

MICHIGAN BLUFF.

BY DR. K. FAVOR.

This flourishing mining town is situated in latitude 39°, among the Sierra Nevada Mountains, or as the words signify in English, the Snowy Saw Mountains. It is built on the top of a hill, at the bottom of which, some two miles distant, runs the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American river, or of the Rio de Los Americanos, as it was called by the Mexicans.

It is situated at an altitude of nearly 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. The climate for the greater portion of the year cannot be excelled for its beauty and salubrity.

The atmosphere is cool, bracing and exhilarating. No noxious gases are wafted upon its wings. No invisible poisonous malaria forms a part of its composition.

Innumerable springs of water flow from our mountain sides, clear as crystal and cold as the banks of snow from which it was formed. It is generally impregnated with iron, which gives it an agreeable taste and tonic properties which the water of the valleys does not possess.

In summer the days are very warm, the thermometer frequently rises as high as 100° in the shade, and in low situations it has occasionally reached 120° in the shade, yet the nights, fanned by gentle breezes from the snow-clad Sierras, are always cool and refreshing.

The sky, for eight months of the year, is clear and serene. No dark clouds obstruct the rays of the sun by day, nor of the moon by night. This is the appearance during the dry season. But when the wet season arrives, what a change! Then winter sometimes pounces upon us suddenly like the eagle upon its prey. Then our mountain forests present the appearance represented by pictures of the high latitudes. The forest trees are principally evergreens; the damp snow adheres to their branches in large quantities, causing them to droop and point downwards toward the earth, as if attracted by the snowy carpet which covers the ground and everything upon it to the depth of several feet.

A sight of this scene, especially when the large feathery snow-flakes are falling thickly all around, is indeed the most dreary and the most sublime which I ever witnessed.

And while this dreary aspect is exhibited on our mountains, it is remarkable that by going a distance of four or five miles, to the valleys of some of our deep cañons, you will find a summer climate, where the ground is bare, and mules and other animals live and fatten upon the growing vegetation.

To breathe our mountain air, free from fogs, from clouds and from malaria, to drink our pure water, distilled by the hand of Nature from banks of snow in the mountain tops, and distributed to us in sparkling rivulets, which flow from their sides; to ride over our hill-tops and gaze upon the beautiful scenery, which Nature in her wildest mood has painted in the most romantic colors, is an enjoyment which would well repay our friends below who live in the smoky, dusty, impure, foggy atmosphere of the cities, for making our mountains a visit.

APPENDIX.

Two years have elapsed since the above sketch was penned. Mule loads

of gold have been taken from our gulches, placers and hills. Water is now brought into our town for mining purposes from thirty miles distance further up in the mountains. Wheelbarrows for removing rocks, and sledges for breaking them have given way to derricks; some of which are propelled by water power. Wrought iron pipes are superseding flumes. Improved methods of saving gold have been discovered. Mountains have been leveled, the glittering treasure precipitated and the alluvion sent to Sacramento, to be deposited in bars, or to reclaim tule lands, according to circumstances. Ground which a few years ago was not worth working, is now, in consequence of improvements in mining, very valuable.

But like all Californians, we have had our drawbacks. In July, 1857, a devastating fire swept over the whole town like a mighty wind, and almost as rapidly, destroying the labor of years in a single hour. The town was rebuilt on the same site, but the tunnels which everywhere run under the streets and houses, together with the rapid removal of the earth around it by the miner in search of gold, with the water which flows through a score or more hydraulics, has been rapidly undermining its foundation, and causing the ground upon which it was built to slide, thus compelling its removal to another site. A new site has been selected and most of the business houses removed to it, and new ones erected thereon, while fully 80 acres of land, including the old site, is, Cottonocracy-like, in a state of active secession, intent on dissolving the Union.

The night previous to the present day (March 28th) was a sleepless one with many of our inhabitants. The whole secession district moved about two feet during the night, and what made it worse was, that some portions of it, South Carolina-like, moved faster than the rest. Timbers cracked over people's heads like South Carolina rifles, causing many fears, but hurting nobody. Sectional cracks run under many houses, causing one part to secede to the south, while the other remains with the north, thus seriously endangering the union. But the foundation of the secession district is very unstable and good judges think it cannot hold together long. The superstructures erected thereon are tottering and falling, threatening to envelop the occupants in total ruin. Many of the inhabitants of the secession district are, like Southern Yankees, moving northward where things are more stable.

But while secession movements are unsettling everything in the south, the "more perfect union" at the north stands firm. Two stone fire-proof stores bid defiance to the devouring element. Two clothing stores provide for the wants of the outer man, while five provision stores make good provision for his interior, and provide him with mining implements and other necessary articles. Three hotels and two restaurants cater to the appetites of citizens and strangers, two expressmen and four barbers get a good living by shaving, two limbs of the law profit by the moral ills of man, and three disciples Esculapius relieve his physical ailments. Two bakers furnish the staff of life, and fourteen grogsellers life itself. Five shoemakers, armed with hammer and lapstone, pegs, flax and bristles, labor industriously to produce a good understanding in the neighborhood. Two German tailors, grow fat upon cabbage, as Germans and tailors generally do. Six sons of Vulcan smite at the anvil, do dirty work, and make clean money. One watchmaker teaches how to go upon tick, an art the people are not slow to learn. Five billiard and gaming saloons furnish recreation, and some of them show green-horns that "here's the place to get your money back." Two livery stables

contain fast horses for the use of fast men. Two tinmen make tinware for the tin and sell hardware for hard money. Two druggists sell pukes and physics, paints and perfumes; also sarsaparilla which cures all the diseases flesh is heir to, except coughs, colds and consumption, and they are abundantly provided for with their Cherry Pectoral. Over 40 Free Masons scribe their acts by the compass and measure them with the square. More than 60 Odd Fellows teach the duty of relieving the distressed, visiting the sick, burying the dead, comforting the afflicted, assisting the widow, and educating the orphan. Over 100 Sons of Temperance, under the banner of Love, Purity and Fidelity, are loud in their praises of cold water, and severe in their denunciation of grog. One Methodist preacher expounds the gospel to an average congregation of about 50 persons, and administers the emblems of the Savior's body and blood to about 20 communicants. One school teacher labors assiduously to teach the young ideas of 40 or 50 scholars how to shoot. One musician tries equally hard to teach how to sing. Two justices gravely explain what is the law, and one sheriff and two constables attend to its execution. The hammer of the auctioneer strikes one, two, three—everything is going, going.

YANKEE JIM S.

Gold was first discovered at Yankee Jim's by Yankee Jim, a Sydneyite, who built a corral in 1849 upon the flat or bench of land where the town afterwards was located, and now stands. The name, Yankee Jim's, has often caused the town to be mistaken for the locality known to early pioneers as "Yankee Jim's Dry Diggings," which latter place is a gulch which heads at the Forest Shades Hotel and empties into the Middle Fork of the American River. A few logs of the old cabin in which Yankee Jim lived during the winter of '49, may yet be seen at the "Gardens," about one half mile east of Forest Hill, where he lived and mined, using the corral at Yankee Jim's to hide his stolen horses until he could get an opportunity to run them from the neighborhood. This notorious character's real name was Robinson. He suffered the extreme penalty of the law, for horse-stealing, in 1852, in one of the lower counties, and the State was thus relieved of his ravages.

Among the first permanent settlers of Yankee Jim's, were B. F. Gilbert, G. W. Gilbert, N. F. Gilbert, and Thomas Farthing, all of whom are yet residents of the place, and continue their vocation as miners, in which they have ever been successful. These gentlemen were emigrants from the State of Missouri, and drove an ox team into Yankee Jim's early in the fall of 1850, loaded with their winter's provisions, mining tools, clothing, etc., it being the first wheeled vehicle that ever came to the place. A short time after the arrival of the Gilbert brothers and their companions, a store was started by Thomas Adams, James Cartwright, and Ben. Thomas, a company of Tennesseans, who came from Illinoistown, with a large stock of miner's supplies.

Soon after the store was established and the settlers had prepared themselves suitable cabins for the winter, operations in mining commenced in Devil's Cañon and the gulches emptying into it, which, proving very remunerative and easily worked, caused large numbers of miners from surround-

ing camps to flock to the spot, and soon the place grew to a large town—what gamblers were wont to call a brisk place. In the month of June, 1852, the place was almost totally destroyed by fire; but was again rebuilt, and in the fall of that year, rivalled in size any town in the county. The *Placer Herald* of September, in giving a partial history of the place, at that time, says: "The town is nearly as large as any in the county, and contains several fine buildings that will compare favorably with any structures in this part of the State."

In March, 1851, the diggings on Georgia Hill, opposite the town on the south side of Devil's Cañon, were discovered by a company of Georgians. The discovery of this rich deposit of gold was purely accidental, and is said to have occurred in the following manner: The discoverers were four in number; were unsuccessful gold-seekers, on their return from a prospecting expedition in the mountains above Yankee Jim's, and were making their way slowly to some of the old camps in El Dorado County, with the intention of going to work in some of the old dry diggings. After passing Yankee Jim's, and reaching the top of the hill, one of them vowed he would proceed no further until he had rested; and, throwing his blankets, tools, etc., upon the ground, he laid down in the shade of a tree to rest. The others of the party proceeded a few yards, and also came to a halt, to rest themselves and wait until their companion got ready to proceed upon their weary journey. While lying upon the ground, the one who first stopped discovered particles of gold upon the surface. Informing his companions of his discovery, they returned to the place, and, in a few minutes, the washpans were filled with dirt, and each of the prospectors proceeded to the cañon to wash it. The result of the washing was ascertained, and the supposition among them was that the gold had been lost or buried there by somebody, and scattered by the gophers; but the washing of a number of pans of the dirt from different places, with equally good results, soon convinced them that the deposit was natural, and sufficiently extensive to warrant them in locating and working the claims. The diggings thus discovered were the richest surface diggings, perhaps, ever discovered in the State. The discoverers made large fortunes, and it is said that when the party left the place for their native State, a few months after, they loaded these mules with clean gold dust. The claims changed hands several times, the purchasers each time paying large sums for them, and each party thus purchasing, made money by their investment, until the claim was worked out.

