

what is said to be "the root of all evil"—GOLD—and a *huge root it is*; they all point to it; we are hunting it; have hunted it for forty years; struck the trail several times, but it soon got cold; and it has been difficult for some time to find a "color."

Auburn—The county seat of Placer county—is 7.71 miles west of Clipper Gap, and contains about 1,000 inhabitants. Gardens, vineyards, and orchards abound, and everything betokens quiet, home-comforts and ease. It has excellent schools and fine churches, and is one of the neatest looking towns in the county. The public buildings, court-house etc., are good, and the grounds well kept. The greater portion of the dwellings stand a little distance from the road. The American, Orleans, and Railroad House, are the principal hotels. The *Placer Herald* and the *Argus*, both weekly newspapers, are published here.

Stages run daily from Auburn to Pilot Hill, eleven miles; Greenwood, 14 miles; Georgetown, 20 miles; Coloma, 22 miles; Forest Hill, 23 miles; Michigan Bluffs, 30 miles; Placerville, 30 miles.

We are now in the foot-hills:

ALABASTER CAVE is situated eight miles southeast of Auburn, on Kidd's Ravine, about a mile above its junction with the North Fork of the American River. When the cave was first discovered, Aug. 19, 1860, it was a beautiful place, consisting of one room, 100x30 feet. At the north end was a most magnificent pulpit, in the Episcopal Church style, completed with the most beautiful drapery of alabaster sterites, of all colors, varying from white to pink-red, overhanging and surrounding the beholder. Immediately under the pulpit was a beautiful little lake of water. Beyond this chamber was another, 200x100 feet, with most beautiful alabaster overhangings, in every possible shape of drapery. Vandal hands, have, in late years, destroyed much of its original beauty.

After leaving Auburn, we pass through Bloomer Cut, (see illustration, page 195), then near the next station we pass over the New Castle Gap Bridge, which, before it was filled up with earth, was 528 feet long and 60 feet high. All trestle bridges and trestle works on both the Union and Central Pacific roads, have all been filled in with rock, earth or iron, within the last five years.

New Castle—is a small place of about 200 inhabitants, 4.89 miles from Auburn. We pass on through little valleys

and among low hills, with evidences of past and a little present mining.

Off to the right are the old-time mining camps of Ophir, Virginia City, Gold Hill, and several others, where yet considerable placer mining is indulged in by the old settlers who are good for nothing else.

There are several stone quarries near the station, where a very good article of granite is procured.

Just after leaving Newcastle, we catch the first glimpse of the beautiful valley of the Sacramento, from the windows on the right-hand side of the cars. There has been several points above, where the valley could be seen for a moment, but very indistinctly. Passing on by several valuable stone quarries, for 6.06 miles, we come to

Pino—We are rapidly descending, but among the low hills, covered with chaparral, manzanita and grease-wood, the road winds onward for 3.04 miles further, passing several valuable quarries, to the right and left, when we arrive at

Rocklin—Here the company have a machine shop and round-house of 28 stalls, built in the most substantial manner, of granite obtained near by. The celebrated Rocklin Granite Quarries are close to the station, on the left-hand side of the road. The granite obtained here is of excellent quality, and does not stain on exposure to the weather. The stone for the State Capitol and for many of the best buildings in San Francisco was quarried here.

Leaving Rocklin and the foot-hills—the country now opening out into the plains, or the valley bordering the American River—we have no more hills to encounter; yet the country is somewhat uneven, and after winding around, on a regular grade, for 3.91 miles further, we reach the

Junction—Roseville Junction—This place is 18.24 miles from Sacramento. Here are several stores, a hotel, and one of the best places on the coast to establish a flouring mill. Using the wheat that is raised near, and finding a ready market in the mines to the east, would have a decided advantage in point of location and freights over any other mill on the coast. At this junction branches off the Oregon division of the Central Pacific, for Marysville and the North Oregon. The road is completed to Redding, 169 miles north. Passengers can change cars here if they choose, or go on to Sacramento, as the trains for the Oregon division are made up at that city, and