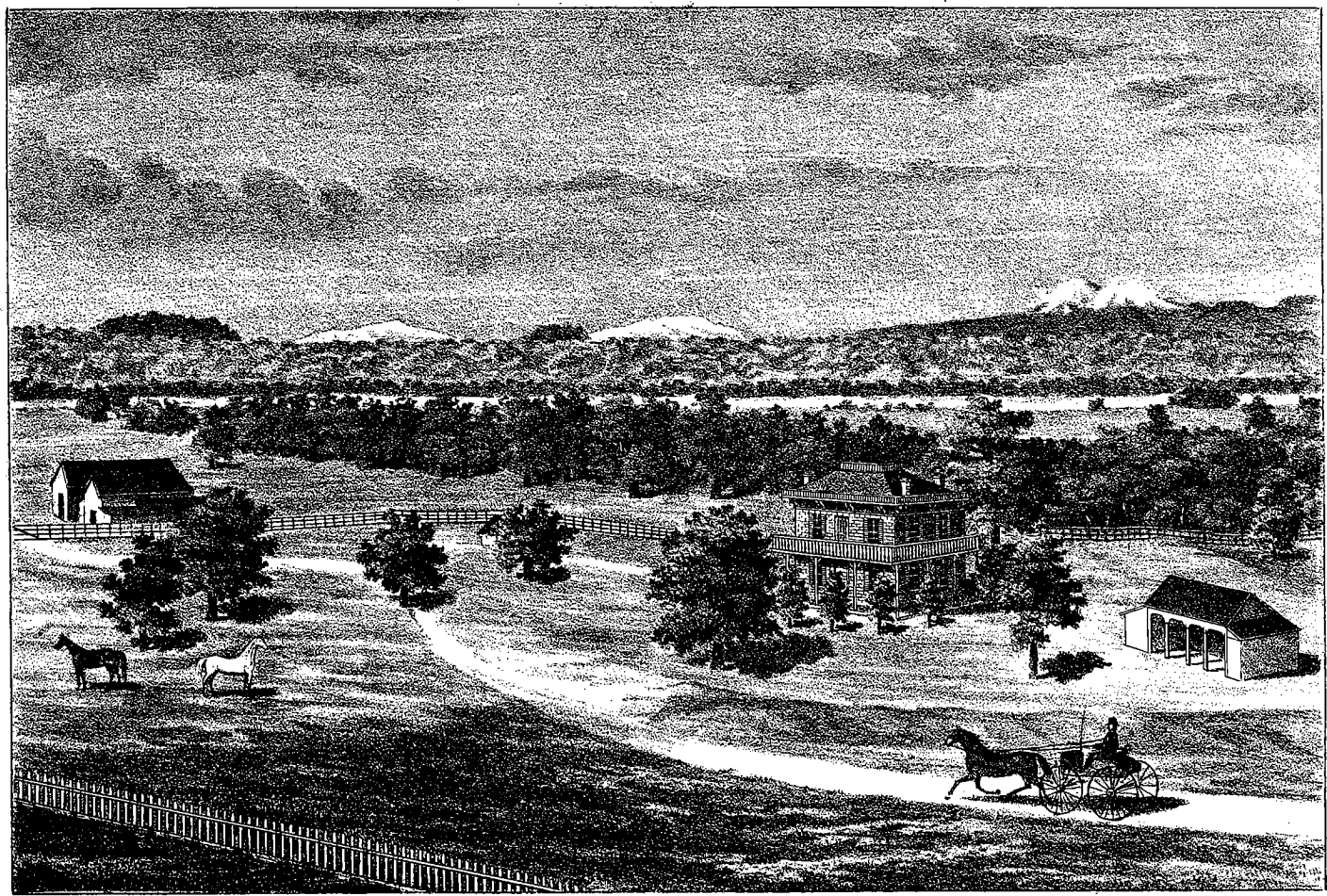
TEHAMA AS IT WAS AND NOW IS.

It was my intention when I commenced the task of writing this narrative, to speak of the many prominent and worthy gentlemen who have given character to Tehama county, but I find from the space to which I have been limited, together with exceedingly bad health, that such a task would be impossible, and I have abandoned the thought of personal notice, except where it became necessary in recording prominent events in our early history.

