

## MURRAY TOWNSHIP.

This township is the largest of any in the county, being twenty miles long by fifteen in width. It contains the villages of Livermore, Laddsville, Pleasanton, Pleasant View, Midway Station, and Dougherty's Station, (Dublin). This township is bounded on three sides by the counties of San Joaquin, Contra Costa and Santa Clara, and on the west by the apex of a spur of the coast range. Within it are the celebrated valleys of Livermore, Amador and Sunol. Water permeates it in all directions from Alameda creek and its tributaries, named Tassajara, Alamo, San Cayatan and Arroyo. It is regarded as the finest wheat growing township in the State.

PLEASANTON, in Amador Valley, is regarded as a place of great beauty. It is located on the south side of the Arroyo Valley Creek, and is sheltered from the bay winds by a high ridge of hills. It has two hotels and three stores. During the past year the Western Pacific Railroad Company have erected here a large freight house, 150 feet long, also a large passenger depot with telegraph office. The soil in this vicinity is rich and capable of producing all kinds of vegetable and cereals in abundance. Shipments of grain are also considerable, owing to the large extent of grain land in Sunol and Amador Valleys, situated adjacent.

LIVERMORE is a new town built within the past year, and is a station of the Western Pacific Railroad. It is situated at the head of Livermore Valley. Here, also, the Railroad Company have erected a large freight house, station and telegraph office. They also have a lumber yard, containing lumber brought from their mills in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The village contains a new hotel, livery stable and a large store with a public hall overhead, also the Company have erected a steam flouring mill. The Railroad Company have agreed, in company with the citizens, to pay the expenses of conveying water from a spring two miles distant, for the purpose of supplying the town with

pure water as well as the locomotives running over the road. Arrangements are also in progress for establishing a foundry at this place.

LADDSVILLE is one-half mile beyond Livermore and is a town of older growth. Here several new residences have been built during the past year, also a new hotel. At this place is an arena, celebrated for its bull fights, which from time to time, afford amusement to a portion of the Spanish residents in that vicinity.

DOUGHERTY'S STATION is situated to the left of Pleasanton, and is also known by the names of Dublin and San Ramon. This place is at the head of Amador Valley. It has two hotels, two stores, a blacksmith shop and several fine residences. Situated adjacent is the Amador Rancho, embracing 10,000 acres, and owned by J. W. Dougherty, Esq., from whom the place takes its name. Mr. Dougherty is also the owner of a large number of the Clydesdale horses, imported from Scotland and famous for their size and strength.

MIDWAY STATION is about eight miles from Laddsville; is situated in a basin formed by the surrounding hills and is the station where the engines of the Western Pacific take in wood and water before striking out on the San Joaquin Valley. The county line of Alameda and San Joaquin are at this point. About three miles from here is the old Mountain House, well known to all old time travelers on the Oakland and Stockton stage route.

Sunol, Livermore and Amador Valleys are being settled up rapidly by an industrious class of inhabitants. The Livermore Rancho land case has lately been decided by the General Land Office in favor of about one hundred families settled upon it, and against the parties who were endeavoring to extend their claim from an extent of two leagues to eleven. A just decision to the actual settlers and one which will soon put the entire tract under cultivation.