

important a member of this Union New Mexico may yet become, or to calculate the vastness of its various resources. Neither can the value of its trade be calculated—the enormous amount of machinery, of agricultural implements, and in short, everything that a civilized people need.

There is a strong desire on the part of the people on this side of the Mississippi that the Union Pacific Railway Company shall at once extend their route into New Mexico, whether they go to Denver and thence via Salt Lake City to California or not. They contend that the route through New Mexico and Arizona will do infinitely more to develop the resources of our great interior, as well as be a better route to California, than the more direct but more mountainous line by way of Salt Lake, and across the Sierra Nevada, far north of San Francisco—that both the high mountain grades and the tremendous snows of the other route will be avoided. They argue that, although the road to San Francisco may be lengthened some hundreds of miles, this will be more than compensated by the diminution of grade, the avoidance of the snow, and by the fact that *the road will touch the tide-water of the Pacific at at least two important points before San Francisco is reached—the head of the Gulf of California and San Diego*, a good port on the coast of Southern California, more than four hundred miles south of San Francisco. And when to these considerations the superior value of the intermediate country is added, it is insisted that there ought to be no hesitation. Will the reader please refer to a map and trace the routes here indicated, and judge for himself of the soundness of these arguments?

One thing is very certain: Either the Government, aided by a company such as this, of able and energetic capitalists, must push a railway through these vast regions, from the Missouri to the Pacific, or they must lie undeveloped and unimproved from generation to generation. Individual energy and enterprise can never accomplish the work. The locomotive must precede the plow, and the town the farm. No farmer, however bold, but would recoil from the task of going forward, as the farmers of the States east of the Mississippi did, in advance of these mighty forces of civilized life. The old processes must be reversed, as indeed they have been. I wish that all the people who may read these words could see, as I have seen, the strong and healthy stream of civilization following the line of this road up through this most beautiful of valleys, and see and enjoy, as I have seen and enjoyed, as high a civilization, as many of the elegant creature comforts of life, and as pleasant and intelligent people, as are to be found anywhere. The right plan of human progress has been hit upon at last.