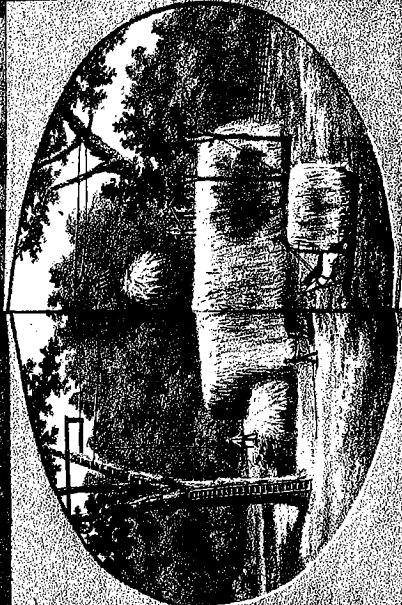
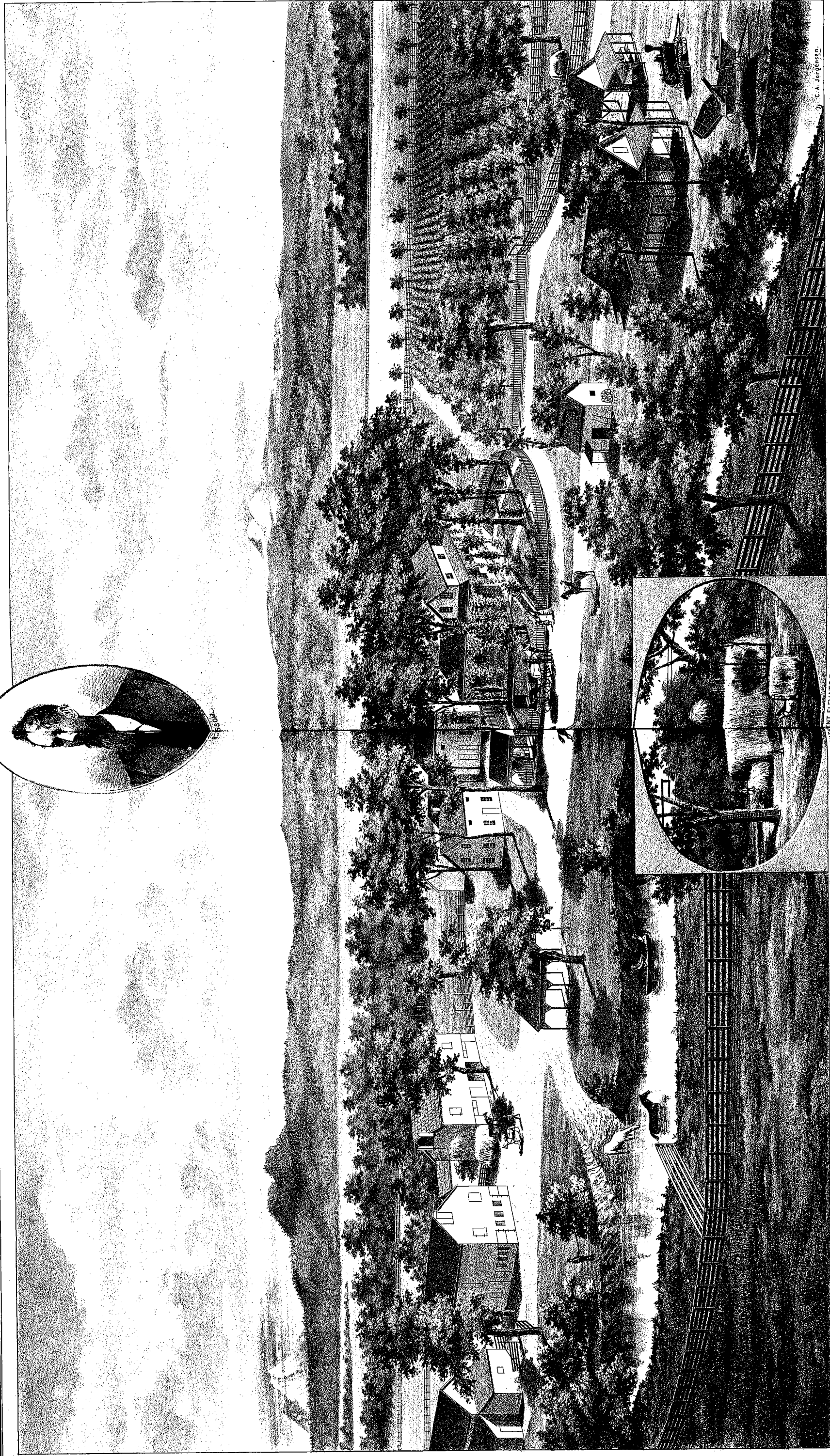
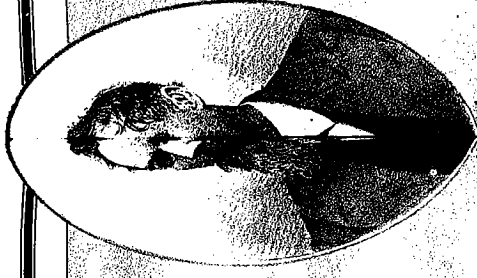
There is no man whose memory is sufficiently reliable to depend upon solely, when in recording events which may be referred to as authority. I have keenly realized the importance and truth of this declaration in attempting this task, and the trouble and labor of consulting with others whose memory is equal to my own, and of ascertaining dates, is of far greater trouble than the mere task of committing the facts to paper, when fully ascertained. In my present feeble condition I have found it almost impossible to perform that part of my task, and as a consequence I must curtail greatly the plan that I had formed in my mind, when, in an unguarded moment, I promised to write the early history of Tehama county. Like all other invalids, when I made the promise I fancied that I would be entirely convalescent in a few weeks, and could with ease perform the task. It is unnecessary to say to those who are acquainted with me that disappointment only followed hope, therefore my task has become doubly burdensome, and I must close a work that I had hoped would be performed in health and consequently more satisfactorily.



