

unbroken monotony of their lives gave place to temporary excitement. Life here, then, was primitive, very primitive. Few wants were felt, and those easily supplied. It was only necessary to hie away to the sea-port, exchange a few hides, and return home again laden with those necessary adjuncts to Mexican happiness, viz: a breadth of calico rendered unsalable in Christendom by its nightmare hues, and a case of perfumed water.

But the day of idle ease has gone by; no longer does a pastoral hush reign throughout the quiet vale; not now do the fields lie untilled and fallow beneath the trampling hoofs of numberless cattle; nor does the daring vaquero with his wild halloo wake the echoes of the hills, as with a rush like an ocean tempest, the moving, living mass debouches into the plain below. No! that hardy adventurer, the Yankee, from beyond the sea, has come among them, with the thrift and energy born in a new world of a new people. He has introduced among them arts of which before they never dreamed; he has caused to spring from the soil fruits more valuable, far, than the increase of their enormous herds; he has allured to their coast the traffic of all nations; he has established some of the grandest industries for which a glorious country is famous; he has caused to rise from the plains, once lying waste, cities noted for their beauty and prosperity, and everywhere, through the exercise of his practical gifts and indomitable will, he has dotted the valley and grassy slopes with happy homes, and embosomed them in plenty. The same determination which had so persistently driven the red-skin still nearer the sinking sun, crushed out the embers of his camp fires and erected upon their sites populous cities, was to make another conquest; and another weaker race faltered and went down in the march of improvement, and the advance of civilization.

Pajaro Valley is from 12 to 15 miles in length, and has an average breadth of about 7 miles. It is by far the richest land in the county, years having occurred when the yield of wheat amounted to from 90 to 100 bushels per acre. The average yield of the crop is said to amount to 35 bushels. Potatoes, beans, and all vegetables grow luxuriantly. This valley is said to produce its largest crops during the dry seasons. The soil is, mostly a wet, rich, black adobe, with an underlying pan of clay, at from ten to twelve feet from the surface.

Fruit trees of all kinds, if we except peaches, thrive vigorously, and bear abundantly.

The home market is profusely supplied with strawberries, and all varieties of small fruits, which are exclusively of home production.

Small game, such as hares, rabbits, quail, deer, etc., is abundant, while the streams teem with trout, and the lakes are alive with perch. Surf fish are taken at the various landings, while flounders, mackerel, date fish, abalones, etc., abound.

Hops are raised to some extent, and the cultivation promises to become large and lucrative.

But the county's chief interest is in connection with manufactures. And for this purpose it is admirably adapted, possessing as it does an inexhaustible water-power, furnished by the mountain streams tributary to the ocean. These are short, with a good fall, and are utilized to a great extent.

Among the mountains, and especially near the streams, growing side by side with the spruce and redwood, and resembling them somewhat, at the first glance, is the *Torreya*, or what is generally termed the California nutmeg. Upon closer examination it presents features quite distinct from its fellows of the forest, its leaves being more fibrous and pointed. The resemblance of its fruit to the nutmeg is confined to appearance alone. The tree grows to various heights, ranging all the way from 50 to 100 feet, and in some cases has been known to achieve a diameter of three feet. Squirrels and rats feed upon the nut, which is similar to the "pecan." The wood is highly prized for its aromatic quality. It is quite valuable, is used in the manufacture of glove boxes, vases, etc., and is said to equal either the camphor or sandal wood in the retention of its fragrance. It possesses also the qualities of elasticity and durability. It was named after the eminent botanist, John Torrey, of New York, who died some months since. Up to the present time, only four species of this wood have been discovered in the entire world, these being widely separated, one growing in China, one in Japan, one in the Southern States, and one in California. For ornamental purposes it can scarcely be excelled. Its foliage is of the deepest green, its branches droop gracefully, and the upper and the under portions of the leaves afford a very pleasing contrast.