

### GONZALES,

A small but enterprising town, rapidly increasing in size and importance.

It has a good hotel, also a restaurant, a general merchandise store and blacksmithing establishment, together with those undoubted evidences of advanced civilization, the saloon and school-house; however, here as elsewhere in California, the saloons predominate.

The town is also the site of a large warehouse.

In this vicinity the land is owned in large, undivided tracts, the one circumstance which militates against the present advancement of the town. We understand that it is the intention of the possessors to put it upon the market in subdivisions of small farms at an early day.

The population of Gonzales aggregates sixty-one—thirty-one males and thirty females. By these figures it will be seen that one person in this town, of that sex generally spoken of by the ladies as "those awful men," is actually, not figuratively, out in the cold. We shall not disclose his name, but merely insert, at his request and expense, a small advertisement, which, in consideration of his present state of nervous and physical prostration, superinduced by this cause, we wish may be productive of happy results.

#### WANTED.

A lady of fine appearance, having lingered not to exceed ten years within the purlieus of five-and-thirty, as a consort and help-meet for the last celibate of Gonzales.—N. B. Communications strictly confidential. Apply personally, or by letter.

The eight miles lying between Gonzales and Soledad are very thinly settled, there being scarcely a house visible along the entire route.

### SOLEDAD

Is a small but thriving town, on the line of the S. P. R. R., and at the same time its terminus. It contains a store, two hotels, a feed yard, express and post-office. There are many signs of improvement evident about the town. Real estate is increasing in value, and a school-house and town hall are strongly talked of. The ruins of the old mission, from which the town derives its name, are just south of the town.

Six miles to the South are the Pariso Springs, while six miles SE. is the largest ranch in the County, the Arroyo Seco. This comprises 31,900 acres; a great portion of it being only held by rental.

Soledad has a population numbering fifty-four persons, 32 males—22 females. Worse and worse! ten of the unredeemed and unprovided for in this wilderness. Massachusetts should by all means populate this country, by turning hither the tide of her adventurous females.

Soledad is twenty-eight miles S. E. from Salinas, and one hundred and forty-three miles from San Francisco. The hotel at this place is a very good one, and the proprietor evinces a kindly disposition towards all who cross his door-stone.

The conveyances of the Coast Line Stage Company, carry passengers from here up the Salinas River, the route being by Thomas' Station, changing horses at a station called

#### LAST CHANCE,

fifteen miles distant. This seemed appropriately named, as it must have been the last possible chance, which led to its establishment. It is a mere way station for the accommodation of the stage line, consisting of a stable, granary, and a very primitive cabin.

At the distance of three miles beyond is the Gulch House, owned and kept by Mr. Thompson.

Four miles further on is the Store and Hotel of Mr. A. E. Walker, and here, too, is the omnipresent Blacksmith Shop, with a red glow from the forge streaming through the open door, resembling the blood-shot orb of a Polyphemus.

Still on for four miles, and

### SAN ANTONIO,

or Lowes Station is reached, and the rattle and rumble of wheels for one day at least is over.

This is the supper and sleeping station, and travelers are well and amply provided for.

The stage from San Louis Obispo also puts up here.

San Antonio station is 60 miles S. E. of Salinas. The country lying between it and Soledad