RES. OF GEO. PULS, RED BLUFF, TEHAMA CO. CAL.



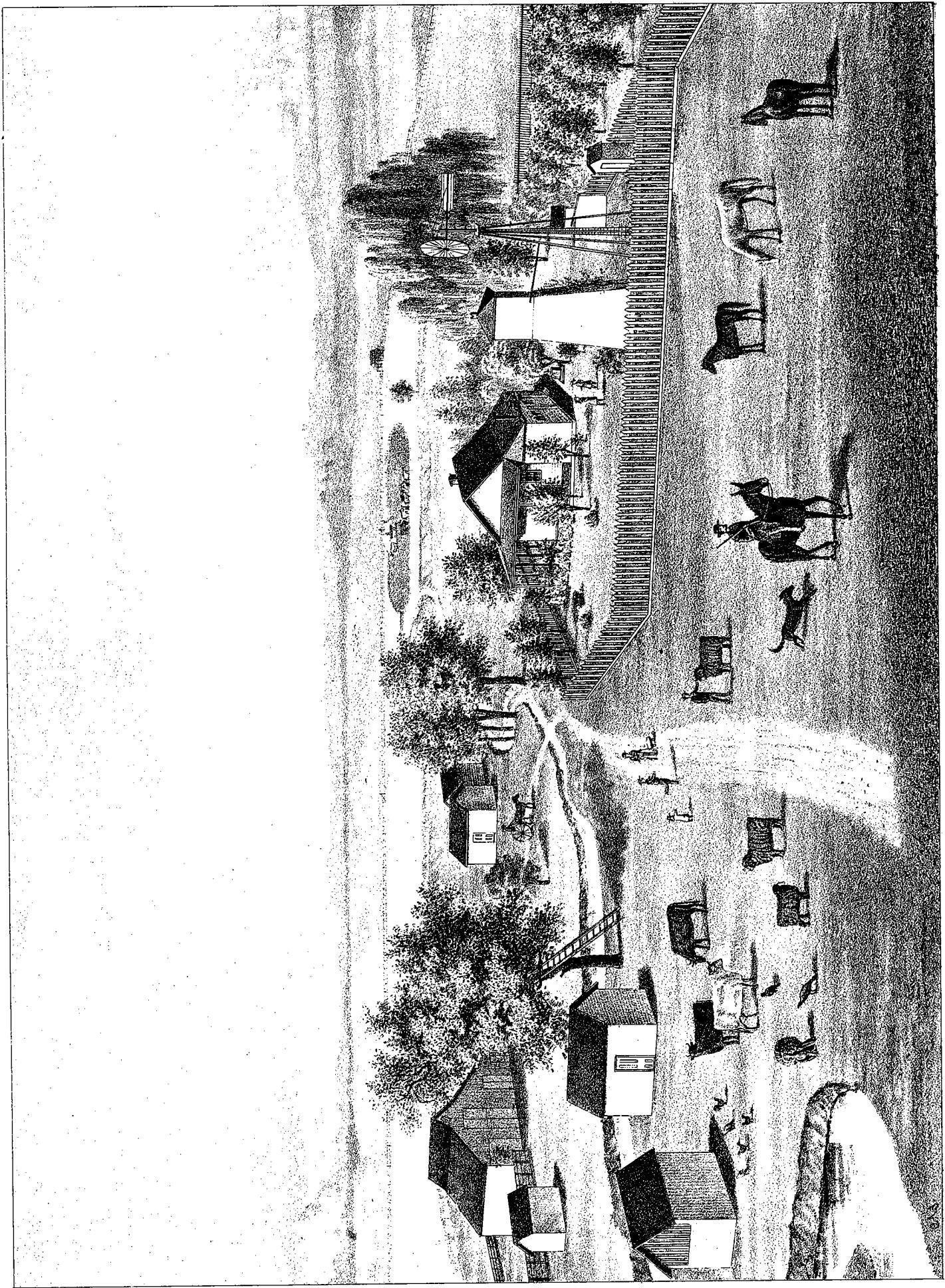
RANCH OF E. J. LEWIS, BETWEEN RED BLUFF & TEHAMA, CAL.



