

The climate is beautiful; the cold of winter is unknown, and, although a little warm in the middle of the day in summer, the mornings and evenings are always cool and refreshing. The sea breeze coming up the valley has an equalizing effect upon the atmosphere both during summer and winter. The sky is nearly always clear, of a most beautiful blue, and the air of remarkable purity, which is of great benefit to invalids, especially consumptives.

As we desire to visit the surroundings of St. Helena, we will now engage a private conveyance. There being three very complete livery-stables we shall have no difficulty in obtaining excellent horses and a careful driver. First of all, however, we must return to our hotel, the St. Charles, to take breakfast and provide ourselves with sundry little "necessaries" which travelers usually carry in bottles, the "local option" mania not yet having reached this community. Breakfast over, and our team is in waiting to convey us to the "White Sulphur Springs." Following a very wide and well built road, in a south-westerly direction we soon reach a deep canyon leading to the springs, and arrive at the hotel, kept by Mr. Alstrom, in just fifteen minutes after leaving town, distance, about two miles. Magnificent roads and good horses, dear reader, contribute greatly to shorten distance.

Here we are, in the most delightful spot of Napa County, and a short description will not be amiss: The White Sulphur Springs are situated in a very romantic mountain gorge. The hills on both sides are covered with timber and underbrush, presenting a very wild appearance. The place first became noted in 1855, at which time a hotel was erected there. The beauties of the surroundings are principally natural, though many artificial improvements have been made.

For the accommodation of tourists and invalids, there is one hotel, with a number of cottages in the immediate vicinity belonging thereto, and the whole is under the management of Mr. Alstrom, who has won the respect and esteem of the traveling public through his uniform politeness and untiring energy to satisfy his visitors. The water of the Springs is of that kind commonly termed Sulphur water. No chemist being on hand, we cannot give our readers a correct chemical analysis of it. The bathing establishment is very complete and commodious. The scenery is really grand, we should say sublime, with just enough of artificial work to show how inferior are the works of man to those of nature.

For pleasure seekers, the surroundings are unsurpassed. There are trout in the stream near by, plenty of game in the neighboring hills; and those hunters desirous of facing a bear can also be accommodated within easy distance, so we are told, but desire it distinctly understood that we saw *no* bears, except those seen on California street on "Blue Mondays."

While we are enjoying the beauties of this favored spot and forgetting all sublunary affairs, we are suddenly reminded that time waits for no one; our driver very politely informs us that, to reach the train, we must now depart. Hastily seating ourselves in the conveyance, we depart and reach the hotel in St. Helena just in time to pack up and catch the train for Calistoga. Again we are drawn by the "iron horse," the great civilizer of modern days, and in thirty minutes we arrive at the end of Napa Valley, the terminus of the railroad—Calistoga, nine miles from St. Helena and twenty-seven from Napa.

CALISTOGA has become famous for its mineral springs and picturesque location. The former, although known by the Indians and Mexicans before the acquisition of California by the United States, attracted no attention until 1859, when Samuel Brannan purchased the land upon which they are situated.

The water of these springs holds in solution sulphur, various salts of lime, soda, and magnesia, and they vary in heat from 75 deg. to 200 deg. Fahrenheit.

In the middle of Calistoga Valley is a small mountain, called Mount Lincoln, from the summit of which a very fine and extensive view may be had. On the western side of the hill is the hotel, surrounded by pleasure grounds.

At the bathing establishment, which is very large and complete in all its appointments, visitors can obtain different kinds of baths, viz: cold—in water pumped from the Napa River; warm—in the water running from the sulphur springs; and steam baths prepared by Nature, a bath-house being erected immediately over a spring which provides sufficient steam to satisfy all demands.

The hotel is very spacious and well kept; for visitors who desire to live alone and undisturbed by the noise of pleasure-seeking society, about twenty-five neat cottages have been provided.

The town of Calistoga has a resident population of 258—151 males and 107 females—all seem to live happily in this truly beautiful spot.

There is one school with two teachers, several churches, three hotels, a number of business houses, blacksmith shops, livery stable, etc.; the medical profession is ably represented.

One of the greatest natural curiosities near Calistoga is the petrified forest, about five miles distant, first discovered by C. H. Denison in 1870.

The road from Calistoga to the forest is very romantic, passing near deep ravines and among hills covered with various kinds of trees, such as oaks, madronas, manzanitas, laurels, pines, etc.

The trunks of the petrified trees vary in length; there are some of 100 feet long—others shorter. Should the reader desire to know how they became petrified or whence they came, we can only refer him to some professor; *our* only answer is "quien sabe."