

empurpled with the ripening grape, embowered in living green, will form a worthy background to a picture excelling the famed glories of Andalusian vales and crowded with evidences of thrift, convincing even to an English husbandman.

HOLLISTER,

The County Seat of San Benito County, is situated five miles from the Northern terminus of the county, fifteen miles from Gilroy, and enjoys all the advantages of a railroad terminus, without being one. The reason for this is two-fold. Quite a stop must be made here to allow the engine to take in water. Tres Pinos, the real terminus, offering no advantages for this purpose, the water must be supplied at Hollister. This affords a halt long enough for travelers to at least provision themselves, at a station offering greater facilities than Tres Pinos. Again, Hollister is the largest and most important town of the county, and residents of the county naturally take their trade where they can avail themselves of the benefits resulting from competition. The town contains about seventeen hundred inhabitants, is picturesquely and advantageously situated, in the centre of a district bearing abundant evidences of richness and extreme fertility. Stretching away to the North, in the direction of San Juan, is the old San Justo grant, recently cut up into farms, under the auspices of the San Justo Association. In the Northern part of the town towers a lofty mountain, commanding a view of some four hundred square miles. Hollister boasts some very fine buildings, and has a number of large stores, provided with everything to meet the universal want.

Religious denominations are quite well represented, there being two Methodist Churches, one Presbyterian, one Congregational, one Campbellite, and one Catholic.

Secret, Social and Benevolent Orders are also established here in some profusion, there being lodges of Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Redmen, Good Templars and Grangers. Also a club devoted exclusively to social purposes. Among its practical organizations, the town boasts a good fire company.

There are well attended Public Schools, so graded and systematized as to render them of practical use and benefit. A large school building has just been finished for the purpose of collecting all the public school organizations under one roof. There are also two Private Schools, presided over by thoroughly competent preceptors.

Two weekly papers are published here, the *San Benito Advance*, and *Hollister Enterprise*. They are exclusively devoted to county interests, advocate all measures for its aggrandizement ably, and, in every sense, are well conducted, wide-awake sheets.

One of the best flouring mills in the State is located here, and doing a thriving business. Several commodious grain warehouses are distributed conveniently about the town, and, until recently, a large brewery occupied a site near the Railroad Depot. This, however, was burned a short time since, nor are we positive whether or not it has been determined to rebuild.

Four hotels and several restaurants suffice to tickle the palates and slightly disconcert the digestive organs of all who fall into their hands. The Montgomery House is well worthy of patronage, the proprietors trying, by every means in their power, to render the stay of guests comfortable and pleasant. Two lumber yards and one brick yard furnish, at home, the material necessary for building. The town has also two public halls. Two banks are here doing business, one of which possesses a building, fire-proof and well adapted in every respect to the conduct of a banking business, besides being an ornament to the town. This is the Bank of Hollister, an institution with a good capital, doing a safe and profitable business.

SAN JUAN

Boasts an antiquity nearly equal to that of any town in the State, it having been founded by the