BUILDING HAY STACK WITH HAY ELEVATOR AND CARRIER.

C. A. Jørgensen.

RANCHO & RESIDENCE OF R. H. BISSON, 8 MILES S. E. OF RED BLUFF.
A PORTION OF EL RANCHO RIO DE LOS BERMUDOS.



RES. OF JAMES M. HOWELL. 12 MILES WEST OF TEHAMA. TEHAMA CO. CAL.

REMARKABLE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTY.

I have seen Tehama county grow from its primeval wildness, through all its trials and dangers, to its present civilized greatness and commercial importance. I have seen its broad luxuriant plains covered with wild beasts, undisturbed by the presence of white men, and have watched them gradually disappear and surrender to the march of civilization, until now, the sound of forty-four village school-bells break in upon the silent air, as if to remind us of the greatness of our county and the sublime wisdom of our free institutions.

I have seen its productive soil, groaning under the weight of wild vegetation, gradually reclaimed by the husbandmen, until the total area of its valleys are reduced to cultivation, and from its faithful yearly tribute has become the principal producing section of the State of California, which possesses the climate, area and soil capable of furnishing food and raiment for half the children of men.

I have seen it without a government of law, when justice was administered by the swift vengeance of an avenging demon, then gradually yielding to the mandates of reason, until all its citizens bow in enlightened and loyal reverence at the shrine of organized law and the impartial administration of justice. Having resided in Tehama county so long, and having been so often honored by its good people, and with a conscience possessing no accusing factor in my connection with its great advancement, I can say with all my heart, that while I live my object shall be to add evergreens to its chaplet, that when I die my name shall not dim its bright escutcheons.

CONCLUSION AND APOLOGY.

I believe that I have given a fair, though feeble, account of events which happened in this section of the county up to the spring of 1856, at which time the *Beacon* newspaper was established by Mr. Charles E. Fisher, and became the chronicler of events in this section, which is far more reliable for reference than my memory.

In closing, I am certain that the first thing to be done is to offer an ample apology to the readers of this book, and beg for mercy from a critical, and to me unfriendly press, for the feeble narrative which I have attempted to write. If my health had been good, I indulge the hope that I could have improved the manner at least of relating my story; but we cannot master fate, and it is wise and manlike to submit with resignation to that which cannot be averted, and I await with a calm patience the final end.

NOTE BY THE PUBLISHERS.—The balance of this History is made up of articles by various authors, but all relating to the county and its people, or inseparately connected with the history of the State.

VINEYARDS OF TEHAMA COUNTY.

Few people even in our own country know the immense strides our wines have recently made in regard to quality, and the corresponding prominent position they are beginning to occupy all over the world. The first plantings of vines were of the Mission variety, which, though very good for the table, were not fit for wine-making. Before we had discovered our error, however, vast sums of money and infinite labor and toil had been expended in planting out great vineyards of this kind; and persons were loth to uproot what had cost so much, so they continued to propagate and multiply their troubles and difficulties. The wine was of a character which could not be introduced; it was unquestionably of an inferior grade as compared with the finer European kinds, and the public would not drink it. This for years gave California wines a bad name, and rendered them unfashionable and unsalable. They are just recovering from that difficulty.

From time to time persons of skill and experience have entered upon the business of wine-producing, until the *corps* of California vigneronns now numbers upon its list some of the most intelligent men in the world. These shrewd men, who had learned the business in the best wine-producing districts of Europe, said to themselves, "Surely our products ought to be better; we have here a better soil and climate than any we have seen elsewhere; the fault must be in the grapes we are using." This came to be a conviction, and then commenced the experiments which have led us up to our present success. Wine-producing is now a great success. Sundry varieties of foreign grapes were introduced, and behold as was predicted, our wines are now second to none in the world. It must be remembered that many of the grapes grown here are those which can only be raised in the hot-house East. Grape growing, it may safely be stated, is in its infancy, but is rapidly advancing to the front rank among California productions.

