

this juncture we saw a vaquero coming toward us, of whom we made inquiry in regard to the nearest road to Calistoga. He pointed out the direction, then turning his horse from us, smilingly exclaimed: "Dios que olor!"

We immediately departed, and reached Calistoga in time to take the train for St. Helena, where we arrived in the evening.

Our first occupation was the burial of our clothing, so that we might, without offending the olfactory nerves of the other guests, take our seats at the supper table. Here we will remain over night and to-morrow resume our journey homeward, through some of the most productive valleys of California. Horses being cheap, we will purchase a couple to continue our trip, as we have a number of places to visit before reaching Napa. Following the road, which runs in a south-easterly direction, on the edge of Napa Valley, we reach Conn Creek, seven miles from St. Helena. Here we cross the stream and proceed up a deep canyon until we reach Conn Valley, named after C. Conn, who was the first settler in the neighborhood and still resides there.

Conn Valley, covering an area of about 1,200 acres, is well watered by Conn Creek. The land is very productive, and yields large quantities of wheat of excellent quality. Now we proceed through Chiles Canyon to Chiles Valley. The scenery is beautiful beyond description, and the atmosphere very refreshing, as the sun never penetrates the thick foliage and the heat is seldom oppressive.

This valley was named after J. B. Chiles, the first settler, and covers an area of about 6,500 acres of excellent land.

The principal produce of this locality is wheat, although barley is also raised to a considerable extent.

From here we proceed in a northerly direction and enter Pope Valley, which covers an area of about 20,000 acres, as near as we can estimate. Wheat is the principal product, although fruit, vegetables, etc., are raised for local consumption. There are two general stores, one blacksmith shop, a saloon, and a sort of a "way-house." A good hotel is much needed and loudly called for by all travelers, we among the number.

In the north-western end of this Valley are located the famous "Phœnix" and "Valley" Quicksilver Mines, with a population of 90. We spent several hours in these mines, and on our return to Napa, will give our readers a full description of what we saw there.

Again the shades of night are falling, and we will seek repose, as the exercise of the day has somewhat fatigued us. At 4 A. M. we are in the saddle and ready to continue our journey.

Following a mountain road in a north-easterly direction, we soon reach Schnell Valley, covering an area of several hundred acres, owned entirely by C. Rooker. There is nothing of great importance to note here, and we will continue by a mountain road, crossing Putah Creek, the second largest stream in the County, and reach Mysterious Valley at 9 A. M., having traveled slowly so as not to fatigue our animals—we mean ourselves.

Mysterious Valley has, in reality, nothing very mysterious about it, at least so far as we could discover. The reason why it was so called is unknown to us. It covers an area of about 500 acres of good, arable land.

Continuing on our course in the same direction, through sage-brush and over mountains, we next reach the "Manhattan Quicksilver Mines," (population of this camp, 75), and a mile further, the "Knoxville Quicksilver Mines," with 276 inhabitants—a description of both of which will be given with those formerly mentioned.

Being desirous of reaching the Berryessa Valley as soon as possible, we must hasten our horses. The road from Knoxville runs in a southerly direction, along the bank of Ericuera Creek, toward Monticello, which town we reached at 10 P. M.

Nothing of any note occurred to us to-day, so we have no adventure to narrate—suffice it to say, that we found excellent accommodations in the hotel at Monticello, and were highly satisfied with the gentlemanly and polite treatment received at the hands of the proprietor, E. A. Peacock. Monticello is a thriving village, situated in the beautiful and productive Berryessa Valley. It is 24 miles north of Napa and has a population of 99—55 lords of creation and 44 daughters of Eve. Monticello is entirely supported by the farming community; has two general stores, two blacksmith shops, one saddlery store, one hotel, and one saloon. We were much astonished to hear that, to retain a physician in the Berryessa Valley, the residents are obliged to pay a fixed salary, for cases of sickness are so very rare that the income from his practice would not suffice to support the doctor.

In this connection a tale is recalled to our memory. One of the kings of Persia sent a very eminent physician to Mohammed, who, remaining a long time in Arabia without practice, grew weary, and presenting himself before the Prophet, thus addressed him: "By my superiors I was sent here to practice medicine; but, since I came, I have had no opportunity of showing my skill, as no one seems to be ill." Mohammed replied: "It is the custom of this country never to eat without being hungry, and never to eat too much." Such appears to be the case with the people in Berryessa Valley, for, as before said, sickness is almost unknown, and a doctor can scarcely earn his salt.