

to this station, where they branch off. Let us step into them, and see where they go. Patterson's is five miles; Salsbury's six miles; Alder Creek, three miles, and three miles more brings us to

FOLSOM—twenty-five miles east from Sacramento, in Sacramento county, on the south bank of the American River population about 2,000. The *Telegraph* is published here, weekly. Vine culture is an important industry. Some of the finest vineyards in the State are near here, including the Natoma, which is celebrated for its fine quality of raisins and wine. To the north and east of the town, placer mining is the principal business; to the south and west, farming and grazing.

There are extensive granite quarries in the vicinity. From the bed of the river, near this point, large quantities of cobblestones have been obtained, taken to Sacramento, and used in strengthening the levees around the City. Most of the cobble pavement in San Francisco was obtained from the same source.

Folsom is ornamented with fruit and shade trees, and has many fine public and private buildings, with magnificent scenery.

Regular stages leave for Coloma, daily, via. Mormon Island, Salmon Falls and Greenwood Valley, 24 miles distant.

Passing on seven miles to White Rocks, eight to Latrobe, and eleven to Shingle Springs, brings us to the end of the railroad, 49 miles from Sacramento.

PLACERVILLE.—is twelve miles from Shingle Springs, with which it is connected with daily stages. It is the county seat of El Dorado county, 60 miles east of Sacramento, at an altitude of 1,880 feet above tide—present population, about 2,000.

Who has not heard of Placerville, El Dorado county? It was in this county, at Coloma, eight miles northeast of the city, where the

FIRST GOLD DISCOVERY—was made January, 19th, 1848—by J. W. Marshall, in the mill race of General Sutter. The announcement of this discovery caused the *wildest gold fever excitement ever experienced* not only in America, but in every part of the civilized world.

The news of these rich discoveries sped with the wings of the wind, and thousands, yes, tens of thousands, in the Atlantic States left homes, friends, and all they held dear, to make their fortunes in this, the new El Dorado. With many the excitement be-

came intense, ships, steamers, barks, brigs, and all manner of sailing vessels were chartered or purchased for a trip "around the Horn;" and no sacrifice was thought to be too much to make to procure the necessary outfit for the expedition. Again there were thousands who, choosing the land, boldly struck out toward the setting sun to cross the *then* almost unknown trackless deserts, and pathless mountains. Horses, mules and cattle were pressed into service, as well as all kinds of conveyances, while many started with hand-carts, propelling them themselves, upon which they packed their tools and provisions for the trip. Again, others started on foot, with only what they could pack on their backs, "*trusting to luck.*" Very few, if any, had a thought of the privations to be endured, or the obstacles to be overcome, so anxious were they to arrive at the Land of Gold.

Those who came by water, passed in at the Golden Gate, and up the Sacramento, while those by land came pouring over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, by natural passes, down, down into this beautiful valley, where a city of many thousands suddenly sprang into existence. From a "little unpleasantness" the place was first known as "Hangtown," but in 1852 it was changed to Placerville, which indicated at that time, the nature of the mining done in the vicinity. Of the many thousands who started across the plains and mountains, hundreds died by the wayside, and were buried by their companions, while the greater number were "lost" by the hand of the *friendly* Indian or the *hostile* Mormon.

It has been estimated, and we think correctly, could the bones of these emigrants be collected, and those of their animals, together with their wagons and carts, in one continuous line, between the Missouri river and the Pacific coast, since the rush commenced in 1848, they would be *more numerous and closer together* than the telegraph poles on the line of the Pacific railroad across the Continent.

The early mining done about Placerville was done by hand, the pan, rocker, and long Tom; these have long since given place to the quartz mills—there are 32 in the county—and the hydraulic process, by which nearly all the mining is now done.

Vine culture and fruit culture are now the most important occupations of the people of the county. Fresh and dried fruits