It is claimed that the first ditch ever cut to convey water upon a mining claim from a cañon in this State, was constructed by H. Starr and Eugene Phelps, at Yankee Jim's, in 1851, to convey the water from Devil's Cañon to wash the dirt upon their claims, in a "Long Tom." It is known to be the first ditch of any extent cut in the county, and, we doubt not, is the pioneer one in the State. Hydraulic washing was first introduced at Yankee Jim's, in June, 1853, by Col. Wm. McClure, who had heard of this mode of washing being practiced in Nevada County, and being a large stockholder in a ditch which was then supplying the diggings in that neighborhood with water, he traveled to Nevada to witness the operations by this mode, and upon his return to Yankee Jim's procured hose, built a "telegraph," and put the first hydraulic claim in operation.

Colonel McClure is also the pioneer fruit-grower in the eastern part of Placer County. He purchased his trees in Philadelphia, in the fall of 1852.

They were shipped around Cape Horn, and arrived in time to be planted in his orchard in March, 1853. His first planting consisted of about five hundred trees of all kinds.

Many important events have occurred at Yankee Jim's, which the limited space allowed for this sketch preclude the possibility of their receiving even a passing notice; the object of the sketch being more to relate facts which are valuable as being a part of the history of the place worthy of preservation, rather than to write a thrilling story. The brief mention therefore made of each occurrence, it is hoped, will be considered sufficient to answer the purpose designed by the writer.

During the flush times of Yankee Jim's, which, as has been shown, was from the winter of 1851-'52 until 1855, the place was not exempt from those popular outbreaks of the people, which, in the early days of California, occasionally occurred in almost every town of any note, where desperate characters congregate, and where daring deeds of violence were committed. During the time mentioned, there were a number of men killed in fights and street brawls, and one or two persons charged with murder, or theft or both, hung by the people. But these matters do not compose any part of the history of the place which should be preserved, but rather should be forgotten, and such scenes never re-enacted where the semblance of civilization exists, particular mention of them is omitted.

The first newspaper printed at Yankee Jim's, the *Mountain Courier*, was published during the winter of 1856-'57, by Messrs. Parker and Graves. It was continued three months, and died for want of patronage. On the 4th of July, 1857, E. B. Boust issued from the same office the first number of the *Placer Courier*, which was continued by him until November, 1858, when he was succeeded by R. J. Steele, who issued the paper regularly in that place until April of the following year, when the office was removed by him to Forest Hill, where its publication has been continued by him and his successor to the present time.

Although Yankee Jim's has gradually decreased in importance since 1856, yet its downfall is not attributable so much to the failure of the mines as to the building up of towns immediately adjacent. Since that time the trade has been diverted from it to Forest Hill, and Todd's Valley, leaving it dependent solely upon the mines in that immediate locality for the support of its trading population. The wealth and trade of the place is not lost, but merely transferred to a more favored locality. There are now being worked at Yankee Jim's a number of hydraulic claims, which yield large amounts of gold, and will last for a number of years.

DEADWOOD.

The town of Deadwood is situated upon a high narrow ridge of land, or promontory it might be called, high up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in the eastern part of Placer County, between El Dorado Cañon on the north, and the north fork of the Middle Fork of the American River on the south-east, at an altitude of 4,600 feet above the level of the sea.

The town is isolated, the country surrounding it not admitting of any settlements nearer than El Dorado Cañon and Michigan Bluff on one side,

and Devil's Basin and Last Chance, on the other. There is no wagon road leading to the town from the valleys and settlements below, except that leading up the main divide by the Forks House and Secret Springs, and around the head of El Dorado Cañon, and down the narrow ridge, to the town, making a circuit of some seventy miles from Michigan Bluff to reach the town, seven miles distant. There is a good trail leading across the cañon from Michigan Bluff to Deadwood and Last Chance, over which the supplies of the settlers are transported on the backs of mules.

Mining at Deadwood is carried on extensively by both tunneling and by the hydraulic process; and the yield of gold is considerably more than the average yield for the same amount of labor performed in the generality of mining settlements. The number of inhabitants amount probably to 160 or 175. The mines are supplied with an abundance of water, by means of ditches brought from the cañons, and the people are independent, prosperous, and happy.

The name of the place originated from this circumstance: "Deadwood" is a California provincialism, and signifies a sure thing. In 1852, some miners found a rich prospect here, and exclaimed "though unsuccessful hitherto, we have now got the *Deadwood*." Other miners flocked into the place, a town was built and christened Deadwood. The sides of the ridge upon which it stands are so steep, that rocks rolled from the top in some places would continue their motion until they reached the bed of El Dorado Creek on the one side, or of the north fork of the Middle Fork of the American River on the other, a mile distant from the place where they were set in motion. In the wet season, when the warm rains are falling in the valleys below, the falling moisture is here precipitated in the form of snow, which sometimes falls to a great depth. About Christmas of the present winter, (1860), we had one of those terrible snow storms which annually fall upon the snowy mountains, and as is usual every winter with such storms, its history is a history of great suffering and loss of life.

On the 24th day of December, Mr. David Davis and Mr. John Williams left Deadwood, for the purpose of attending to a ditch, which brings water into town from a cañon some miles higher up in the mountains. Snow was falling when they left, and continued to fall until the ground over which the ditch runs was covered to a depth of six feet. They were never seen alive afterwards. The body of Mr. Williams was found twelve days after he left, in the ditch, where it is supposed he had sunk exhausted. He had lain himself upon his back, folded his arms upon his breast, and given himself up to die. But the savage coyotes had found the body before human eyes had rested upon it, and by their tracks had directed the persons in search to his snowy bed. Their voracious appetites had been glutted upon the flesh of the face and hands and other parts of the body which were not covered by the clothes. The Masonic fraternity, of which he was a worthy member, took charge of the body, removed it to his place of residence, and respectfully committed it to its final resting place.

The body of Mr. Davis still remains undiscovered, securely hid from human view; wrapped in a heavy mantle of snow, it will probably sleep quietly where it lies, until the powerful rays of an April sun remove its covering, and point out the dying bed, unless the wild beasts previously scent it, and appropriate it to themselves.

But while these unfortunate individuals were struggling for dear life in

the snow, or their bodies sleeping quietly beneath it, a more thrilling, but fortunately not fatal scene, was transpiring at Deadwood.

On one side of the hill, about 80 rods from town, stood the house of Mr. A. J. Felch. Two live oaks on the lower side afforded a sure foundation for the sleepers upon which the floor was laid, while their spreading branches shut out from the verandah the oppressive rays of a summer's sun. A stream of pure mountain water gurgled at the door, conducted from a spring near by. Thirty or forty rods higher up the mountain side, runs a ditch, which conveys water for mining purposes. Mr. Felch's family consists of himself, wife, and Willy, a sprightly little boy about eight years of age. Fortunately Mrs. Felch was at the time at Michigan Bluff, receiving medical treatment for her eyes, in consequence of which, she was not in the house. It is now Christmas eve. The snow covers the ground to the depth of several feet, clings in huge masses to the leaves and branches of the evergreens, and fills the air with the large feathery flakes which are rapidly falling. The wind whistles through the trees—the swollen rivulet near by, roars over its rocky bed, and masses of falling snow from the trees ever and anon splash upon the roof. But the father and son are comfortably seated, each in a chair, by the warm stove, Willy with his feet on the hearth. "Come, Willy," says Mr. Felch, "you had better hang up your stockings, and go to bed, and perhaps Santa Claus will bring you something before morning." "O, I know what you want!" says Willy; "you want to get me to bed, and then you will put something into my stockings." "Why, it is late as you generally sit up, Willy." "Yes, but I'll bet that when I get up to-morrow morning, I shall find a candy rooster or something else in my stockings, that you have put there."

These were the last words spoken. In a moment afterwards, quick as thought, crash went the house. Another moment, and Mr. Felch found himself in the open air, up to his waist in the snow, the tempest roaring around him, and volumes of snow and water rushing down the mountain side. "Where am I!" "Is this a dream, or a reality?" thought Mr. Felch. It seemed to him, he says, as though he had just returned to a state of consciousness, from a state of insensibility. He looked all around to see where he was, not noticing the gash on his head, nor the bruise on his shoulder, which afterwards told that the falling timbers had struck him. There stood the live oaks—there is the mountain side—there the canon? This must be the very place where my house stood. But where is my boy? Carried off into the canon by an avalanche along with the house. "William! William! William!" No answer. O, what an anxious moment was that, to that father! From the position of the oaks which stood by the side of the house, he calculated the place which his boy occupied before the catastrophe; there he commenced digging with his hands in the snow. Two men living near by, having heard the crash, soon came to his assistance. The work of removing the snow from the spot designated, now progressed rapidly. Calls were made to the boy, but no answer was returned. A few moments will tell whether he is carried off into the canon along with the beds, trunks, dishes, furniture, and wreck of the house; whether his body lies lifeless and mutilated beneath the snow, or whether he is buried alive with the avalanche. "William! William!" "Sir!" was faintly responded from beneath the snow. "Thank the Lord! the boy's alive;" was the heartfelt response of the father. A moment after, two strong arms pulled him from

his snowy bed uninjured, although the chair upon which he had sat, and the stove upon the hearth of which were placed his feet, were broken to pieces. "William, are you hurt?" said Mr. Newell. "No! but my pa is gone, sure!" was the reply of the noble little boy. The question now arose, whether they should go into the tunnel and stay there till morning, or endeavor to wade through the snow, up the hill, to town. The latter course was decided upon, and half an hour later, they were in a warm house, in the hospitable town of Deadwood, receiving the congratulations of the people that the whole family had escaped with so little injury from the avalanche, which had swept the house and its contents into the canon.

BATH.

The settlement at Bath was first made in the summer of 1850, by a man named John Bradford, a merchant, at that time doing business at Stony Bar. His attention was first drawn to the place by the excellent pasturage it furnished for his mules, and the beauty of the location for a stock ranch. He therefore built a cabin in which to reside and store his goods upon their arrival from Sacramento in wagons, to be packed to the store at Stony Bar as they were required or as occasion served, and also built a brush fence around the cove, claiming it as a ranch. Some time during the fall of the year 1850, the place attracted the attention of some miners from the Middle Fork of the American River, who purchased the place of Bradford for a small sum, and located there for the winter, intending to hunt deer, and mine in the dry gulches which debouch into Volcano Cañon. Among this party was D. P. Marshall, and Thomas Creagh, who are now residents of Forest Hill. By this party gold was discovered in the gulches, and, gradually, as the news of the existence of gold in paying quantities became known, miners flocked to the place and formed a settlement, and who dignified the place by giving it the name of Volcano.

