

The Sons of Temperance erected a Hall in the same year, which is now occupied by two Divisions of the order.

The present population is not far short of five thousand, there is about two hundred families settled here. One half of which have come within the last fifteen months. The Tuolumne County Water Co.'s Ditch, which supplies from two to three hundred streams, and the Columbia and Stanislaus River Water Co.'s Ditch, which is sufficiently capacious to supply five hundred streams, have their headquarters here. The latter are pushing their work to the Main River and when completed will be able to furnish water the entire year.

The Columbia and Stanislaus River W. Co. are constructing some of the highest, longest, and most substantial flumes of any yet put up in this portion of the State. Among those under contract, and nearly completed, is the Summit Pass flume, which is 34 feet high and about 700 feet long, built of Timbers 10x12 inches, well framed and secured by iron stirrups and bolts. The Yankee Hill flume is between Columbia and Yankee Hill and is 2000 feet long, and the highest point is 79 feet, made of heavy timber and well ironed.

The Gold Hill flume, which conducts water to these rich and extensive diggings, is about 700 feet long, and 34 feet high. Made of like material as the others.

The Philadelphia House flume, between Columbia and Sonora, built by the same Company, will when completed be a fine piece of workmanship.

The Tuolumne County Water Company have also built a flume at Summit Pass, which is an excellent work, and must last for many years.

Mr. Street, proprietor of the Tuolumne ditch, has also erected quite a number, and among the best is the one at the junction of the Brown's Flat and Sonora roads, midway between Columbia and the latter place. It is a good and substantial piece of work.

These three Companies will erect some very large and heavy flumes the coming season, so as to be able to conduct water to the high points of land where rich diggings have been discovered, and cannot be successfully worked without water can be had at a sufficient height to use the Hydraulic force.

The limits of the Incorporation embrace an area of one-half mile square, and within this space there is not a lot but what is taken up for building purposes, except a few spots held as mining claims. The place is fast filling up with families—a surety of a permanent population and of improvement in society. The barbarous amusements, introduced by Spanish customs, have long since ceased to disturb the peace of the community, while other Spanish customs that tend so much to the spread and continuance of immorality are fast dying, and in a short time will only be known as things that belonged to the past. The gambling saloon no longer, by its music, attracts the unsophisticated to squander their money on “dead things,” and those who were connected with such houses have gone to other parts, or sought other occupations.—Considering the large population congregated around Columbia there has been but few murders or other great crimes perpetrated in our

midst, in comparison with places of the same size in other parts of the State. And as the Mexican population, and the class that are ever congregated around gambling houses are removed from our midst, the security of life and property may be soon considered equal to that afforded in most places in the older States.

Columbia has many fine gardens and ranches in its immediate neighborhood, which supplies it with the luxuries that our soil so abundantly produces. Great interest is now taken by our citizens in planting ornamental trees to take the place of the noble oaks that were destroyed by the transient population that first resided here, and from the large number of fruit trees and vines that are brought to our place, we have come to the conclusion that the time will not be long before most of our citizens will sit under their own vines and fig trees, with none to molest or make them afraid.

In the Summer of '55 some individuals conceived the project of fluming the Columbia Gulch from its head to a point below Springfield—a distance of a mile and a half. The work was completed previous to the falling of the water in the Fall. The object of the flume was to secure the claims on the gulch from water, and to save the fine gold lost in washing. It is believed, from the proceeds so far, to be one of the best investments in the county.

With all these advantages, and the great extent of her mines, makes Columbia, as she has been very properly styled, the “Gem of the Southern Mines.”