

downs" are *very rapid*; one is rich to-day, with gold to throw away, then poor to-morrow, without a farthing in the world.

Alameda county is noted for its peculiarly rich and fertile soil, which seems especially adapted to the cultivation of all kinds of fruit and vegetables, the size and weight of which are *truly marvelous*. This valley is the currants' home, which are raised in immense quantities. Here is located a large drying establishment, by the Alden process. One man, a Mr. Meek, has a 2,200 acre farm here, on 300 of which, are 250,000 currant bushes, 1,200 almond trees, 4,200 cherry trees, 8,000 prune and plum, 1,500 pear, 2,500 apple, 1,500 peach, and 2,000 apricot trees, besides six acres in blackberries, and many orange trees.

Another *poor* fellow has 120 acres, on which are 2,000 plum trees, 2 000 cherry, 1,500 pear, 1,000 apple, 400 peach and apricot trees, and 25 acres in currants and berries. Still another individual has 100,000 currant bushes, and the fourth, raised in 1877, 200 tons of pumpkins, 300 tons of beets, and 20 tons of carrots. Currants grow as large as filberts; cherries, three inches in circumference; plums, pears, apples, peaches, and apricots, extraordinarily large, while carrots grow three feet long, and weigh 35 pounds; cabbages, 75 pounds; onions, five pounds; water-melons, 85 pounds; pumpkins—well, no scales *can* weigh *them*—pears, 3½ pounds; strawberries, two ounces; and beets—not *hoodelums*—200 pounds. These beets beat in weight those raised in any other country—so far as heard from—and, one of our aged and revered philosophers once said "they beat the devil."—Possibly, we are not sufficiently educated to make any *positive* statement of the kind that could be taken as *reliable*. All kinds of grain yields are enormous.

From Lorenzo, it is 2.7 miles to

**San Leandro**—This place contains a population of about 2,000. It was once the county seat of Alameda county, but that honor was taken away to enrich Oakland, yet the citizens seem to stand the loss, and do not stop in their efforts to improve and beautify the town, or in raising the finest and largest vegetables in the State.

The next station is 4.2 miles distant, called

**Melrose**—This is a small station at the junction of the Alameda railroad. Close beside the mountain, on the right, is located the Mills Seminary, for young ladies.

The building cost about \$100,000. The grounds occupy 65 acres, and are most beautiful, in trees, lawns, etc.

**ALAMEDA**—Alameda county, is four miles to the left of this station. Population 1,600. It is situated on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay, four miles from Alameda Point, and ten miles from San Francisco, with which it is connected by ferry boats, by the San Francisco & Alameda railroad, and with the "Central" at Melrose. It has good schools and churches and elegant private residences. The town abounds in beautiful groves of oaks. The Encinal and other parks are very beautiful. It is a favorite resort for bathers and for picnic parties from San Francisco. The *Encinal* and *Argus*, both weekly papers, are published here.

Passing on to the westward, the traveler will note a race track on the left, where some of the best blooded stock in the State can often be seen exercising.

Near by is a large smelting furnace, for manipulating gold, silver, and other ores.

We are now passing through what—only a few years since—was an open country, *now* the suburbs of a big city, that is known as

**East Oakland**—once called Brooklyn, 2.3 miles from Melrose. An incorporated part of Oakland—a very thrifty place—is separated from the old city by an arm of San Antonio Creek, but connected by bridges. East Oakland and Oakland are situated on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay, on ground which slopes gradually back from the bay for several miles to the foot-hills, or base of the Contra Costa Mountains, in their rear. Upon this sloping ground are built many elegant "out of town" residences of the merchants of San Francisco, which command a beautiful view of their city, the Bay, the Golden Gate, and the surrounding country.

A short distance to the northeast, in a canyon of the mountains, are situated the "PIEDMONT WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS." These springs are strongly impregnated with sulphur, and it is claimed that they possess medicinal qualities. But *why* Californians should be *sick*, or drink sulphur water, when they have such *good wine*, and *so much of it*, we are unable to understand. The only cotton mill on the Pacific coast is located at this place—the "Oakland Cotton Mills."