The following year, in consequence of the discovery of rich "hill diggings" by the Blakeman brothers, who located the "Mint Drop" claims, and by Isaac Snodgrass, who took up the "Snodgrass claims," large numbers of miners flocked to the place, and rapidly built up a town. There being another town of the same name on the opposite side of the Middle Fork of the American River, at that time of equal importance, and considerably its senior, it was thought proper to change its name, which was done at a town meeting, called for the purpose, and it was afterwards known as Sarahsville, which name was given it in honor of the wife of a man called "Blaze." Her christian name being Sarah, and she being the first lady settler of the place, the gallant pioneers considered the place honored by bearing her name. Early in January, 1858, the citizens of Sarahsville conceived the idea of having a Postoffice at that place; a town meeting was called, the name of the place changed from Sarahsville to Bath; a petition drawn up and numerously signed, asking the Postoffice Department to establish a Postoffice at the town, was immediately forwarded; and in a short time a weekly mail route was established from Yankee Jim's to Bath, which had the effect of rendering the new name permanent if the town itself was not.

From this time, owing to the rapid growth of Forest Hill, a flourishing camp, one mile and a half distant, Bath commenced to decrease in population and importance, until at the present time it is but a small village, boasting of one hotel, one store, a butcher's shop, one blacksmith's shop, and one saloon. The mines, however, are rich, and will continue to support its present, and perhaps an increased population, for a number of years. It is a pleasant place to live, and a large number of the miners have located there with their families, and appear perfectly satisfied with it as a permanent home.

DUTCH FLAT.

Dutch Flat is situated in the north-eastern part of Placer county, upon the ridge which divides the waters of Bear river from those of the North Fork of the American. The first permanent settlement at this place was made in the spring of 1851, by Joseph Doranbach. The name "Dutch" is derived perhaps from the nationality of the gentleman who has the honor of being called the pioneer settler of the place, and those who were his companions at the time; but it is difficult to conceive of why "Flat" should be added to the word "Dutch," in giving the name to the then embryo town, except it is to fully carry out and demonstrate the Californian custom of perverting names.

Of the early history of Dutch Flat, but little is known that would be considered of very great interest to the general reader, except that the place was considered, in 1854, by persons then thought to be visionary individuals, of sufficient importance as a mining locality to warrant the construction of a water ditch, to convey the waters of Bear river upon the tops of the ridges for mining purposes. The commencement of operations upon the ditch known as the "Placer County Canal," gave quite an impetus to the settlement of the place, and it continued to increase in population and importance until, at the completion of the ditch, in May, 1859, it was about the fifth town in the county in population. Since the completion of the Placer County Canal, the Bartlett & Thomas ditch, and other ditches which convey water into the mines in the vicinity, the town has steadily increased in population until its voting population is greater than any other town in the county—the number of votes polled at the Presidential election in 1860 amounting to five hundred and one.

On the 29th day of May, 1860, the first number of the "*Dutch Flat Enquirer*," a weekly newspaper, was issued, and is yet continued, seemingly well supported. The town may now be said to be in a flourishing condition, and with a prospect of growing in size and importance. According to the last census returns, Dutch Flat contained nearly one-tenth of the whole population of the county. There are in the town and its surroundings 140 families, 7 provision and grocery stores, 17 saloons, 8 clothing and dry goods stores, 2 breweries, 3 blacksmith shops, 2 hardware stores, 2 tin shops, 2 hotels, 1 drug store; also a carpenter shop, a cabinet shop, a restaurant, 2 butcher stalls, a bakery, 3 schools and a church.

The mineral resources of Dutch Flat are extensive, and the product of the gold mines in the vicinity probably amounting to about \$20,000 per week, including the diggings at Lost Camp. The mining is principally

carried on by the hydraulic process; the supply of water furnished by the ditches being ample to enable a large number of men to keep constantly employed the year round upon their claims. The yield of gold is steady and remunerative to the operatives.

A company was organized the present year, called the "Lake Pass Turnpike Company," which has in contemplation the construction of a turnpike road from Dutch Flat to Virginia City, Utah Territory, by the way of Lake Pass. The completion of this road, it is expected, will add much to the future prosperity and importance of the place, it being claimed by its friends as the lowest pass in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the easiest grade and the shortest route that a road can be run from Sacramento to the Washoe silver region, and intersecting with the Great Central Overland Emigrant Road.

Dutch Flat is situated high up in the mountains, is surrounded with extensive forests of excellent timber for building purposes; has numerous springs of excellent water, and the timber for fuel abundant and convenient. In consequence of its elevated position, the town is regarded as a pleasant place for a summer residence; and the snows never fall to such great depth as to prevent travel to and from the place for a great length of time during the winter season.

TANYARDS.

In our general statistics of the county, we purposely omitted giving any notice of this branch of the mechanical pursuits of the people of the county, as we intended to give the only tanyard in the county more than a passing notice. Observing that saw mills, water ditches, turnpike roads, toll bridges, quartz mills, etc., formed the main feature of the report of the County Assessor of this county, and no mention whatever was made of this important branch of industry, we think it worthy of more than a passing notice.

The Iowa Hill Tanyard is situated upon Indian Cañon, about two and a half miles above Iowa Hill. Although it might be considered a small concern, yet the proprietor, JOHN RUTHERFORD, being himself a tanner and currier, informed us that he was fully satisfied, from past experience in the business, that he can make the business at that place self-sustaining. He states that with his present facilities he can turn out two thousand sides of sole and harness leather per annum; and can furnish leather to customers at a small advance upon prices paid for a similar article in the markets of the Eastern States.

Spruce, balsam and oak barks are used by the proprietor in tanning, a sufficient supply of which can be had in the forests contiguous for a number of years to come, even should the business increase to twenty times the capacity of the yard at the present time.

This experiment in the tanning business in Placer county, when found to be successful, as it must, cannot fail to draw the attention of tanners and induce them to enter into the business upon a more extensive scale, and eventually check the present extensive exportation of hides from, and importation of leather in return to this State. Hides can be procured at a low price; bark is easily obtained convenient to the yard; natural water exists in the cañon in great plenty, and there is nothing that one can conceive of

except the high price of mechanics' wages to prevent the manufacture of leather in that locality as cheap as in any part of the United States.

OPHIR.

In the fall of 1850, a log cabin comprised the prospective town of Ophir, situated two and a-half miles below Auburn, on the Auburn Ravine, which during the succeeding winter grew into the fair proportions of three or four frame buildings, several log houses (?) and an indefinite number of tents and canvas coverings. The summer of 1851 nearly skeletonized the little village, but the fall and winter rains resurrected, or recreated it, and the year 1852 saw it the largest and most prosperous town in Placer county. The mining was all of placer character, and very rich; and money was had almost for the picking it up. The town flourished. At the Presidential election of that year 500 votes were cast in the precinct.

On the 12th of July, 1852, the whole town was consumed by fire. Although great efforts were made, Ophir never recovered from the shock. The surface diggings were deemed nearly worked out, and it was thought she had no other resources. Other points below her on the Auburn Ravine came into notice, and drew away her population and means. She presents now to the eye but the shadow of her former appearance.

A not very distant future may, and not very unlikely will, reinstate Ophir in her former glory. The quartz in the district is rich, and its value is being rapidly developed. Quartz mills are springing up all round the place, and quartz mining promises soon to be the principal business of that section.

CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES.

CHURCHES.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Auburn, organized in June, 1852, by Rev. James Hunter, P. C., and Rev. J. D. Blain, P. E. Present Pastor, Rev. N. R. Peck. Number of members, 15. Cost of church building and furnishing same, about \$4,000.

The Sunday School of the M. E. Church of Auburn was organized in October, 1852, by Rev. James Hunter. Present number of members, 93; average attendance, about 40; number of volumes in the library, 600; No. of teachers, 7. The officers for the year 1861 are:

H. HAZELL.....	Superintendent.
J. R. GRANDALL.....	Assistant Superintendent.
H. N. CUMINGS.....	Librarian.
MISS JANE ELLIOTT.....	Chorister.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Dutch Flat was organized in 1857; Rev. G. B. Hinckle, P. C., and Rev. S. B. Simonds, P. E. Present Pastor, Rev. T. H. McGrath; present P. E., Rev. J. B. Fish; number of members, 40; cost of church building and furnishing the same, about \$3,500; completed April, 1861; cost of Parsonage, \$600.

The Sunday School denominated the M. E. Sunday School of Dutch Flat, was organized on the 13th of September, 1857. No. of registered names of scholars, 75; average attendance, 40; No. of teachers, 8.

H. DAVIS.....	Superintendent.
NICHOLS BOKE.....	Assistant Superintendent.

The Library contains 500 volumes. School in a growing and healthy condition.

MASONS.

GOLD HILL LODGE, No. 32, F. AND A. M., was organized May 5, 1853; 19 Master Masons; regular time of stated meetings: First Saturday in each month.

LIST OF OFFICER:

JAMES E. STUART.....	W. M.
HENRY W. STARR.....	S. W.
JULIUS MALSH.....	J. W.
SAM. McCLURE.....	T.
ISAAC STONECIPHER.....	S.
D. V. MASON.....	S. D.
L. B. DANIELS.....	J. D.
M. WALDRON.....	Tyler.

EUREKA LODGE, No. 16, F. AND A. M., of Auburn, was chartered in 1851. The officers for 1861 are:

E. H. VAN DECAR.....	W. Master.
BENJ. C. ALLEN.....	S. Warden.
ALVIN S. HIGGINS.....	J. Warden.
JNO. C. BOGGS.....	Treasurer.
GEORGE JOHNSON.....	Secretary.
THOS. P. HARPER } PETER HARRISON }	Stewards.
E. G. SMITH.....	Tyler.

Regular meetings: Monday of each month, or preceding the full moon of each month. Number of Master Masons, 42.

DELTA CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS, U. D. The officers for 1861 are:

E. H. VAN DECAR.....	H. P.
BENJ. F. MYERS.....	K.
HENRY GOODING.....	S.
D. C. SCOTT.....	C. of H.
J. R. CRANDALL.....	P. S.
WM. WELD.....	R. A. C.
WM. TIMSON.....	M. 3d V.
A. SPINKS.....	M. 2d V.
L. KULLMAN.....	M. 1st V.
JAS. E. STEWART.....	Treasurer.
H. R. HAWKINS.....	Secretary.
E. G. SMITH.....	Guard.

Thirty R. A. Masons.

