

tween the Mississippi and the Pacific coast. While in some measure they run round the tremendous mountain system of the interior of the continent, they bear as close to it as they can. They run but little below the 35th parallel, which is only two degrees south of the southern line of Kansas.

CALIFORNIA.

At Aubry, as before remarked, the line of the road enters the State of California. Thence its course is westward until it turns the southern extremity of the Sierra Nevada range, and thence northwest all the way up the great valley of Southern California, to the Bay of San Francisco, a distance of between four and five hundred miles.

This is known to be one of the finest valleys on the continent. The Sierra Nevada bounds it on the northeast, the Coast Range on the southwest — the mountains, the valley, and the coast all running in parallel lines. The average width of this valley is not much less than one hundred miles; and although it has not yet been twenty years in the possession of people who did anything to develop its resources, and although it is cut off from the ocean by the Coast Range of mountains, and is destitute of any navigable rivers, except for a short distance southeast of the Bay of San Francisco, it is already renowned throughout the world for its extraordinary productiveness — its wheat, its grapes, and many other things. Its only commercial avenues are wagon-roads; yet within a year bread made from wheat which grew in that valley has been on our tables here in Pittsburgh.

Of Southern California as a grape-producing country, Mr. Hittel remarks:

“California vineyards produce ordinarily twice as much as the vineyards of any other grape district, if general report be true. The grape crop never fails as it does in every other country. Vineyards in every other country require more labor, for here the vine is not trained to a stake, but stands alone.”

Mr. Hall remarks: “The grape region extends from the southern boundary a distance of 595 miles north, with an average breadth from east to west of about 100 miles.” This area extends a considerable distance up the Sacramento river, which flows southward through the same valley, and breaks through the coast range almost directly east of San Francisco.

The large county of Los Angeles, which is the second county that our road reaches after entering the State, is the principal vine-growing district in California. In 1864 it had 3,570,000 vines. A California paper of 1865 mentions a vine growing at Oroville, on the western