

Nevada Mountains, numbering from 92 to 1,000 trees each, and ranging in height from 250 to 321 feet, with a circumference, at the ground, of from 60 to 95 feet each.

The largest ever discovered is called the "Father of the Forest"—now prostrate—and measures 435 feet in length and 110 feet in circumference. It is in the Calaveras grove. The elevation of this grove above tide is 4,735 feet. The trees number 92, ranging from 150 to 321 feet in height. The most notable are the "Father of the Forest," as above stated; the "Mother of the Forest," 321 feet high, 90 feet in circumference; "Hercules," 320 feet high, 95 feet in circumference; "Hermit," 318 feet high, 60 feet in circumference; "Pride of the Forest," 276 feet high, 60 feet in circumference; "Three Graces," 295 feet high, 92 feet in circumference; "Husband & Wife," 252 feet high, 60 feet in circumference; "Burnt Tree"—prostrate—330 feet long, 97 feet in circumference; "The Old Maid," "Old Bachelor," "Siamese Twins," "Mother & Sons," the "Two Guardsmen," and many others range from 261 to 300 feet in height and from 59 to 92 feet in circumference. Of over 350 big trees in the Mariposa grove, 125 are from 250 to 350 feet in height and 40 feet in circumference. The "Rambler" is 250 feet high, and 102 feet in circumference, at the ground.

Hotel accommodations at the different groves, and in Yo Semite Valley will be found ample. Returning to Stockton, we once more take the Overland train for San Francisco. This is a great country for rapid changes. Where to-day there are only stages, to-morrow there may be palace cars; so that it is almost impossible for us to keep up with the times. When our guide was first published, in 1869, *not one foot* of all the roads we have come over, from the Missouri to this place, or will go over, or that are, was built or hardly thought of. How fast we live! At the same proportional increase for the next nine years, where will we be?

Lathrop—is 8.9 miles south of Stockton, at the junction of the "Visalia Division" of the Central Pacific railroad. Here the R. R. Co. have erected a fine, large hotel, before which trains stop 30 minutes, to afford passengers an opportunity to take a meal, for which the moderate charge of 50 cents is made. (For a description of the country to the south, including Yo Semite Valley and the big trees of Mariposa and Tuolumna groves, See page 234.) Here

passengers for Fort Yuma, Los Angeles and intermediate country can "change cars," if they choose, without going to San Francisco.

From Lathrop, it is 3.6 miles to the bridge over the San Joaquin River. Here the cars come to a full stop before crossing, to be *sure* to guard against accidents—as the bridge has a "draw" for the accommodation of the river boats. This company has a rule for all their employes, and a "GOLDEN" ONE IT IS, that "*In case of uncertainty, always take the safe side.*" This rule is *well observed*; few "accidents" take place on the roads operated by this company, for the reason that the road is constructed of *good* materials, and in the most *substantial manner*, with all its equipments of the *first class*. The officers are thoroughly practical men, who never discharge an employe on any consideration, who has proved to be a *competent man* for his position, simply to make room for a *favorite*, or a *worthless "cousin."*

Crossing the bridge, the long range of the Contra Costa Mountains looms up in the distance, directly ahead, and extends a long distance to the right and left, on either hand, as though to effectually stop our progress. We cannot see any place to get through or over them, yet we are *sure* San Francisco is on the other side.

Bantas—is 4.4 miles from the bridge, and is reached after passing over a broad bottom, the soil of which is a rich, deep sandy loam and very productive. This station consists of a postoffice, a half-dozen stores, several large freight warehouses, with a surrounding country, well settled, most of which is under cultivation. Stages leave this station on arrival of trains for Graysonville, 20 miles; Mahoney, 35 miles; Crow's Landing, 35 miles; and Hill's Ferry, 41 miles.

After leaving the station, we have witnessed, on several occasions, by looking away to the right, that curious phenomenon, the mirage, which is often seen on the desert. (See description, page 169.) About three miles west is *to be* the new station of

Tracy—at the junction of the San Pablo & Tulare railroad, now building from Martinez, opposite Benecia, to this place, where a connection will be made with the Western Division. This new road is virtually a division of the "Central," and will be 72 miles to San Francisco, via Martinez and Berkley, *twelve* miles longer than the route we are now traveling, via