

Canada Valley is of a crescent shape, containing some ten square miles; is devoted to the raising of grain, also to grazing; is well watered, fertile in soil, is considerably elevated, and has a population of about one hundred and sixty persons. It is upon the road from Gilroy to the Hot Springs, and is South-east from Gilroy, some ten miles.

SAN JOSE,

The County-seat of Santa Clara County, has a population of 13,000 persons. It dates its origin from the 29th of November, 1777, and occupies the site selected by the detachment sent from the Presidio of San Francisco, for agricultural purposes, as previously related. The first location chosen was the bank of the Gaudalupe River, near the present northern boundary of the city. Danger from the overflow of the creek during winter induced the changing of this location to a point about a mile and one-quarter to the south. The town was built on the true Spanish principle, a plaza being the central point around which, for the time being, everything centred, and from which, as the city assumed more importance, everything radiated. A saintly name was chosen for the new birth, and for fear one saint should be powerless to raise her to the acme of prosperity, two were chosen, and the little hamlet startled the universe by flinging at its feet the name of El Pueblo de San Jose de Gaudalupe. For what reason she abandoned the latter title—whether the tutelar saint of Mexico proved recreant to her trust, or powerless to assist, having sufficient with which to employ herself in the land of her adoption; or whether at the wane of Mexican rule, with the unfurling of the bear flag, she, with that unerring instinct which prompts the rat to desert “a coffin ship,” dropped it as a form of throwing off allegiance—history says not, and we are at sea in the blinding fog of doubt. Certain it is that now, in the full vigor of her being, with knotted muscles, full, throbbing pulses, prosperous, happy, rich, proud and beautiful, she stands forth, the simple, unaffected, San Jose, favorably known to commerce, and the third city of the State.

The growth of San Jose was as slow and gradual as even a Mexican could desire, unless, indeed, he would prefer a perfect stand-still, as, after a lapse of fifty-four years, the total population numbered but 524, and as statisticians were probably no less ambitious in those days than at present, to attain well-rounded figures, aggregating their population, it might be well to make a mental calculation, in order to ascertain what percentum of these figures should go to offset neighborhood pride, but as we have accepted the fiat promulgated in the days to which no man's mind turneth back, viz: that “figures never lie,” we withhold our sacreligious hand, utter no scoff, and pronounce ourselves true believers. The little colony had the honor of welcoming the advance guard of overland emigration, a party reaching this place from Missouri, after a tedious and perilous journey across the plains, in 1844.

In 1846 San Jose fell into American hands. In 1847 the city was surveyed and properly laid out in streets and blocks. Americans now stepped at once into the conduct of public and business affairs. It became the first State Capital, the Legislature meeting here for four consecutive years, commencing in 1849. For some reason, known only to politicians, it was then deemed advisable to remove the capital to Vallejo.

From this time forward the progress of the city has been rapid, and improvement has been the order of the day. Little remains to be seen of the universal Mexican taste in architecture, that joint product of shiftlessness and mud, the adobe.

When one has seen, as one may see at any time in Mendocino County, for instance, houses built entirely of timber, hewn by the unaided arm and axe of the frontiersman, and this so neatly, that only by close observation can one distinguish the fact, it is difficult to ascribe the building of Irish huts in a well wooded-country, to anything but an indisposition to labor on the part of the settler.

But whatever we may say of San Jose and her prosperity, of the rapid accretions to her population, and a consequent increase of wealth and importance, we cannot but think most of its