

which the Conchilla River is crossed, and MINTURN is reached 6.4 miles from Plainsburg, in the extreme western edge of Fresno county. For a long distance the foot-hills of the Sierras on the left have appeared to be close and very rugged. The peaks of Mt. Lyell and Ritter loom up on the left, full 80 miles away, and a little further southward Mts. Goddard, King, Gardner, Brewer, Silliman, Tyndall and others can be distinctly seen with their summits covered with snow.

Berenda—is reached 9.5 miles from Minturn soon after which we cross the Fresno River, and many broad, sandy, dry creeks, and, 7.5 miles more, come to

Madera—This is a busy town of about 300 population. Here we find a large "V" flume, 53 miles long, for floating lumber down from the saw-mills in the mountains at the end of the flume. It was completed in 1876, and does an immense business.

From Madera, a new road has been completed into the Yo-Semite Valley, via Fresno Flats, through Fresno and Mariposa big tree groves. For map of route, see page 201, and for description of route, ANNEX No. 53.

No visitor to this coast ever thinks of leaving it without viewing the wonderful.

YO-SEMITE VALLEY AND THE BIG TREES—The grandest scenery on the American Continent, if not in the world, is to be seen in the valley of the Yo-Semite, (pronounced Yo-Sem-i-te; by the Indians, Yo-Ham-i-te). This valley was discovered by white men in March, 1851, first by Major Savage. It is about eight miles long, and from one-half to a mile in width. The Merced River enters the head of the valley by a series of waterfalls, which—combined with the perpendicular granite walls which rise on either side from 2,000 to 6,000 feet above the green valley and sparkling waters beneath—presents a scene of beauty and magnificence unsurpassed, except, possibly, in childhood's fairy dreams.

Here is *majesty—enchancing—awe-inspiring—indescribable!*—the lofty cloud-capped waterfalls and mirrored lakes; the towering, perpendicular granite cliffs and fearful chasms, strike the beholder with a wondering admiration impossible to describe.

We have often desired to take our readers with us, in a pen and pencil description of this most remarkable valley, and

the "Big Trees," but in view of our limited space, the magnitude of the undertaking, together with our conscious inability to do justice to the subject, we have contented ourselves by giving a number of beautiful illustrations, which include the great Yo-Semite Falls, Nevada Falls, Mirror Lake, and a map of the routes and the surrounding country, showing the relative position of the valley, trees, and adjoining towns to the railroad.

The most notable falls in Yo-Semite Valley are: the Ribbon, 3,300 feet fall; the Upper Yo-Semite, 2,634 feet; the Bridal Veil, 950; the Nevada, 700; the Lower Yo-Semite, 600; the Vernal, 350 feet. The South Dome is 6,000 feet high; the Three Brothers, 4,000; Cap of Liberty, 4,240; Three Graces, 3,750; North Dome, 3,725; Glaciers Point, 3,705; El-Capitain, 3,300; Sentinel Rocks, 3,270; Cathedral Rocks, 2,690; Washington Tower, 2,200; and the Royal Arches, 1,800 feet high.

In conclusion, we would refer those of our readers who desire full information concerning this wonderful country, to "Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California," by J. M. Hutchings, of Yo-Semite. This book is a thorough guide-book of Yo-Semite Valley, profusely illustrated, vividly describing every object of interest, step by step, with facts and figures, telling just what the tourist wants to know.

From Madera, the country is more adapted for grazing, and large herds of sheep can be seen while passing through. It contains over 750,000 head of sheep from which is clipped 2,000,000 pounds of wool annually.

The old Fresno placer mines are to the eastward, along the foot-hills, but little is being done with them, by the whites; the Chinese are working them over, as they are many of the abandoned placers throughout the State.

Borden—on Cottonwood Creek, is the next station. This place is 2.8 miles from Madera, with about 100 population. Here irrigating ditches appear on each side, and much of the land is under cultivation. Nine miles further comes SYCAMORE, a side-track of little account, just at the crossing of the San Joaquin River, which is here a small stream, with very little water. The country is now quite flat, with many little round mounds from ten to thirty feet in diameter, and from two to five feet in height. They present a very peculiar appearance, somewhat re-