Sons of Temperance Hall, Auburn; number of members, 31. Officers of the present term:

R. C. POLAND.....	W. C. T.
MRS. H. J. CRANDALL.....	W. V. T.
H. HAZELL.....	W. R. S.
B. R. WELLS.....	W. T.
MRS. MINNIE FRENCH.....	W. F. S.
MRS. A. E. GUIOU.....	D. D. G. W. C. T.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

VIRGINIA TEMPLE OF HONOR, No. 15, was organized in Gold Hill, on the 12th day of April, 1855, by Ben. E. S. Ely, D. G. W. T., with 16 charter members. The present officers are:

J. A. BOND.....	W. C. T.
WM. HILTON.....	W. V. T.
H. W. STARR.....	W. R.
H. GREEN.....	W. A. R.
J. MORRIS.....	W. F. R.
I. J. UNDERWOOD.....	W. T.
L. E. HARRIS.....	W. W.
W. M. WINTERS.....	W. D. W.
E. ROSS.....	W. G.
A. P. HENDON.....	W. S.

Whole number of members 24.

AUBURN DIVISION, No. 25, S. OF T.—Instituted October 24, 1859; time of meeting, every Friday evening; location of Hall, on the hill near the Court House; number of members, 25; cost of building and furnishing, about \$475; building wood. Officers for the present quarter:

J. R. CRANDALL.....	W. P.
S. G. ELLIOTT.....	W. A.
H. HAZELL.....	R. S.
WM. K. PARKINSON.....	A. R. S.
CHARLES BAYARD.....	F. S.
C. W. FINLEY.....	Treasurer.
THOMAS JAMISON.....	P. W. P.
J. R. CRANDALL.....	D. D. W. P.

BEN FRANKLIN DIVISION, No. 212, meets in Masonic Hall each Friday night; organized November 14, 1859; number of members, 75. Officers of the present quarter:

N. W. BLANCHARD.....	W. P.
M. H. CALDERWOOD.....	W. A.
GEO. CASSIDAY.....	R. S.
J. L. HERBERT.....	A. R. S.
N. MENTING.....	F. S.
J. S. COLGROVE.....	Treasurer.
R. SPEAK.....	C.
J. H. BURKE.....	A. C.
HENRY LILLY.....	I. G.
A. BRANDER.....	O. G.
T. H. McGRATH.....	Chaplain.
W. H. HARRIMAN.....	A. P. W. P.
H. DAVIS.....	D. D. W. P.

TODD'S VALLEY DIVISION, No. 111, S. of T. Officers:

GEO. GRAY.....	W. P.
WM. HOUSTON.....	W. A.
P. Y. BAKER.....	R. S.
C. MARKS.....	A. R. S.
A. LONGLY.....	Treasurer.
B. WOODARD.....	C.
S. JOHNSON.....	A. C.
WM. BROWN.....	Chaplain.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF PLACER COUNTY.

The County of Placer was organized by act of the Legislature approved April 25th, 1851. Its boundaries are described in said act, as follows:

"Beginning on the Sacramento River at the northwest corner of Sacramento County, and running thence up the middle of said river, to a point ten miles below the junction of Sacramento and Feather rivers; thence in a northerly direction in a straight line to a point in the middle of Bear Creek, opposite Camp Far West; thence up the middle of said creek, to its source; thence due east to the State line; thence southerly on the State line to the north-easterly corner of El Dorado County; thence westerly on the northerly line of El Dorado County to the junction of the North and South Forks of the American River; thence westerly on the northerly line of Sacramento County to the place of beginning."

The act of the Legislature also fixed the county seat at Auburn. The first election for county and township officers of Placer County took place on the 26th of May, 1851, which resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen to fill the various county offices: H. Fitzsimmons, County Judge; Samuel C. Astin, Sheriff; R. D. Hopkins, District Attorney; James T. Stewart, Clerk; Alfred Louis, Assessor; Douglas Bingham, Treasurer; A. Bronk, Public Administrator. Of the number of votes cast at this election, we can obtain no authentic account. The vote at some of the camps and towns, however, was surprisingly large; especially at precincts which had started one or two favored individuals who aspired to official honors. The election was contested by several of the defeated candidates, but by the death of one of the contestants, and compromises made between the remaining contestants and their more fortunate opponents, the incumbents were permitted to hold the positions to which they had received certificates of election, for the remainder of their terms in peace.

The first settlements in Placer County were made at an early period of the golden era, and many places became famous for the rich gold deposits discovered in their vicinity. In the summer of 1848, the principal tributaries of the American River were explored by a company of Oregonians, and rich prospects obtained upon almost every bar, as far up the Middle and North Forks as they proceeded. At this time the bars were generally explored as high up the Middle Fork as Rector's Bar, which, proving as rich as any dig-

gings the explorers expected to find, and it being difficult to travel further up the river with horses, they ceased traveling, and worked the mines until the winter season sat in, or their provisions gave out, when they returned to the settlements in the valley, or to their homes in Oregon.

Early in 1849, the system of washing the auriferous dirt with the common rocker was introduced upon the Middle Fork of the American River, and was regarded as a great improvement in gold mining. During this year, miners flocked to the bars upon the rivers in large numbers, from the "Old Dry Diggings" (Placerville), "Sutter's Mill" (Coloma), the settlements in the valleys, and elsewhere; wheresoever the news of the rich discoveries had reached, contributed laborers for the gold fields, and during the summer, settlements were formed in many parts of Placer County, including Auburn and Ophir, in the foot hills; Rector's Bar, Stony Bar, Oregon Bar, and Poverty Bar, on the Middle Fork; and Barnes' Bar, on the North Fork of the American. The population upon the rivers was quite sparse, and depredations were frequently committed by the untamed savages upon the stock and camps of the whites.

During the winter of 1849-'50, the population of the now rich and populous townships 5 and 6, consisted of Dr. Todd and three or four companions, at "Todd's Ranch;" Yankee Jim and his companions, six in number, at Yankee Jim's Dry Diggings, near where Forest Hill is situated; six young men, one of whom was named Lewis, near the head of Mad Canon; two men at Bird's store; and about thirty persons at Stony and Rector's Bars. The whole white population in the two townships mentioned, amounted to not more than fifty persons.

The hardships endured by the few individuals who remained upon the river at Stony and Rector's Bars during the memorable winter of 1849-'50, can never be half told. The writer of this sketch, being one of the unfortunate individuals whose reduced fortunes forced him to remain upon the river, at Stony Bar, in order that he might eke out a scanty subsistence by working in the banks and on the high bars, when a temporary cessation of the falling rain and snow permitted him to venture forth from the canvas tent which served him and his companions as a winter dwelling, cannot, at this day, after a lapse of more than ten years, repress a shudder, when revolving in his mind the many incidents attending his residence during that winter, upon the Middle Fork.

The rains, which had set in towards the last of December, continued to fall almost constantly until the second week in February, covering the mountains on either side of the stream to the depth of four feet with snow, blocking up the trails, and so completely destroying every trace of them, that none, except in the last extremity, could be prevailed upon to venture to break a trail to Georgetown or Coloma, the nearest points at which supplies could be obtained. To add to the hardships of the little settlement of pioneer river miners, they not only had not comfortable houses in which to live, but ere the winter was half gone, their supplies of flour, pork, coffee, sugar, salt, beans, etc., were totally exhausted, and they were reduced to the necessity of living upon fresh venison, without salt or bread. But starvation was not the foe most to be dreaded by the unprotected settlement. The temporary shanties, or huts of the men were scattered along the river for a distance of two miles; in each of which lived from two to five persons. No guard was kept at night, and in case of an attack by the Indians, the men, scattered

and poorly armed, as they were, could have offered but a feeble resistance. The heavy snows, higher up in the mountains, had forced a band of Indians to venture down the canons to the vicinity of the camp of the whites, in search of horses, mules, cattle, or any thing else which could serve as food for their starving squaws and children. They were discovered by the whites, and a meeting was called of all white men known to be upon the river, in reach, for the purpose of ascertaining the number and condition of the guns, and the amount of ammunition in the hands of the miners. The number of guns on hand amounted to one to every three men, and among the whole number there were not more than three pounds of powder. An organization was immediately effected, and men were started out with directions to proceed down the Middle Fork of the American River, until they had reached a point where supplies could be purchased, and to procure all the arms and ammunition they could obtain, and bring into the camp. The relief party, after scrambling over the rocks for two days, reached the Big Bar, in El Dorado county, where they purchased some powder, lead, caps, salt, and tea, and one rifle gun, and returned to their companions.

With these additions to the stock of arms and ammunition on hand, after making a show of strength by sending small parties out in search of the Indians, one of which came up with a party of the red skins, and attacked and killed some of their number, the whites felt quite secure from an attack, and remained quiet the balance of the winter.

Toward the last of February, '50, the weather turning warm and the news of rich discoveries having been made the fall previous, between the head waters of the Middle and North Forks of the American, having been spread among the miners of Hangtown (Placerville), Weavertown, Coloma, Georgetown, Kelsy's, and other thickly settled places in El Dorado, a general stampede took place, and the men came in hundreds, making Bird's store (Bird's Valley) their place of rendezvous, until the number of men gathered at that point amounted to two or three thousand. Here they were compelled to remain until the snow settled sufficiently for them to penetrate the mountains and canons higher up on the slope of the Sierras. Early in the spring good prospects were obtained in El Dorado Canon, and companies were soon engaged in riving in the bed and banks of the creek from its junction with the North Fork to its head.

During the spring of 1850 the whole country on the western slope of the mountains was explored by prospecting parties; some even crossing over the Sierras to Carson Valley. It was during this spring that the famous "Gold Lake stampede" took place, and thousands of men left good diggings, where they were quite certain of making an ounce of gold for each day's work, to join in the general stampede to the wonderful lake. Although these prospecting expeditions proved disastrous to nearly every individual engaged in them, yet the developments made caused the immediate and permanent settlement of the upper region of Placer County, where so many hundreds of rich tunnel claims are yielding their thousands of ounces of gold daily in the way of remuneration to the miners for the years of labor they have applied in penetrating through the bed rock deep into the bowels of the mountains.

From the spring of 1850 may we date the beginning of permanent improvements and permanent settlements in Placer, for from that time men commenced to have settled habitations, and some even then commenced pre-

parations for building permanent homes for themselves and families. During the summer and fall of that year the county became blessed with the presence of a number of families, some of whom came to the country overland from the States; others from the old States and foreign countries; and others, again, from El Dorado and other counties where they had become too thickly settled to thrive well, or at least where there were not as good inducements offered for permanent settlements as this county afforded. Each year since that period has marked a perceptible change, not only in the increase of the permanent population, but also in the manners and morals of the people, and of the agricultural, mineral and other products. The taxable property has also increased in a regular ratio, until there are few counties that can boast of surpassing it, either in the amount of property assessed for taxes, grain, hay, cattle, horses, etc., raised, or excel it in the number of ounces of gold dust shipped from its mines.

