

richly blended coloring of gold, crimson and scarlet. Cedars from Japan and Syria, Australian and American palms, all were growing in a communion close and brotherly.

The soil of this valley is "adobe," rich and exhaustless. Nature has exerted herself but slightly in furnishing irrigating facilities, the Gaudalupe and Coyote Creeks being the only important water courses within the limits of the valley. This want has been abundantly supplied, however, through the medium of artesian wells.

The richness of soil, and the perfection of this system, so to speak, of artificial irrigation, so ably supplemented by a climate barren of rigors, preserving the happy medium, holding aloof from extreme heat in summer, and as absolutely free from excessive cold in winter, proves the "summum bonum" of the agriculturist.

The adaptability of both soil and climate to grape culture speaks confidently of a future full of promise, when the uplands, now inaccessible to cultivation, with their verdant vine-clad terraces, will rival European thrift, and recall to one's mind the green slopes of that crater-crowned Neapolitan, Vesuvius.

But slight attention has been given to silk culture, yet the experiments have been sufficient to demonstrate that the mulberry thrives without the ordinary care cultivation bestows, and that the worm is remarkably free from disease. The raising of cocoons has, until recently, been the only department of silk culture in which any enterprise has been displayed. Now, a small factory is in operation for the spinning, winding and dyeing of silk threads.

In praise of Santa Clara valley, scarcely too much can be said. It is rich in soil, equable in temperature, with a geological formation which easily permits the obtainance of that water, from subterranean channels, which nature has denied to them in the form of running streams.

Its resources are almost boundless, possessing as it does over 400,000 acres of tillable land, with an equivalent acreage of forest-clad mountains, and seemingly inexhaustable quicksilver mines. The situation of the broad and noble valley is picturesque and beautiful, stretching away to the mountains, its almost unbroken plain diversified by gently undulating hills, dotted with clumps of trees, embosoming so many happy homes. It presents a picture of pastoral beauty, complete in outline, detail and perspective. To the artist, its quiet vale, with the golden flush upon its summer fields; the far off hills, softened into graceful lines of beauty by distance, and veiled in tropical haze, with its background of serried forests, is an inspiration which holds him spellbound to the spot. To the adventurer from other lands, it says, here you behold that for which you have sought in vain through many countries: a climate always temperate, a soil fruitful and generous, and a country prosperous and happy. To the agriculturist seeking an advantageous spot for the location of this industry, the waving, heavy tasseled grain, in rustling whispers, speaks of the abundant harvests, while every cottage and mansion, in the quiet surroundings, typifies the home his heart longs for.

Separated from San Jose by the first range of hills, on the South-east, is San Felipe Valley. Though exceedingly fertile, it is small, being about three miles in length by a half mile in breadth. San Felipe Creek furnishes all the water necessary for purposes of irrigation. The grain crop is always abundant in the bottom lands, while the hills bounding it furnish excellent grazing lands. Game of all kinds is found here in plenty, from the deer to the mountain quail. The population of the valley aggregates about one hundred. It is approached by way of Evergreen.

In the same range of hills, about the same distance from San Jose, but in a North-east direction, is Calaveras Valley. It lies upon the North-eastern extremity of the county, at its junction with Alameda County. It is considerably elevated, and is almost circular in form, having a diameter of about two miles. It is well watered by a creek which flows through its centre, is a splendid grain-producing valley, and has a population about equal to that of San Felipe Valley.

Los Aminos Valley lies some eighteen miles South-east from San Jose. It is of some considerable extent, but better adapted to stock-raising or grazing purposes than for agriculture, its surface being broken into a succession of knolls, there being scarcely any level surface within its limits. Los Aminos Creek furnishes all the water necessary to the industry flourishing there. At least one hundred and fifty persons are living in this valley.