VINEYARD OF HENRY GERKE.

Henry Gerke demonstrated the successful manufacture of wines in the upper Sacramento valley. He has done more toward bringing about successful manufacture of wines than any other in the northern valley. He introduced choice foreign grapes which are supplanting the old Mission variety.

He has the finest wine-cellar in that section of the State, capable of taking care of one hundred thousand gallons of wine. It is perfect in all its arrangements for the proper handling of and storing of wines, and is a credit to the intelligence and enterprise of the proprietor. Everything about

this establishment denotes tidiness, order and convenience. The most fastidious person need never fear of getting impure or adulterated wines from this establishment, as everything is done with the utmost care and neatness.

The fine large oaks and other trees surrounding the place give a charm to the scene; especially as you pass through it on the cars. We present our readers with a view of this vast ranch, so far as it is possible in a picture. In the distance will be noticed the Sacramento river, with a steamer on its beautiful waters. In the rear of the residence are the acres of vines with roads passing among them. In the foreground will be seen the cars of the Oregon and California Railroad. This road runs seven miles through this ranch, on which are three stations for shipping products. The vineyard is situated on the river bottom on very rich soil. In the corners of the view the artist has given interior views of the mammoth wine-cellar, press-house and distillery. The vineyard and orchard comprise one hundred and fifty acres of both foreign and domestic vines and a large variety of fruit trees. On this ranch are a large number of buildings, three railroad stations, three school-houses and other improvements.

The vintage of grapes is like the harvest of the farmer. Picking is done in boxes which are brought to the ends of the rows—made short on purpose—and put in wagons to be transported to the crushers. For months, the crushers of this establishment carry through their rapacious maw hundreds of tons of grapes, while the purple stream of pure juice pours out below at the rate of ninety thousand gallons in a single year, if a good season.

The grape grows so freely that it does not pay to adulterate the grape juice. The wine maker assures us that his white or red wine (claret) is the pure juice of the grape. The sweet angelica, sherry or sweet muscatel has a quantity of brandy added to the pure juice to make it keep. In fact, it is

pure unfermented grape juice preserved by adding brandy. This brandy is made in the vineyard from the same grapes which yield the wine. This is no secret and demonstrates the purity of the article.

Mr. Gerke also manufactures some of the best brandy made in the State. He makes the following brands of choice wine:—claret, angelica, sherry, reising, and many others which have a wide reputation for good qualities.

Henry Gerke was born in Hanover, Germany, in August, 1810. He resided for a time in the Eastern States, and came to California the first day of October, 1847, landing in San Francisco.

He is one of a few of the old pioneers of California now left. They are scattered over the country, or else have passed to that great undiscovered bourne, to which those who are left are hastening. He came to Tehama to reside in 1869, but purchased the ranch where he now lives in 1852. It consists of ten thousand acres devoted to farming and vine-culture. It was an original Spanish grant of five leagues.

Charles Nordhoff, in his work on "Northern California," says: "On the ranch of Henry Gerke is one of the largest and finest vineyards in the State. Most of Gerke's land is devoted to wheat-raising; about twenty-two hundred tons were raised in 1877. It is mostly tilled by tenants. The land is worth from twenty to fifty dollars per acre. He has a standing offer of

six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for the land, vineyards and improvements."

It is certainly a very valuable property, situated in the heart of the valley, with unsurpassed water and railroad communication with the metropolis.

These advantages, combined with its rich soil, producing vast quantities of grain; its large orchard and vineyard with choice fruits and vines, make of this ranch one that can rarely be excelled.



CALIFORNIA SCENERY AND FRUITS.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE STATE.

The Missions, Bear Flag, Discovery of Gold, Agriculture, Commerce, Area, Resources, Votes, First Settlers.

ONE hundred years ago—almost within the memory of men now living—but very little of California's soil had been trod by the foot of civilized man. Up to the discovery of gold in 1848, it was an afar off land, even to those on the western border of civilization. School-boys then looked upon their maps and wondered if they might ever be permitted to traverse the "unexplored regions" marked thereon. About that time, when Thomas H. Benton said that the child was then born that would see a railroad connecting ocean with ocean, most people smiled, and thought that the day-dream of the old man had somewhat unsettled his hitherto stalwart intellect. No dream of forty years ago, no matter how bright the colors that may have been placed before the imagination, ever pictured the California of to-day—our own, our loved California.