Like all other localities in the State, it has not been exempt from losses by fire and flood, those great scourges of California, which have done more to retard the development of the vast resources of the State than all other causes combined. On June 4th, 1855, Auburn, the county seat, was almost totally destroyed by fire, the loss of property amounting, in the aggregate, to several hundred thousand dollars. In October, 1859, another fire broke out in the place, destroying all the buildings in the upper part of town, and entailing a loss upon its citizens of about \$200,000. Yankee Jim's, Michigan Bluff, Todd's Valley and Iowa Hill have each suffered a like scourge, Yankee Jim's being destroyed in June, 1852; Iowa Hill on the 2d of February, 1857; Michigan Bluff in the summer of 1857; and Todd's Valley in the summer of 1859. The property destroyed by fires alone at the times mentioned amounted to more than \$2,000,000.

The census returns of 1852 show the whole amount of money then invested in mining enterprises of every kind, including ditches for conveying water from the rivers, canons, etc., to the flats, gulches, etc., to amount, in the aggregate, to \$1,427,567, divided as follows: \$858,037, classed as "Temporary Investments," which was in flumes, dams, canals, etc., on the rivers; \$13,530 invested in quartz mines, and \$556,000 in water ditches, classed as "Permanent Investments." It will be seen that these estimates of amount of capital invested in ditches and other classes of mining property were based upon calculations of absolute cost of enterprises then completed and in course of construction. At the present time there is no data from which the amount of money invested in all the various branches of industry can be ascertained, hence we make no attempt at an estimate, except upon a single class of mining investments, which, it will be seen, exceeds the aggregate investments in every species of property in the county reported in the census return of 1852. By a pretty close canvass of the region of the county in which the tunnel mines are located, we find the number of feet of tunnel run to amount to 186,990 feet, which cost \$2,716,200. This vast expenditure of tunnel mining is in a section of the country composed of townships five, six, seven and eight, and perhaps does not embrace more than one-fourth of the whole amount of money invested in other classes of mining enterprises and improvements subject to taxation.

The increase of population, as shown by the census returns of 1852, and those of 1860, is less than three thousand. The number of votes cast in the county at the Presidential election in 1852 was 5,144, and the number

cast at the Presidential election in 1860, was 5,837, showing an increase of votes in eight years of only 693.

The political history of Placer County, if given in detail, could not fail of being interesting; but the limited space allowed for this sketch will not admit of our entering into minor particulars, hence we must be content with giving such facts as are deemed of most importance and necessary to show the political complexion of the public men of the past times, and the circumstances, as near as they can be ascertained, under which they were elected to the various offices which they filled.

The vote of the people since the organization of the county to the present time shows the sympathy of the majority to have been uniformly with the Democracy, excepting only the year 1854, when, there being a division in the Democratic party, the Whigs succeeded in electing their entire legislative and county ticket.

The following is a list of the county officers and members of the Senate and Assembly elected each year from the organization of the county to the present time;

At the election in 1851, Gen. Fry was chosen Senator, and P. Canney and _____ Assemblymen; County Judge, H. Fitz Simmons; Sheriff, S. C. Astin; District Attorney, R. D. Hopkins; Clerk, James T. Stewart; Assessor, Alfred Lewis; Treasurer, Douglas Bingham.

In 1852, Joseph Walkup was chosen Senator, and P. Canney and B. F. Myres, Assemblymen. The county officers elected were: District Attorney, P. W. Thomas; Sheriff, S. C. Astin; Clerk, Wm. A. Johnson; Treasurer, E. G. Smith; Assessor, Gunn; Coroner, Pinkham; Surveyor, Hinman; Public Administrator, Barnes.

In 1853, C. A. Tuttle was elected Senator, [Joseph Walkup holding over,] and Myers, Fairfield, Van Cleft and O'Neill, Assemblymen; Surveyor, Finley; Assessor, McCarty; Public Administrator, Jordan.

In 1854, Hawthorne was elected Senator, [Tuttle holding over,] T. Mooreland, H. Gregg, Wm. Corey and Moses Andrews, Assemblymen. All but the hold-over Senator, Whigs, and all the county officers Whigs, which were: Sheriff, Wm. T. Henson; Clerk, A. S. Grant; Treasurer, J. R. Crandall; District Attorney, M. E. Mills; Public Administrator, J. R. Gwynn.

In 1855, Thos. Westmoreland was elected Senator, [Mr. Hawthorne holding over,] and Silas Selleck, Lansing Stout, T. H. Read and R. S. Williams, Assemblymen; all Americans.

In 1856, Joseph Walkup was elected Senator, [Westmoreland holding over,] and Caperton, Safford, Wyman and O'Neill, Assemblymen; Sheriff, Chas. King; Clerk, Tabb Mitchell; District Attorney, P. W. Thomas; Treasurer, Philip Stoner; Assessor, Spann; Public Administrator, Gaut; Surveyor, Phelps; Coroner, Hause; Superintendent Common Schools, P. C. Millette.

In 1857, J. H. Baker was elected Senator for full term, and James Anderson to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Joseph Walkup; D. B. Curtis, A. P. K. Safford, N. Kabler and W. C. Stratton were elected Assemblymen; and P. C. Millette, Superintendent Common Schools; S. G. Elliott, County Surveyor; Thos. Coffey, Public Administrator; W. J. Esmond, Coroner.

In 1858, James Anderson was elected Senator, [J. H. Baker holding over,] Wm. C. Stratton, Wm. P. Barclay, Philip Lynch and W. P. Wing, were

elected Assemblymen; County Judge, E. H. Van Decar; Sheriff, L. L. Bullock; Collector, M. Kimball; Treasurer, G. W. Applegate; Clerk, Henry Gooding; District Attorney, P. W. Thomas; Assessor, T. B. Harper; Surveyor, S. G. Elliott; Coroner, James M'Burney.

In 1859, S. T. Leet was elected Senator, [James Anderson holding over,] and S. W. Lovell, D. S. Beach, J. N. Makins and J. W. Harville, Assemblymen; S. S. Greenwood, Superintendent of Common Schools; Recorder, Geo. L. Anderson, and M. P. H. Love, Public Administrator.

In 1860, P. W. Thomas was elected Senator, [S. S. Leet holding over,] Assemblymen, W. J. Harrison; L. G. Smith, P. Munday and W. D. Harriman; Sheriff, L. L. Bullock; Clerk, Henry Gooding; Treasurer, E. M. Banvard; Recorder, W. A. Selkirk; District Attorney, Jo. Hamilton; Surveyor, S. G. Elliott; Coroner, Joseph Platt; Public Administrator, Rufus Smith.

In 1854, in consequence of the division in the Democratic party upon the Senatorial question, there were three tickets—two Democratic and one Whig—run in Placer county, and the Whigs elected their county ticket by a small plurality. Upon the Senatorial question in 1854 the politicians of Placer occupied a position directly the reverse of those of any other county in the State. Although the same dissensions between Northern and Southern existed in Placer that divided the party in the balance of the State, yet they assumed a position in Placer which differed with those of every other locality in this respect:—While the Southern men united upon Gwin and opposed the election of a United States Senator by the Legislature of 1854 in every other county, and the Northern men united upon Mr. Broderick, and favored the election at that session, in Placer county the Southern men favored Mr. Broderick, and the Northern men supported the Gwin faction. Thus we see the astute and far-seeing Southern Democrats of that day assisting Mr. Broderick in carrying out the "great Northern sentiment" which he professed to represent, and the Northern men opposing him and his party, and advocating and expressing the same sentiments and opinions that Southern men did in other counties.

The causes which led to the defeat of the Democratic party were numerous, yet the disaffection of the year previous had much to do with it, and perhaps we would not be far wrong should we assign that division in the party as the principal weak point in the party. Early in 1855, the Americans organized thoroughly by establishing secret councils in every town and mining camp in the country, where a suitable room could be procured in which to hold their meetings; and, by well directed efforts among the citizens "to the manor born," made fresh accessions to the party at every meeting. The members of the two wings of the Democratic party had, in the meantime, become so embittered against each other that it was late in the campaign ere a compromise could be made, and a union of the two wings effected. The consequence was, the election of the whole of the Know Nothing or American ticket.

The success of the American party gave the leading members such encouragement, and the organization was so complete, that notwithstanding the members of the party knew they only held the balance of power, yet, at almost every election, by superior management, the party continued to elect one or two of its candidates to the best paying offices.

Notwithstanding the many hard fought battles in which the Democratic

party has proved victorious since its signal overthrow in 1855, yet the seeds of dissension sown the year previous have taken such deep root in the organization, that no efforts upon the part of the ever consistent men who stand by the party principles, and are guided by the platform, can eradicate the troublesome canker, or prevent its influence from occasionally causing the defeat of a part or the whole of the ticket.

Closely connected with the political history of Placer County, and partaking greatly of the nature of the party which each affected to represent, and professed to be or was really the mouth-piece of, the various newspaper enterprises of the county claim some notice in this sketch; and, in fact, it would be incomplete without it. The *Placer Herald* is the oldest newspaper in the county. The first number was issued on the 11th of September, 1852, by T. Mitchell & Co., under the most favorable auspices, as we judge by the introductory remarks of the editor, and the liberal advertising patronage extended to it by business men and public officers from its first issue throughout the whole of its first volume. The following is an extract from the introductory of the editor, and is a declaration of principles, which, if they could be carried out—the paper at the same time being ably conducted—could not fail to secure the success of any newspaper enterprise in a community so appreciative as are the people of Placer. The editor introduces his paper "To the Citizens of Placer County," as follows:

"Through the partiality of friends, we have been selected to the responsible position of publishing the first journal in Placer County. Although somewhat diffident of our abilities, the strong promptings of our inclinations urge us to the task.

"In becoming a candidate for popular favor, a declaration of principles is due to the public. This time-honored usage we have no desire to disregard, but will state, briefly, the principles which will guide us in the conduct of the *Placer Herald*.

"In all matters of religious or political concernment the *Herald* will be FREE and INDEPENDENT. The peculiar advocate of no sect or party, we shall strive earnestly to do 'equal and exact justice' to all."

Doubtless the editor of the *Herald* commenced his career with more than usually virtuous intentions, but perhaps the temptations held out by the ever-changing fortunes of political parties and aspirants for political and official honors were greater than human nature was capable of withstanding, and hence a change of circumstances produced a corresponding change in the sentiments or policy of the conductor of the *Herald*. Through all its changes, however, the *Herald* has been a useful paper, and, as a newspaper enterprise, a success—profitable to its publishers and advantageous to its readers.

