

chosen with judgment and taste. On the north, a rugged mountain range frowns down upon the buildings, while on the south, Mount Cobb towers to the height of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet. Close to the hotel, through a rocky gorge, rushes a beautiful stream, furnishing an abundance of clear, cool, sparkling water, which is distributed through pipes to all the buildings, for bathing purposes, and in the grounds supplying constantly playing fountains. To the followers of Isaac Walton, this stream offers rare inducements, trout of good size and excellent flavor being quite plenty. Hunters, also, can find an abundance of all kinds of game within easy distance from the hotel. The stables attached to the house are commodious and convenient, well managed and under the supervision of able men, who not only understand their duties toward the horse, but have sufficient time to spare to be polite to visitors. In this connection we would state that the proprietors of the hotel also own a six-horse stage coach which makes tri-weekly trips to Calistoga. After having partaken of an excellent repast we will take our departure to continue our journey toward Kelseyville. Leaving Cobb Valley at 3 P. M., we follow a northerly direction over a splendid road, and reach Kelseyville at 5 A. M.—distance about 13 miles. Kelseyville is the oldest town of Lake County and is the second in importance. It has a population of 226—122 males and 104 females. There is a graded public school, two churches—Methodist and Catholic—and lodges of different benevolent associations. The business portion of the locality is represented by two general stores, one drug store, one blacksmith, one wagon-maker and a general repairing shop and planing mill. The medical profession has one representative. The hotel, called the "Uncle Sam," is a very good house and offers excellent accommodations. The town is chiefly supported by the farmers living in Big Valley, of which Kelseyville is the center.

After supper our landlord proposed a walk; the evening being very pleasant we readily accepted. On leaving the hotel, we noticed that our host provided himself with matches. We thought that he was about to exhibit some curiosity hidden in the recesses of the spacious barn, so we made no inquiry. This was not the case, however, for on proceeding only a few rods from the hotel, in an open field, we approached something protruding from the ground, which, upon examination, proved to be a piece of iron pipe. It being dark we could not see the exact nature of the soil, but it appeared to be very elastic to the step, similar to walking upon a spring mattress. Our landlord now began to tell us about "Moses and the burning bush," of which we had some faint recollection ourselves, but could not understand the relation between the bush of the Bible and the pipe of Kelseyville. Presently our guide struck a match and applied it to the mouth of the pipe. The gas issuing therefrom ignited, and here we were, in the middle of a barren field, looking at each other by gaslight. At first we were inclined to run, for we thought that something supernatural was about to occur, or that the interior fires of the earth would burst upon us, but on second thought we decided to investigate this strange phenomenon. We were informed that the earth in this neighborhood is impregnated with sulphureted-hydrogen gas, and that by making a small hole almost anywhere and applying a match thereto, the gas is immediately lighted, and will burn with a blue flame, though for a few moments only.

We now retraced our steps to the hotel and retired. At 5 A. M. we are again ready to continue our trip in another direction. We follow the road leading in a westerly course toward Caldwell Springs, distance five miles, and reach that place at 6½ A. M. The pure mountain air gave us a good appetite and we relished our breakfast.

Caldwell Springs, now known as Highland Springs, are situated among the foothills on the extreme edge of Big Valley. The waters of these springs is charged with different minerals to an extraordinary degree. They contain sulphur, magnesia and iron. The location is very picturesque; on the one side the road leads out of the valley by easy slopes, while on the other there are mountains, some of which are 3,000 feet above the sea level. Among the surrounding hills prospectors have lately been searching for cinnabar deposits. Some indications have been found, which, it is said, promise very lucrative results; up to the present, however, no mine has been developed.

The surroundings here, as in the localities already described, are very romantic, offering abundant amusement for the angler and hunter, as well as attractions for the artist. In a few years hence, when the iron horse will have entered this locality, this country will be thickly populated and visited by multitudes of people in search of amusement and recreation.

We now proceed in a northerly direction over an easy road and reach Lakeport, the County seat of Lake County, in the afternoon—distance seven miles from Highland Springs. Lakeport is situated in the north-eastern part of Big Valley, on the western shore of Clear Lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the world, of which more will be said. Lakeport is about 10 miles distant from the northern limits of the County, 100 miles north of San Francisco, 30 miles from Ukiah, in Mendocino County, 30 miles from Cloverdale, in Sonoma County, and 48 miles from Calistoga. It has a population of 350—187 males and 163 females. The town is well built, contains a number of business houses, such as general merchandise stores, one bank, one hotel, one restaurant, two blacksmith-shops, a gun-shop, barber-shop, tin-shop, etc. etc., in fact, all branches of business and trade are creditably represented. There are churches, schools, and a number of benevolent societies. Among the private residences we noticed two very beautiful ones