

beautiful orchards, nurseries; and gardens, containing almost every variety of vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

By steam cars it is 2.6 miles from Santa Clara to

SAN JOSE CITY—(Pronounced San O-za); population, 18,000. This is the county seat of Santa Clara county, and is the largest town in Santa Clara Valley, in population being the fourth in the State. It was first settled by the Spanish missionaries, in 1777. The city is lighted with gas; the streets are macadamized, and ornamented with rows of shade trees on each side. Artesian wells, and the "California Wind Mill," together with a small mountain stream, abundantly supply the city with good water. The *Alameda*, or grove, was planted in 1799. It is by far the prettiest grove of planted timber in the State, and by many people it is claimed that San Jose is the prettiest city in the State. It is certainly one of the best improved, and there are none more beautiful. Its orchards, vineyards and shade trees; its fine private and public buildings, and the delightful climate of the valley, render it a favorite place of summer resort.

San Jose has numerous church edifices—ample public and private schools, hotels, and newspapers. The *Mercury* and *Independent*, both daily and weekly; the *Patriot*, daily; and *Argus*, weekly, are published here. The Auzerais, St. James, Exchange and Lick, are the principal hotels. The city is connected by railroad with Solidad, 72 miles, south, and San Francisco by two lines—the one we came on, through the thickly settled and well-cultivated Santa Clara and San Mateo countries; distance, 50 miles, and by Central Pacific via Niles and Oakland.

The new road to Mt. Hamilton—20 miles distant—leaves San Jose, and can be seen winding up the side of the mountain, on the east. It was for the erection of a college on the summit of Mt. Hamilton—altitude, 4,400 feet—that the millionaire, James Lick, left \$150,000 in his will—it should be called the LICK HIGH HAMILTON COLLEGE.

Stages leave San Jose daily for the noted **NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER MINES**—These mines are very extensive, and should be visited by the curious. They were discovered by an officer in the Mexican service during the year 1845, who, seeing the Indians with their faces painted with vermilion, bribed one of them, who told him

where it was to be found. The following year, several English and Mexicans formed a company for working the mines, large sums of money were expended, and many difficulties had to be overcome; but finally, by the introduction of important improvements, the mines have proved to be very valuable. The different mines furnish employment for, and support from 1,000 to 1,500 persons. Nearly all the miners are Mexicans.

It is supposed that these mines were known and worked by the native Indians of California, long before the country was known by white men. They worked them to procure the vermilion paint which the ore contained, for the purpose of painting and adorning their villainous persons, and to "swop" with the neighboring tribes. Near the mines are the springs, where is put up the New Almaden Vichy Water, so noted for its medicinal qualities. The Guadalupe Quicksilver mines are ten miles distant.

Both San Jose and Santa Clara are embowered in trees, among which are the oak, eucalyptus, poplar, spruce cedar, Monterey and Italian cypress, orange, pepper, sycamore, and many others.

Leaving San Jose, the State Normal School building is on the left in the center of a block, surrounded by beautiful grounds. Several miles further on is the Hebrew Cemetery. Here the road to Mt. Hamilton can be plainly seen; it is 22 miles long and 30 feet wide, with a uniform grade of five feet to the hundred.

Away to the right, on the side of the mountain, marked by a red appearance, is a quicksilver mine, but the water prevents work. Still further and below, is the New Almaden mine, marked by columns of steam that are always ascending.

Coyote Creek is now on our left, in a broad, low bottom. The small stations of EDEN VALE, COYOTE and PERRYS, are soon passed, and 18.8 miles from San Jose, we are at

MADRONE—The country passed over is well settled, and many fine residences are scattered along the valley, which is about one mile in width, with low rolling hills on the west.

Leaving Madrone, on the right a huge sharp cone rises up out of the valley 1,000 feet in height. We call it Johnson's Peak, named for the enterprising newsman of this road.

TENNANTS—is four miles further, be-