The next newspaper started in Placer County of which we have any account was the *Placer Democrat*, which was born in Auburn, April 19th, 1854. The paper being started by the Broderick faction, and fostered by the kindness of that eminently liberal party (in promises), it survived the campaign, perhaps, not exceeding two weeks. The proprietor and editor of the *Democrat* was John Shannon, late of the *Visalia Delta*, and it is said that Philip Lynch, now editor of the *Placer Courier*, also owned an interest and had much to do with its management. To give the reader some idea of the usefulness of the *Democrat*, the following article, copied from the *Auburn Whig*, which has very much the appearance of an obituary, is republished:

"The *Placer Democrat*, a paper representing the so-called Broderick wing of the Democracy of this county, has been discontinued. Its publication commenced April 19th of the present year, and ended about two weeks since. It has had the effect of causing rather stormy times in the Democratic party during the late political canvass; but whether or not the object which it had in view has been entirely accomplished we do not know. That portion of the party whose organ it was was badly beaten here by the Anti-Electionists, as well as throughout the State. The resignation of their County Central Committee, and the withdrawal of Milton S. Latham, one of their nominees for Congress, were undoubtedly serious drawbacks to their success, though, without these obstacles, the result might have been the same. The reasons given for the discontinuance of the *Democrat* is, that "it will not pay," which, unquestionably is quite a satisfactory one to all interested. We wish Mr. Shannon better success in his private enterprise than has, in this instance, favored his political ones."

The next newspaper enterprise started in the county was the *Auburn Whig*, published by Chas. Winkley and A. L. Stinson, and edited by M. E. Mills, which, like its predecessor, was not destined to live forever. The political predilections of the *Whig* were what its name indicates; and to say that the paper was conducted, during the whole of the brief period of its existence, with marked ability, would but be doing justice to the gentlemen who had the management of it, and who prepared the matter which filled its columns. The *Whig* lived under the editorial conduct of Mr. Mills for three months, when he passed it over into the hands of H. R. Hawkins, who also continued it until it arrived at the age of thirty-one weeks; when the *Whig*, like its predecessor, the *Democrat*, without previous notice ceased to exist. Its demise occurred on May 19th, 1855; and on June 2d, of the same year, the *Placer Press* was started by H. R. Hawkins, A. L. Stinson, and C. Winkley; Hiram R. Hawkins, editor, as before. The *Press*, through all the changes of its proprietorship during the succeeding 29 months which it was under the editorial conduct of Mr. Hawkins, was a neatly printed and interesting paper, being looked anxiously for each recurring Saturday morning by its appreciative readers. On October 31st, 1857, Mr. Hawkins sold his interest to A. S. Smith, who became editor, and continued the paper, in connection with Jas. P. Bull, as a partner in the publication, until May, 1858, when Mr. Bull retired from the concern and "the editor (has) assumed the entire control." The *Press* from this time until its demise was the organ of the Anti-Lecompton party, and was accused of being strongly tinged with Abolitionism. The *Press* continued to make a regular weekly squeeze for a short time, under the direction of A. S. Smith; but eventually falling into the hands of J. W. Scoby, who assumed the editorship, was conducted by him until December 4, 1858, when he took "ANOTHER GLANCE AT THE FIELD" and incontinentally retired, the *Press* becoming a defunct institution.

In the latter part of 1855 or early part of 1856, the *Iowa Hill News* was started at Iowa Hill, by Olmstead & Miller. The *News* advocated a division of Placer county, which was one of the questions of the political canvass of 1856, but the advocates of the measure did not succeed in making sufficient converts to their cause to continue the struggle after the election, and the question became a dead issue. Sometime in the winter or spring of 1858 the *News* office was removed to San Juan, Nevada county, and the *Hydraulic Press* was started by the proprietors.

Sometime during the winter of 1857, the 30th publication of the *Mountain Courier* was commenced at Yankee Jim's, by Messrs. Parker and Graves, who continued its publication for the space of three months precisely, when creditors becoming clamorous for numerous small amounts due from the concern, attachments were sued out, and levied upon the office, and its issue stopped.

On the 4th day of July, of the same year, E. B. Boust, having purchased the press and printing materials of the *Mountain Courier*, published the first number of the *Placer Courier*, which was successfully conducted by him until November, 1858, when he withdrew from the concern, and the paper was taken charge of by R. J. Steele, who published it at Yankee Jim's, until the following April, when the office was removed to Forest Hill. The *Courier* is now published by P. Lynch, who succeeded Mr. Steele as publisher in December, 1860.

In January, 1859, the *Iowa Hill Patriot* was started in that town by E. B. Boust, and was continued there until May 1, 1860, when the materials were removed by him to Dutch Flat, and the *Patriot* was merged into the *Dutch Flat Enquirer*. Mr. Boust continues the publication of the *Enquirer*, and is doing an excellent business.

The *Democratic Signal* was started as a Democratic campaign paper at Auburn, at the opening of the campaign of 1860, by S. T. Newell & Co., publishers, and edited by R. C. Poland. The paper espoused the cause of Stephen A. Douglas, and its publication was continued by Newell & Co. until the 10th of December of the same year, when it went into the hands of R. J. Steele, who continued its publication.

Of the agricultural and grazing portion of Placer county, but little can be said in addition to the facts found in statistical tables in another part of this book. When we consider the small district of country embraced within the limits of the county susceptible of cultivation, we find by comparing its products with those of agricultural counties, that the lands under cultivation in Placer are unusually productive, yielding on an average better than the lands of some of the most famous agricultural counties in the State. We will take Napa county for an instance, and compare its products of wheat with that of Placer. We find that in Napa county there are 26,114 acres of land cultivated in wheat, which produced last year 652,850, or 25 bushels to the acre. In Placer the number of acres cultivated in wheat the same year was 5,000, producing 170,000 bushels, or an average yield of 54 bushels to the acre. In Alameda, another agricultural county, we find that there were last year 20,000 acres of land cultivated in wheat, which produced 440,500 bushels, or an average of 22 bushels to the acre.

The above facts are sufficient to show that the soil of the agricultural portion of the county is not inferior to that of the best agricultural districts in the State, and that the land is in a high state of cultivation. A large portion of the county is well adapted to the raising of the various kinds of fruits, grapes, etc., and during the summer and fall our markets are abundantly supplied with every variety, at prices which defy competition by other fruit districts.

All that portion of Placer county lying west of the foothills, between the American, Sacramento and Bear rivers, is rapidly being put under cultivation, or enclosed for grazing purposes. The prairies are dotted all over with

the habitations of the settlers, and the public highways for miles, in many instances, are run through a continuation of lanes.

Rich mineral discoveries were made at an early period of the county's history, far down in the foothills, bordering on the plains, which, during the winter and spring seasons, afford employment to a large number of men at from two to four dollars per day each; and in many places, in the gulches and ravines, miners are making double and even treble that amount, on an average.

Of the towns in the lower part of the county, Gold Hill, Virginia, Rattlesnake, Pine Grove and Stewart's, are the most important, each of which are noticed separately in this work.

STATISTICS OF PLACER COUNTY.

According to the County Assessor's report, there were in Placer County, in 1860, 40,740 peach, 23,360 apple, 7,521 pear, 6,436 plum, 6,036 cherry, 1,836 apricot, 1,000 quince, 1,400 nectarine, 400 fig, 700 almond, 80 English walnut, 30 mulberry, 60 pomegranate, 20 chestnut, 16 orange and 2,000 currant trees and bushes; strawberry vines, 100,000; raspberry bushes, 7,000; blackberry bushes, 800; grape vines, bearing, 135,532; grape vine cuttings, 135,532; and gooseberry, 400.

In 1860 there were 11,748 acres of land in cultivation, upon which were grown 303,800 bushels of grain, besides potatoes, vegetables, and 1,877 tons of hay.

The live stock of the county in 1860 consisted of: horses, 2,175; cows, 2,241; oxen, 510; stock cattle, 8,490; mules, 470; jacks and jennets, 18; hogs, 11,488; sheep, 17,589; two-year old cattle, 750; one-year old cattle, 1,120; lambs, 7,945; calves, 673; goats, 52. The aggregate value of which is estimated at \$545,914.

The total number of barnyard fowls amounts to 11,035.

The total of land taken up amounts to 102,503 acres.

WATER DITCHES AND CANALS.

Owl Creek Ditch takes water from Devil's Canon; length, 3 miles; capacity, 150 inches; value, \$500.

Paradise Ditch takes water from Todd's Valley to Paradise and Spanish Bar Bridge. Length, 10 miles; capacity, 200 inches; value, \$800.

Union Water Company's Ditch takes water from Shirt Tail and Brushy Canons. Capital stock, \$90,000; value, \$15,000.

Independent Ditch takes water from Volcano Canon. Length, 8 miles; capacity, 250 inches; value, \$10,000.

Pine Flat Ditch. Length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; capacity, 120 inches; value, \$500.

Brown and White's Ditch takes water from Volcano Canon. Capacity, 150 inches; length, 12 miles; value, \$7,000.

Miner's Ditch takes water from South Shirt Tail. Length, 18 miles; capacity, 400 inches; cost, \$40,000; value, \$9,400.

El Dorado Ditch. Capital stock, \$60,000; takes water from El Dorado Canon; length, 18 miles; capacity, 400 inches; value, \$20,000.

Black Canon Ditch takes water from Black Canon to Deadwood. Value, \$600.

North Shirt Tail Ditch takes water to Elizabethtown. Length, 11 miles; capacity, 300 inches; value, \$5,500.

Grizzly Ditch takes water from Grizzly Canon to Wisconsin Hill. Length 4 miles; capacity, 200 inches; value, \$900.

McKee's Ditch takes water from South Fork of Shirt Tail Canon to Iowa Hill. Length, 18 miles; capacity 800 inches; value, \$5,000.

Rich & Co.'s Ditch takes water from Indian Canon to Iowa Hill. Length, three miles; capacity, 100 inches; value, \$500.

Hill's Ditch takes water from Indian Canon; supplies Iowa Hill and vicinity. Length, 10 miles; capacity, 400 inches; value, \$5,600.

Parkison & McCoy's Ditch takes water from Deep Canon to Last Chance. Value, \$1,000.

Jamison & Co.'s Ditch takes water from Indian Canon to Iowa Hill. Length, 3 miles; capacity, 150 inches; value, \$1,700.

