

boasts of one of the best race-tracks in the country. There are several stores, a good livery stable, and different other shops and saloons. There are a number of orchards in the immediate vicinity, and fruit-raising is one of the principal branches of pursuit. We were told that the fruit grown here is of superior quality and is justly famed. We found a very good hotel at this point, called the Pioneer House, where the accommodation is very good and the table first-class. The house is very pleasantly situated, and we were highly pleased with all its appointments. The climate of Sebastopol is very pleasant; although the days in summer be rather warm, the nights are cool and agreeable. The private residences of the town are very pretty; the handsomest one is owned by Mr. Carrillo, a wealthy land-owner—a connection of the family residing at Santa Rosa.

Sebastopol is situated in the center of an extensive plain, and bids fair to become one of the principal towns of the County. We will now bid adieu to our friends at Sebastopol, and proceed south through a level country—grain fields and meadows—to Petaluma; distance 17 miles from Sebastopol. Petaluma is the principal town of Sonoma County, was incorporated in 1858, and has a population of 2,847—1,507 males, and 1,340 females. These figures are, to the best of our knowledge and belief, correct, although they may be doubted by many, but we can safely assert that the population has always been overrated. Some years ago a publisher estimated the population to be 5,000; two years ago an enterprising and sanguine statistician counted 7,000, but the seven thousand were never there, and we claim to be right. The town is situated at the head of navigation of Petaluma Creek, which empties into San Pablo Bay, and is navigable for schooners at high water; so it is a very bad place for a seaport. It is built in a pretty locality; the streets are of medium width, and are kept in fair order. There are some very fine buildings on the main street, and, to the stranger, at first sight the town presents a business-like appearance. Petaluma is the shipping point for produce from Sonoma, Marin, Lake and Mendocino Counties, and if the business men of the locality were possessed of that vital quality of the true merchant—energy, the town would rapidly increase in importance. There are a number of capitalists, who, because of their desire to live but *not* to let live, are rather an injury than a benefit to the place. Of course there is a great deal of business done at Petaluma. Stores of all kinds are numerous, and all branches of business are here established. The professions and trades are well represented. Among the manufactories we notice foundries, tanneries, (the largest one owned by Mr. J. Wick, who is now greatly increasing his works) grist-mills, wagon shops, tin shops, one glove manufactory, cooper shops, potteries, a blind factory and planing-mill. The principal articles shipped to San Francisco comprise: lumber, staves, hay, wheat, potatoes, eggs, butter and cheese in very large quantities, hops, poultry, wine, firewood, fruit, charcoal, cattle, etc., etc. We paid a visit to a very complete and extensive nursery owned by Mr. W. A. T. Stratton, who displays a great amount of enterprise in the conduct of his business. He is largely engaged in the importation and propagation of Australian, European, and other foreign plants, such as the Eucalyptus and other evergreens. He showed us a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers, all thriving remarkably well in the genial climate of the locality.

The educational facilities are said to be excellent, and churches are very numerous. There are also several societies of mutual benefit, charitable and secret organizations. In fact, so far as the private portion of the community is concerned, we have heard it very highly spoken of, but the business portion, so-called, is not possessed of much activity. The reader will recollect that on leaving Lakeport we made an engagement with our friends of the lake to meet them somewhere in Sonoma County. It appears that they remained longer than at first intended in the neighborhood of Clear Lake, and came by way of San Francisco to Petaluma to meet us there. They waited some ten days for us, and then left for the coast, on their road to Mendocino County. In a letter left for us at Petaluma they promise to meet us at Ukiah.

The following is the letter:

PETALUMA, _____.

MESSRS. _____: In conformity with our promise made you on the shores of Clear Lake, we hastened to meet you in Sonoma County. You must excuse our tardiness; we were detained rather longer than we anticipated at Harbin Springs. The scenery was so beautiful, the company so refined and agreeable, that we could hardly tear ourselves away. Had it not been for our desire to hunt the bear with you in Mendocino, we should have remained until August. We hope soon to see you in Ukiah.

Your ever faithful, grateful and sincere friends,

AVOIRDUPOIS ONE AND TWO.

Before starting on our journey we must not omit to state that we inspected the extensive Cheese Manufactory of Payne & Killan, about one mile south of Petaluma. This is the only place in California where cheese is manufactured on the eastern principle. The building is very spacious and the manufactory can consume about 1,200 gallons of milk per day.

Our team ready, we leave Petaluma and take a north-westerly direction over a good road and arrive at Stony Point, distance eight miles from Petaluma; eight miles south-west of Santa Rosa. This is a small settlement, having a hotel, blacksmith shop and other buildings. We now go to Bloomfield, eight miles north-west from Stony Point, sixteen miles south-west of Santa Rosa. Bloomfield is a promising village