

About the first thing to attract the attention of the traveler after leaving the city, will be the

"TUILES," which is the native name given to the rushes which cover the low lands and bays of California. They are of the bulrush family, probably the father of all rushes. They grow from six to ten feet high, and so thick on the ground that it is extremely difficult to pass among them. The lands on which they grow are subject to annual overflows. During the prevalence of the floods, miles and miles of these lands are under water, presenting the appearance of one vast lake or inland sea. In the fall and early winter, when the tuiles are dry, they are often set on fire, forming a grand and terrible spectacle, especially during the night. When once the fire attains headway, nothing can quench its fury until the tuiles are swept away to the bank of some water-course, which bars its further progress.

The soil composing the land is *adobe*, of a purely vegetable mold. Wherever it has been reclaimed, it produces grain and vegetables in almost fabulous quantities.

It is claimed by many, that, with proper appliances, these lands could be converted into magnificent rice fields; the advocates of this measure asserting that they possess every requisite of soil, climate, and adaptability to irrigation. The State has provided for a system of levees, by which a large amount of land, heretofore known as tuile land, has been successfully reclaimed, and is now counted the most valuable in the State.

The country, after leaving Sacramento, is level for a vast distance on either hand; the "tuiles" are disappearing, and, before we reach Knight's Landing, the left-hand shore is more bold, and the wheat-fields and gardens have taken the place of "tuiles" along the river bank.

We have already been to Marysville by railroad, now let us go via FEATHER RIVER, a beautiful stream, its clear waters contrasting advantageously with the muddy waters of the river we have left. We pass through a fine country with wheat farms on the higher lands, and reach Nicholas, a dull, quiet town of about 300 inhabitants, situated at the junction of Bear River with the Feather. Proceeding up the Feather, we pass HOCK FARM, the home of the venerable pioneer of California, General Sutter. It is a lovely place—the old farm-house and iron fort standing on the bank of the

stream. Enormous fig trees line the bank, while behind them can be seen the fine orchards and vineyards planted by the General nearly 50 years ago. General Sutter settled in California under a grant from the Russian Government, which conveyed to him large tracts of land around Sacramento City, including the city site; also a large tract, of which Hock Farm is a part. Sharpers and swindlers deprived the old pioneer of most of his property, leaving him penniless, and a pensioner on the State.

Passing on by the junction of the Yuba and Feather rivers, we soon reach Yuba near Marysville, 65 miles from Sacramento, by water. (See description on page 194) Returning to the Sacramento, the right-hand bank of the river appears low and swampy, covered with "tuiles" for a great distance inland. Passing on, we soon arrive at

KNIGHT'S LANDING—a small place—46 miles from Sacramento. Population about 200. It is quite a shipping point for Yolo county, and is on the line of the California Pacific railroad. This road, in 1873-4, extended to Marysville, crossing the river at this point, but the floods washed away the road-bed on the east side of the river. The road passed into the hands of the "Central" Company, that had a road to Marysville via the Roseville Junction. So it never was repaired, but the bridge turned to allow a free passage of the river boats, and has been so, for the last four years, and probably will so remain until it rots down.

For a long distance above Knight's Landing, the low marshy plains continue on our right, the higher land covered with wheat on our left, with no towns of any importance to note until we arrive at

COLUSA—This is a point of considerable trade—125 miles from Sacramento. It is the county seat of Colusa county, situated on the west bank of the Sacramento River, and contains about 1,500 inhabitants. The *Colusa Sun* is published here.

The town was laid out in 1850, by Colonel Semple, the owner of the "Colusa Grant"—containing two Spanish leagues. It is now the center of a very large farming and grazing country. Schools and churches are well represented. Stages run daily between Colusa and Marysville—29 miles; also to Williams, nine miles west.

Passing on up the river, the country seems to gradually change to a grazing,