Why Not Ditch takes water from Dutch Flat Ravine to Why Not Claims. Length, 1 mile; capacity, 150 inches; value, \$1,100.

Dutch Flat Water Company—five ditches—takes water, from Little Bear River and Canon Creek, and supplies Dutch Flat and Indian Hill; value, \$40,000.

Bartlett & Thomas' Ditch takes water from Bear River to Dutch Flat and vicinity. Length, 13 miles; capacity, 500 inches; value, \$3,000.

Indian Ditch Company conveys water from Canon Creek to Indian Hill. Length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; capacity, 500 inches; value, \$2,000.

Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Company. Capital stock, \$600,000; takes water from Bear River, above Illinois town, and supplies the lower part of the county. Whole length of ditches, 200 miles; value, \$50,000.

American River Ditch Company takes water from the American River at Tamahran Bar to Sacramento County. Length in county, 22 miles; capacity, 200 inches; value, \$75,000.

Gold Hill and Bear River Ditch takes water from Bear River, and supplies Gold Hill and Virginia. Length, 14 miles; value, \$12,000.

Total number of miles of water ditches, 394; total amount of water run, 7,220 inches; total value, \$217,600.

SAW MILLS.

Pioneer Saw Mill—situated two miles below Yankee Jim's; steam power; vertical saw; capacity, 1,000,000 feet per annum; value, \$3,600.

Spring Garden Mill—Water power; vertical saw; product, 250,000 feet per annum; value, \$1,000.

Devil's Cañon Mill—Located at Yankee Jim's; water power; vertical saw; product, 200,000 feet per annum; value, \$1,000.

Todd's Valley Mill—Located in Todd's Valley; steam power; circular saws; capacity, 1,000,000 feet per annum; value, \$2,500.

Brushy Mill—Located on Third Brushy Cañon; steam power; vertical saw; product, 500,000 feet per annum; value, \$2,000.

May Flower Mill—Located near Forest Hill; steam power; circular saws; product, 1,000,000 feet per annum; value, \$4,500.

Forest Hill Mill—Located at Forest Hill; steam power; circular saws; capacity, 2,500,000; cuts 200,000 feet per annum; value, \$300,000.

Volcano Mill—Located near Michigan Bluff; steam power; vertical saw; capacity per annum, 1,000,000 feet; value, \$3,000.

King's Old Mill—Located near the head of Shirt Tail Cañon; water power; vertical saw; product per annum, 400,000 feet; value, \$1,500.

Parkinson & McCloy's Mill—Located at Last Chance; water power; circular saw; cuts 250,000 feet per annum; real capacity, 1,500,000 feet; value, \$1,000.

Mt. Pleasant Mill—Located near Iowa Hill; steam power; real capacity, 1,200,000 feet; actual amount produced, 600,000 feet; value, \$200,000.

Little Bear River Mill—Located at the head of Little Bear River; water power; sash saws; capacity, 400,000 feet per annum; value, \$7,000.

Dutch Flat Steam Mill—Located at Dutch Flat; steam power; circular saws; capacity, 1,000,000 feet; cuts 750,000 feet per annum; value, \$2,000.

Cañon Creek Mill—Water power; located on Cañon Creek; vertical saws; capacity, 200,000 feet; value, \$1,000.

Allen & Co.'s Mill—Located at Dutch Flat; water power; capacity, 400,000 feet per annum; value, \$1,000.

Burton & Williams' Saw Mill—Located on Cañon Creek, near Dutch Flat; water power; sash saw; cuts 400,000 feet per annum; value, \$1,000.

E. J. Brickell's Mill—Located at Illinoistown; steam power; two sash and two lath saws; capacity, 1,500,000 feet; product, 500,000 feet; value, \$4,000.

Mountain Mill—Located four miles below Illinoistown; steam power; circular saw; capacity, 1,500,000 feet per annum; product, 500,000 feet; value, \$2,500.

New England Mill—Located four miles below Illinoistown; steam power; circular saws; capacity, 1,200,000 feet; product, 700,000 feet; value, \$1,000.

Empire Mill—Located eight miles above Auburn, on the Illinoistown road; steam power; sash saws; capacity, 1,000,000 feet; product, 550,000 feet per annum; value, \$500.

O. N. May & Co.'s Mill—Located at Lisbon; steam power; circular saw; capacity, 1,000,000 feet per annum; value, \$2,000.

C. S. Preble's Mill—Located on Bear river; water power; capacity, 400,000 feet per annum; product, 200,000; value, \$1,600.

Lath and Shingle Mill—Owned by C. J. Garland; located at Forest Hill; steam power; capacity, 100,000 lath and 500,000 shingles per annum.

QUARTZ MILLS.

Pioneer Quartz Mill—Located near Damascus; steam power, 45 horse; runs 9 stamps, 1,400 pounds each; two 12 feet arastras; crushes 24 tons per day; employs 15 hands the entire year; value, \$2,500.

Union Quartz Mill—Located near Bald Hill; water power; with 8 stamps and 2 arastras; value, \$1,800.

Eastman & Co.'s Quartz Mill—Small mill, located at Ophir; water power; 7 light stamps; value, \$500.

Decker & Co.'s Quartz Mill—On Dutch ravine; water power; with 5 stamps and 2 arastras; crushes 5 tons per day; value, \$1,500.

Peterson & Keiser's Mill—Location at Bald Hill; steam power, 14 horse; 11 stamps and 2 arastras; value, \$1,500.

FLOURING MILLS.

Cataract Mill—Location on the Illinoistown road, four and a half miles from Auburn; water power; value, \$4,000.

Auburn Steam Mill—Steam power, 12 horse; one run of stone; grinds 17 barrels in 24 hours; value, \$1,500.

TURNPIKES AND BRIDGES.

Stony Hill Turnpike—One mile in length; macadamized the entire length; level road; value, \$2,500.

Mile Hill Turnpike—Toll road between Auburn and Yankee Jim's; one mile in length; macadamized one-quarter mile; value, \$5,500.

J. A. Mattason's Toll Roads—Two roads—one leading from Baker's Ranch across Volcano Cañon to Michigan Bluff; length 2 miles—the other from Forest Shade House to Michigan Bluff by the way of Bath; new road five and a-half miles; cost of construction, \$12,000; value for the two, \$6,000.

Yankee Jim's and Wisconsin Hill Turnpike—Crosses Shirt Tail Canon; length of grade, 8 miles; value, \$3,500.

Indian Cañon Turnpike—Road crosses Indian Canon from Wisconsin Hill to Iowa Hill; length two miles; value, \$900.

Mountain Springs Turnpike—Road leading from Mountain Springs to within 5 miles of Illinoistown; length 2 miles; value, \$4,600.

Mineral Bar Bridge and Road—From Iowa Hill to Illinoistown, crossing the river at Mineral Bar; length of road 7 miles; value, \$13,500.

Eastern Extension Turnpike Co.—Road commencing near Gold Hill and completed to the Nevada road on Dry Creek—the intended termination near the California House—7 miles completed; length contemplated 11 miles; value, \$1,000.

Auburn Turnpike—Road leaves the old Sacramento and Auburn road at the Oak's House and intersects the Illinoistown road at the Junction House, 2½ miles above Auburn; value, \$10,000.

Auburn and Yankee Jim's Turnpike—Road crosses the North Fork above and near the junction of the North and Middle Forks of the American river; value, \$16,000.

BRIDGES.

Ford's Bar Bridge—John Calloway, proprietor bridge across the North Fork of the American river at Ford's Bar; value, \$1,000.

Bear River Bridge—Across Bear river; value, \$3,000.

Murderer's Bar Bridge—Wire Bridge across the Middle Fork of the American river at Murderer's Bar; one-half assessed in this county, the other in El Dorado; value, \$5,000.

Placer County Museum

TUNNELS IN PLACER COUNTY.

Name of Tunnel.	Locality.	Length.	Cost.
Old Colony Bed Rock Tunnel	Spring Garden	850	\$9,500
Gone-In Tunnel	Spring Garden	1,000	—
Valley Bed Rock Tunnel	Todd's Valley	1,000	30,000
North Star Tunnel	Near Todd's Valley	1,100	24,200
Mountain Tunnel	Todd's Valley	1,300	19,500
Todd's Valley Tunnel	Todd's Valley	1,750	31,500
Chesapeake Tunnel	Todd's Valley	1,200	12,000
Oro Tunnel, bet. Todd's Valley and	Forest Hill	1,800	32,400
Green Spring's Tunnel, bet. Todd's	Val. and For. Hill	2,000	70,000
Baltimore Tunnel	Forest Hill	1,700	62,000
Forest Hill Slope Tunnel		1,400	30,800
Hoosier and Telegraph Tunnel	Todd's Valley	1,000	6,000
Hope Tunnel	Forest Hill	3,200	40,000
Independent Tunnel	do do	1,700	34,000
Independent Slope Tunnel	do do	1,200	60,000
Missouri Tunnel, Devil's Canon, near	Yankee Jim's	2,000	40,000
India Rubber Tunnel	Forest Hill	1,100	11,000
Alabama Tunnel		1,600	16,000
Eagle Tunnel	do do	1,200	9,600
Garden Tunnel	do do	1,300	9,100
Maus Company's Tunnel	do do	2,300	60,000
Kate Hay's Tunnel	do do	600	13,000
Lone Star Tunnel	do do	700	14,000
Deidesheimer Tunnel*	do do	2,000	24,000
Rough and Ready Tunnel	do do	3,800	60,000
Jenny Lind Tunnel†	do do	2,200	25,000
Gore Tunnel	do do	2,400	25,000
Pioneer Slope Tunnel	do do	1,450	65,000
Orono Tunnel	Bath	1,600	25,000
Humboldt Tunnel	do	600	5,000
Watson & Nevit's Quartz Tunnel	do	300	20,000
Old Rip Tunnel	do	500	10,000
Golden Gate Tunnel	do	900	15,000
Rough Gold Tunnel	do	1,000	15,000
Little Dorrit's Tunnel	do	1,000	20,000
Dewey Tunnel	do	2,000	8,000
A. Snodgrass & Co's Tunnel	do	1,000	6,000
New York Co.'s Tunnel		1,200	20,000
Sebastopol Tunnel	do	600	15,000
New Jersey Tunnel	Forest Hill	2,000	40,000
Sneider Tunnel	do	1,500	10,500
Northwood & Fast's Tunnel	do do	1,500	15,000
Boston Tunnel	do do	4,000	14,000
Know Nothing Tunnel	do do	1,100	6,600
Iowa Tunnel	do do	900	4,500

* This claim has paid upwards of \$300,000 above the expense of working.