To rescue from oblivion the incidents of former times and to make a record of those transpiring around one, especially those of one's own immediate country, has been considered worthy even of the pen of a Tacitus. The scope of the following pages must of necessity be more circumscribed than the history of a country, the pages of which can be filled with martial deeds and the actions of leaders of men; but it is natural that all should wish to know something about the particular section they occupy, and common-place incidents, the serious and the comic, often have a peculiar charm. There is much about the early days of a country that must pass from the memory of man in a few years, because there are so few actors in the scenes to record them. It is, therefore, our intention to place upon record as much of the unwritten history of Tehama county as we can drag from the storehouse of the memories of those who participated in the stirring scenes of early days.

Before entering more fully upon the history of the county it would seem appropriate to take a glance at the early history of the State and note a little of its progress during a short decade; including the first establishment, rise and decline of the missions; the rapidity and grandeur of its wonderful rise and progress; the extent of its home and foreign commerce; the discovery and astonishing produce of gold. No history therefore could be complete unless it included some account of the circumstance which brought each county into existence, and from whence came the men who organized and set the machinery of State and local governments in operation. It would thus be well then that posterity should know something of the early history of the State as well as of their own immediate neighborhood, and by placing these scenes upon record they will remain

fresh in the minds of the people that otherwise, in the lapse of years, must gradually fade away.

FIRST EXPEDITION TO CALIFORNIA.

On the 27th of June, 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, who had been one of Cortez's pilots, left Navidad, in Mexico, under instructions from Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of Spain, on a voyage of discovery. He passed by the Golden Gate and reached latitude 44° on the 10th of March, 1543. The cold became so intense that he headed his ship again for Navidad. Cabrillo landed at Cape Mendocino, which he called Mendoza, in honor of the Viceroy. Whatever discoveries may have been made by this navigator was followed with no practical results.

NEXT EXPLORATION ALONG THE COAST.

The next expedition along the coast seems to have been that of the English buccaneer, Francis Drake, afterwards knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his success in capturing and destroying the rich Spanish ships. There long existed a popular belief that Drake sailed into the harbor of San Francisco, and that the bay was named for him, but it is now well settled that the bay he entered was that of Tomales, on the coast of Marin county. This once bore the name San Francisco.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIVES.

The *Annals of San Francisco*, quoting from "an old chronicler of the time," gives the following curious and interesting description of the natives as found by Drake:

These people bringing the admiral (Drake) a present of feathers and cauls of net-work, he entertained them so kindly and generously, that they were extremely pleased, and soon afterwards they sent him a present of feathers and bags of tobacco. A number of them coming to deliver it, gathered themselves together at the top of a small hill, from the highest point of which one of them harangued the admiral, whose tent was placed at the bottom. When the speech was ended, they laid down their arms and came down, offering their presents, at the same time returning what the admiral had given them. The women remaining on the hill, tearing their hair and making dreadful howlings, the admiral supposed them engaged in making sacrifices, and thereupon ordered divine service to be performed at his tent, at which these people attended with astonishment.

The arrival of the English in California being soon known through the country, two persons in the character of ambassadors came to the admiral, and informed him, in the best manner they were able, that the king would visit him, if he might be assured of coming in safety. Being satisfied on this point, a numerous company soon appeared, in front of which was a very comely person, bearing a kind of sceptre, on which hung two crowns, and three chains of great length. The chains were of bones, and the crowns of net-work, curiously wrought with feathers of many colors.

Next to the sceptre-bearer came the king, a handsome, majestic person, surrounded by a number of tall men, dressed in skins, who were followed by the common people, who, to make the grander appearance, had painted their faces of various colors, and all of them, even the children, being loaded with presents.

The men being drawn up in line of battle, the admiral stood ready to receive the king within the fences of his tent. The company having halted at a distance, the sceptre-bearer made a speech, half an hour long, at the end of which he began singing and dancing, in which he was followed by the king and all the people, who, continuing to sing and dance, came quite up to the tent; when sitting down, the king took off his crown of feathers, placed it on the admiral's head, and put on him the other ensigns of royalty; and it is said that he made him a solemn tender of his whole kingdom; all which the admiral accepted in the name of the queen, his sovereign, in hopes that these proceedings might, one time or other, contribute to the advantage of England.

