

OUR PROGRESS EASTWARD.

After leaving Sacramento, we ran through fertile grain-fields, and soon entered among the foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada range. We passed Gold Run, and the Dutch Flat gold mining district, also among the sugar pine forests which mantle the Sierras throughout their entire length and breadth. Throughout Saturday our trip was most delightful. We rounded Cape Horn, a point where the track skirts a rocky precipice. Here those engaged in the construction of the railroad were forced to suspend their laborers by ropes, to enable them to drill into its flinty granite sides, so that they might obtain a footing, to commence their labor. The view, from this point, is hard to surpass, as through a vista it overlooks the valley of the American River, much as Inspiration Point overlooks the Yo-Semite Valley. As the cars slowly round this cape, giving passengers an opportunity to enjoy the view, a ball may be thrown from the car platform which will descend over three thousand feet before striking the bottom of the valley, so precipitous are the sides of the gigantic gorge.

We next climbed over the lofty summit of the Sierra Nevada, through grand scenery, unsurpassed in its wild sublimity. The day was warm, and we sympathised with our eastern friends, whose weather is reported to us by telegraph as "intensely hot"—in fact Saturday is said to have been the hottest day of the season.

Towards evening, our descent into the valley of the Truckee was delightful, and on the shady sides of the mountains we passed many an ancient snow-bank. While gracefully circling around Donner Lake, which nestles so beautifully at the base of the mountain, we gazed with pleasure on its clear crystal surface, tinted with the purest cerulean blue, reflected from the cloudless vault of heaven. As lengthening shadows heralded the close of day, we wound our way gracefully along the entire length of the gay and dashing Truckee river, whose scenery is to the Sierra what the Jura Mountains are to the Alps of Europe.

From "Tahoe," the Central Pacific Railroad's car of observation, we feasted our eyes on the choice rustic beauties of these wild scenes, where bold rocks, steep mountain sides, lined with castellated battlements of natural stone, and groves of stately pines, inclosed a winding stream, that rushes with impetuous speed, amid leaping waterfalls and dashing rapids. Such variety of beauty is rare, and many were the exclamations of enthusiasm which burst from our

number, as we passed out of the valley of the Truckee, on our way to the great sink of the Humboldt and its valley and plains beyond.

—Alexander Weed, Esq., of San Francisco, who has both the temporal and spiritual welfare of our party at heart, telegraphed the following on Saturday evening:

"Numbers, chapter six, verses 24, 25, and 26."

Thanks for the benediction.

OUR PARTY.

The following list of names compose the party from the Boston Board of Trade, now on an excursion to the Pacific coast:

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