

good state of preservation. Sonoma has the honor of being the place where the old "Bear Flag" was first raised. It is situated in the Sonoma Valley, one of the richest in the State, and is celebrated for its vineyards and the excellence of its wines. Sonoma is not without its railroad, if it is a *single rail*. The Sonoma Valley "Prismoidal" is no creature of the fancy, but is completed three miles, and is to be extended to Norfolk, seven miles from Sonoma, where it will connect with steamboats from San Francisco.

But to return to the railroad, which we left at Lakeville. Rolling hills are on our right, mostly cultivated to their summits, and a few scattering live-oaks; on the left, Petaluma Creek, salt marshes, and in the distance a high ridge of the Coast Range. Seven miles from Lakeville is

PETALUMA—the largest town in Sonoma county, with a population of about 4,500. It contains some fine large business blocks, two good hotels—the American and the Washington. The *Courier* and the *Journal Argus* are two weekly papers, published here. The town is on the west side of the road, situated on rolling hills, by the side of which runs Petaluma Creek, which is navigable for light-draft boats at high tide. Upon and around these rolling hills are some beautiful residences, ornamented with great numbers of trees, among which are the oak, eucalyptus, Monterey and Italian cypress, Norfolk Island pine, and others, presenting, in connection with the mountains and surrounding scenery, a view most charming and delightful.

Stages leave Petaluma daily for Sonoma, thirteen miles east. We understand the Railroad Company have a track graded and nearly ready for the iron, that runs south and west from Petaluma, along the base of the mountain to San Rafael, where a crossing will be made to San Francisco.

Leaving Petaluma, we cross Petaluma Creek and roll along three miles to ELY'S, a flag station, amid rolling hills, at the head of Petaluma Valley. One mile further, we come to a beautiful grove of black oaks on a high hill to the right, and we are at PENN'S GROVE. Here we cross the divide and enter the Russian River Valley. GOODWIN'S is half a mile further, a small flag station two and a half miles from PAGE'S, another one of the same importance. Here commences the Cotate Grant, which takes in the hills on each

side, four leagues in extent. Two and a half miles from Page's, we are at COTATE RANCHE, a flag station for the ranche near by. At many stations along are to be seen cattle pens and shutes, indicating that raising and fattening cattle for market is one of the industries of the people in this section. Here we find many drooping, moss-covered oaks. Three miles more and we are at the banner town of

SANTA ROSA—population, 4,000. This is the county seat of Sonoma county, situated in the midst of one of the richest valleys in the State. It is fifteen miles from Petaluma, fifteen miles from Healdsburg, thirty-three miles from Cloverdale, and fifty-seven miles from San Francisco. No city on the Pacific coast has increased faster within the last five years than Santa Rosa, and that increase has been marked by substantial brick business blocks, large manufactories, and beautiful private residences.

The city has water-works, gas-house, railroads, and all the modern improvements. Of newspapers, there are one daily, the *Democrat*; and one weekly, the *Times*. The Grand, and the Occidental, are the two principal hotels.

The streets of the city are broad, set out with eucalypti and other varieties of trees; these, with the surrounding country, afford many very beautiful drives.

Stages leave Santa Rosa daily for Mark-West Springs, ten miles east; Petrified Forest, fifteen miles (see description, page 222); and Calistoga, 20 miles; to the west, Sebastopol is seven miles. Average fare to these places is ten cents per mile. The valley of Santa Rosa, in which the town is situated, Russian River Valley, and Petaluma Valley, really *one*, are 60 miles in length, with an average width of about six miles.

Sonoma county is a very large one, extending to the Pacific Ocean on the west. In the western portion are located immense forests of redwood timber, which we shall note hereafter. Vineyards are numerous as well as orchards where immense quantities of oranges, lemons, plums, limes, apples, English walnuts, almonds, apricots, and other fruits and nuts are raised for market. There are nearly 7,000 acres in vineyard—5,000,000 vines—which produce annually full 2,500,000 gallons of wine, and 35,000 gallons of brandy. Pomegranite trees do quite well, and never fail a crop. All the lands in this county are classed as