The common people, dispersing themselves among the admiral's tents, professed the utmost admiration and esteem for the English, whom they considered as more than mortal; and accordingly prepared to offer sacrifices to them, which the English rejected with abhorrence, directing them, by signs, that their religious worship was alone due to the Supreme Maker and Preserver of all things.

The admiral and some of his people, traveling to a distance in the country, saw such a quantity of rabbits, that it appeared an entire warren; they also saw deer in such plenty as to run a thousand in a herd. The earth of the country seemed to promise rich veins of gold and silver, some of the ore being constantly found on digging.

In 1595 a vessel called the San Agustin was sunk in Tomales bay, and the week afterwards drifted into the bay of San Francisco. According to Gen. M. S. Vallejo, in 1603 the admiral Sebastian Vizcayno, having on board of his flag-ship one of the pilots of the San Agustin, sailed up and down the coast, stopping, without landing in the bay of San Francisco (not the present one), which was that of Tomales, near Point Reyes. Vizcayno, took very extensive and correct geographical observations; but the only copy of his chart in existence is made on such a small scale that very little information can be derived from it concerning this portion of the coast.

In subsequent years several vessels from the Philippine Islands came down the coast on their way to Acapulco; no mention, however, is made that any of them ever touched at any point on the coast of California, although it is certain that from the voyages in question we have notes concerning its coast. By some data obtained therefrom, and particularly from the observations of Vizcayno, the first pilot of the Philippines, Don José Gonzales Cabrera Bueno, made several sea charts which, together with a theoretical treatise on navigation, was published in Manilla in the year 1734. This work gives a description of

the coast from Point Reyes to Point Pinos with the same degree of accuracy as can be given in the present day, with the exception of what appertains to the Golden Gate and the unknown interior of the bay of San Francisco. In it there is described perfectly the ancient bay of the same name, near Point Reyes, as the present one was not known at that time, and not discovered until thirty-five years later.

On the 31st of October, 1769, the expedition from San Diego was the first that made explorations in California overland. In it came Portolá, Rivera y Moncada, Fages and Father Crespí. They ascended the hills now called Point San Pedro (county of San Mateo), from whence they saw the bay of the Farallones, which extends from Point San Pedro to Point Reyes; and they also noticed Cabrera Bueno's bay of San Francisco, and the Farallones. On the 1st of November they sent a party to Point Reyes. On the 2d of the same month several hunters of the expedition ascended the high mountains more towards the east; and, although we have no correct information as to the names of those hunters, it is certain that they were the first white inhabitants who saw the large arm of the sea known at present as the bay of San Francisco. The portion that was seen by them was that which lies between the San Bruno mountains and the estuary or creek of San Antonio (Oakland). They discovered the bay, unless the honor is accorded to the exploring party that returned, on the 3d of November, who also had discovered the branch of the sea, by which they were prevented from reaching Point Reyes, and the primitive bay of San Francisco. On the 4th of November the whole of the expedition saw the newly discovered bay, and they tried to go around it by the south; but not being able to do so, they returned to Monterey.*

FIRST SETTLEMENT—THE MISSIONS.

The first settlement in California was at San Diego in 1769, by the fathers of the Order of St. Francis. Other missions followed, and in 1802 there were eighteen, with populations—mostly Christianized Indians—as follows:—

Date of Founding	Name of Mission	Males	Females	Total
1769	San Diego,.....	737	822	1559
1798	San Luis Rey de Francia,.....	256	276	532
1776	San Juan Capistrano,.....	502	511	1013
1771	San Gabriel,.....	532	515	1047
1797	San Fernando,.....	317	297	614
1782	San Buenaventura,.....	436	502	938
1786	Santa Barbara,.....	521	572	1093
1787	La Purisima Concepcion,.....	457	571	1028
1772	San Luis Obispo,.....	374	325	699
1797	San Miguel,.....	309	305	614
1791	Soledad,.....	296	267	563
1771	San Antonio de Padua,.....	568	484	1052
1770	San Carlos de Monterey,.....	376	312	688
1797	San Juan Bautista,.....	530	428	958
1794	Santa Cruz,.....	238	199	437
1777	Santa Clara,.....	736	555	1291
1797	San Jose,.....	327	295	622
1776	San Francisco,.....	433	381	814
	Totals,.....	7945	7617	15562

*Gen. Vallejo's address Oct. 8, 1876, at the 100th anniversary of founding of Mission of San Francisco.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSIONS.

At the end of sixty-five years, 1834, Hon. John W. Dwinelle tells us, in *Centennial Memoirs*, page 89, that the missionaries of Upper California found themselves in possession of twenty-one prosperous missions, planted upon a line of about seven hundred miles, running from San Diego north to the latitude of Sonoma. More than thirty thousand Indian converts were lodged in the mission buildings, receiving religious culture, assisting at divine worship, and cheerfully performing their easy tasks. Over seven hundred thousand cattle, of various species, pastured upon the plains, as well as sixty thousand horses. One hundred and twenty thousand bushels of wheat were raised annually, which, with maize, beans, peas, and the like, made up an annual crop of one hundred and eighty thousand bushels; while, according to the climate, the different missions rivaled each other in the production of wine, brandy, soap, leather, hides, wool, oil, cotton, hemp, linen, tobacco, salt, and soda. Of two hundred thousand horned cattle annually slaughtered, the missions furnished about one-half, whose hides, hoofs, horns and tallow were sold at a net result of about ten dollars each, making a million dollars from that source alone; while the other articles, of which no definite statistics can be obtained, doubtless reached an equal value, making a total production by the missions themselves of two million dollars. Gardens, vineyards, and orchards surrounded all the missions, except the three northernmost—Dolores, San Rafael, and San Francisco Solano—the climate of the first being too inhospitable for that purpose, and the two latter, born near the advent of the Mexican revolution, being stifled in their infancy. The other Missions, according to their latitude, were ornamented and enriched with plantations of palm-trees, bananas, oranges and figs, with orchards of European fruits; and with vast and fertile vineyards, whose products were equally valuable for sale and exchange, and for the diet and comfort of the inhabitants of the missions. Aside from these valuable properties, and from the mission buildings, the live stock of the missions, valued at their current rates, amounted to three million dollars of the most active capital, bringing enormous annual returns upon its aggregate value, and, owing to the great fertility of animals in California, more than repairing its annual waste by slaughter.

The extinction of the missions was decreed by act of the Spanish Cortez in 1813, and again in 1828; also, by the Mexican Congress in 1833. Year after year they were despoiled of their property, until their final overthrow about the year 1845. Each successive revolution in Mexico had recourse to the rich California missions for plunder.

WHITE PEOPLE BEGIN TO COME.

During these years there had gathered around the missions a number of Spanish and Mexican laymen. In 1812, the Rus-

sians made a settlement at Bodega, and afterwards extended their settlements to other portions of the State. There was always a jealousy, however, between them and the Spanish population, and in 1841, the Russians sold out their entire possessions to Captain John A. Sutter. Previous to 1826, there were but few of the white race in California other than Spaniards and Russians; but, in that year, the Columbia and North American Fur Companies united their interests, and after that trappers wandered around the borders, and occasionally penetrated as far as the ports of the sea shore. In 1840, Governor Juan B. Alvarado had a number of Americans and other foreigners arrested and put into prison. In 1842, Commodore Thomas ap Catsby Jones, being on this coast in command of the United States squadron, and hearing that war existed between the United States and Mexico, took possession of Monterey, and hoisted the stars and stripes; but finding himself in error, he next day surrendered the place to the Mexican authorities and made an apology. This event tended to further prejudice the Californians against the Americans. From 1843 to 1846, a great number of people crossed the Rocky mountains for settlement in California and Oregon. The Mexican Congress, feeling that California was about to slip from their country as Texas had done before, passed laws against the intrusion of these foreigners; but there was no power in the State competent to put these edicts into execution.

BEAR FLAG WAR.

This brings us to what is known as the Bear Flag War, in which several gentlemen prominent in the history of California were central figures. In 1846, the American settlers, many of whom had married Spanish ladies, learned that it was the intention of General Castro, then Governor of California, to take measures for the expulsion of the foreign element, and more especially of the Americans. Lieutenant John C. Fremont, of the United States Topographical Engineers, was then camped at the north end of the Buttes, being on his way to Oregon. The settlers sent a deputation to him, asking him to remain and give them the protection of his presence. He was afraid of a court-martial; but they argued with him that if he would take back to Washington his broken Lieutenant's commission in one hand and California in the other, he would be the greatest man in the nation. The bait was a tempting one. Fremont hesitated, but they kept alluring him nearer the scene of action. On the 9th of June, 1846, there were some thirteen settlers in his camp at the mouth of Feather river, when William Knight, who had arrived in the country from Missouri in 1841, and had married a Spanish lady, came and informed them that Lieutenant Arci had passed his place—now Knight's Landing—that morning, going south, with a band of horses to be used against the Americans in California. The settlers organized a company with Ezekiel Merritt, the