† A new tunnel is being run in this claim, and has been pushed forward 500 feet, at a cost of \$12,500.

Name of Tunnel.	Locality.	Length.	Cost.
Tiger Tunnel	Forest Hill	500	\$2,500
French Tunnel	do do	750	5,250
Rochester Tunnel	Yorkville	1,000	4,000
St. Louis Tunnel	do	700	3,000
Small Hope Tunnel	do	1,800	5,000
Iowa Tunnel	do	1,000	6,000
New York Tunnel	do	900	5,500
Washington Tunnel	do	1,100	7,000
Backus Tunnel	do	1,000	6,000
Pike County Tunnel	do	850	5,000
Oriental Tunnel	do	1,700	6,000
Brushy Slide Tunnel	do	1,500	20,000
Dutch Washington Tunnel	do	1,600	20,000
Oriental No. 2, Tunnel	do	500	5,800
San Francisco Tunnel	do	500	2,500
Texas Tunnel	do	1,600	12,800
Sacramento Tunnel	do	1,000	30,000
Independent Tunnel	do	1,500	15,000
Naugatuc Tunnel	do	400	4,000
Green Mountain Tunnel	do	400	1,200
Green Horn Tunnel	do	600	5,000
Dardanelles Tunnel	Forest Hill	2,400	150,000
Bay State Tunnel	do do	600	6,000
Ohio Tunnel	do do	600	5,000
Big Spring Tunnel	do do	1,800	20,000
Red Sea Tunnel	Yankee Jim's	509	13,000
Swindle Hill Tunnel	do do	1,200	17,000
Mameluke Tunnel	do do	900	15,000
Yankee Jim's Tunnel	do do	1,200	16,000
Ben Franklin's Tunnel	do do	700	7,000
Bald Eagle Tunnel	do do	800	11,000
Buchanan Tunnel	do do	450	3,000
Chucky Slide Tunnel	Volcano Canon	360	45,000
Volcano Slope Tunnel	do do	400	8,000
Maine Tunnel	do do	500	7,500
Cape Horn Tunnel, near Forks House		400	1,600
Lola Montez Tunnel	Green Valley	600	24,000
Oro Tunnel	El Dorado Canon	1,000	6,000
Huffacre Tunnel	El Dorado Canon	400	1,500
Craig & Co's Tunnel	do do	210	6,000
Bull Tunnel	do do	300	2,500
Dead Horse Tunnel	do do	200	3,500
Dix's Tunnel, Salome Hill District, near Forks House		300	1,500
Dix's Slope	Salome Hill Dist.	130	4,000
Arkansas Tunnel	do do	200	2,000
Faunce & Wisinger's Tunnel, near Fork's House		150	15,000
Jack Hay's Tunnel	do do	300	6,000
Bay State Tunnel	do do	500	3,000
Garibaldi Tunnel	Deadwood	700	6,000
Hooking Bull Tunnel	do	800	nominal

STATISTICS OF PLACER COUNTY.

Name of Tunnel.	Locality.	Length.	Cost.
Cement Tunnel	Deadwood	300	\$1,000
Snug Harbor	do	300	4,000
Belle of the Mountain	do	280	4,000
Mohawk Tunnel	do	800	8,000
Rattlesnake Tunnel	do	250	5,000
Jenny Lind Tunnel	do	500	4,200
Golden Age Tunnel	do	300	1,000
St. Lawrence Tunnel	do	200	8,000
Jerusalem Point Tunnel	do	160	6,000
Gibraltar Tunnel	do	250	2,000
Kayler's Tunnel	do	300	1,500
Wabash Tunnel	do	150	1,100
Shipwreck Tunnel	do	150	600
Whirlwind Tunnel	do	300	750
Elkhorn Tunnel	do	500	1,500
English Tunnel	do	500	1,500
Belvidere Tunnel	do	200	1,600
Van Zandt's Tunnel	do	170	500
Cusick's Tunnel	do	100	500
Howe's Tunnel	do	350	9,000
Old Gravel Tunnel	do	200	1,250
Crumwall's Tunnel	do	80	250
Mississippi Tunnel	do	630	3,500
Sebastopol Tunnel	do	200	800
Flying Dutchman's Tunnel	do	300	6,500
Quartz Point Tunnel	do	500	2,500
Douglas's Tunnel	do	150	300
El Dorado Tunnel	Last Chance	700	30,000
Long Tunnel	do do	1,000	20,000
Wolverine Tunnel	do do	400	8,000
Henson Tunnel	do do	700	3,500
Nigger Tunnel	do do	200	5,000
Fiddler's Green Tunnel	do do	500	25,000
Slab Tunnel	do do	300	5,000
Scandinavian Tunnel	do do	500	2,500
Fanny Hill Tunnel	do	500	2,500
Pennman's Tunnel	do	300	1,500
Hope Tunnel	do do	100	900
Root Hog or Die Tunnel	do do	160	4,000
Morning Star Tunnel	do do	150	1,200
North Star Tunnel	do do	60	2,000
Hell's Delight Tunnel	do do	400	3,000
Viola Tunnel	do do	150	500
Light Foot Tunnel	Bird's Valley	600	2,000
Oneida Tunnel	do do	600	4,000
Star of the West Tunnel	do do	400	5,000
Exchange Tunnel	do do	500	4,000
Buckeye Tunnel	do do	400	4,500
Yankee Tunnel	do do	400	1,300
Bird's Valley Tunnel	do do	1,500	6,000

STATISTICS OF PLACER COUNTY.

Name of Tunnel.	Locality.	Length.	Cost.
Specimen Tunnel	Bird's Valley	800	2,000
Washington Tunnel	do do	700	6,000
Mt. Cosumnes Tunnel	do do	1,000	30,000
Stony Bar Tunnel	Stony Bar	600	10,000
IOWA HILL DIVIDE.			
Name of Tunnel.	Locality.	Length.	Cost.
Old Michigan Tunnel	Wisconsin Hill	900	5,400
Louisiana Tunnel	do do	900	8,100
Mississippi Tunnel	do do	300	2,700
Auburn Tunnel	do do	400	2,800
Cincinnati Tunnel	do do	1,000	8,000
Washington Tunnel	do do	200	1,600
Sacramento Tunnel	do do	800	8,000
Lone Star Tunnel	do do	500	7,500
West Point Tunnel	do do	500	7,500
Hoosier Tunnel	do do	400	4,000
Pennsylvania Tunnel	do do	500	5,000
Bennett Boys' Tunnel	do do	350	3,500
Selden Tunnel	do do	400	4,000
Ohio Tunnel	do do	1,000	15,000
New York Tunnel	do do	600	6,000
Morning Star Tunnel	do do	900	9,000
Mammoth Tunnel	do do	500	4,000
Valencia Tunnel	do do	700	4,900
El Dorado Tunnel	do do	800	8,000
Coloma Tunnel	do do	1,000	25,000
Sailor Tunnel	do do	350	3,500
Buckeye Tunnel	do do	400	4,000
Monticello Tunnel	do do	800	6,400
Hawkeye Tunnel	do do	200	1,600
Golden Gate Tunnel	do do	600	12,000
Jenny Lind Tunnel	do do	300	3,000
Bennett Tunnel	do do	300	3,000
American Tunnel	do do	350	3,500
Hope Tunnel	do do	600	6,000
Monumental Tunnel	do do	400	4,800
Nevada Tunnel	do do	500	5,000
Harris Company's Tunnel	do do	500	5,000
Forest Rose Tunnel	do do	150	1,200
Findley Tunnel	do do	150	1,200
Wisconsin Tunnel	do do	500	4,900
Silver Grey Tunnel	do do	500	4,500
Refuge Tunnel	do do	950	9,500
Washington Tunnel	do do	300	3,000
Virginia Tunnel	do do	400	4,400
Iowa Tunnel	do do	900	9,000
Invincible Tunnel	do do	500	4,000
Atchison Tunnel	do do	300	2,700
Elizabeth Tunnel	do do	300	3,000

Name of Tunnel.	Locality.	Length.	Cost.
Philadelphia Tunnel	Wisconsin Hill	100	600
Lebanon Tunnel	do do	1,300	45,500
Chicago Tunnel	do do	900	9,000
Placer Tunnel	do do	700	8,400
San Francisco Tunnel	do do	900	10,800
Judge Berry Tunnel	do do	900	8,100
Prospect Tunnel	do do	1,000	9,000
Bay State Tunnel	do do	1,150	11,500
Humboldt Tunnel	do do	1,200	12,000
Illinois Tunnel	do do	500	6,000
California Tunnel	do do	800	9,600
Volcano Tunnel	do do	500	6,000
Caledonia Tunnel	do do	800	8,000
Hopkins Tunnel	do do	300	2,400
Rough & Ready Tunnel	Grizzly Flat	400	8,000
Vigilance Tunnel	do do	400	10,000
Simon Peter Tunnel	do do	200	5,000
Sam Slapp Tunnel	do do	300	2,000
Ben Franklin and R'h and R'y T'l	do do	1,500	15,000
McKennon's Tunnel	do do	200	3,000
Rip Van Winkle Tunnel	do do	700	6,000
Know Nothing Tunnel	Grizzly Canon	500	6,000
Defiance Tunnel	Sucker Flat	800	9,600
Sucker Flat Tunnel	do do	600	7,200
Mountain Echo Tunnel	do do	250	2,000
Indiana Tunnel	do do	400	4,000
Golden Hope Tunnel	Elizabethtown	1,000	60,000
Caroline Tunnel	do	1,000	20,000
Wolverine Tunnel	Roach Hill	1,800	20,000
Empire Tunnel	do do	1,300	10,000
Glencoe Tunnel	do do	263	1,600
Mount Holyoke Tunnel	do do	500	7,500
Pacific Tunnel	do do	1,700	20,000
Roanoke Tunnel	do do	2,000	18,000
Columbus Tunnel	do do	2,000	28,000
Dayton Tunnel	do do	1,800	29,000
Shelby Tunnel	Monona Flat	1,200	18,000
Medford Tunnel	do do	600	6,000
San Francisco and Stockton Tunnel	do do	1,400	38,000
Vigilance Tunnel	do do	1,400	17,000
Penn Valley Tunnel	M't Pleasant Flat	900	15,000
North Star Tunnel	Iowa Hill	2,400	50,000
Sailor Union Tunnel	do do	1,800	20,000

The whole number of feet of tunnel run in the county amount, in the aggregate, to 186,990, at an aggregate cost of \$2,716,200. Nearly the whole of this great outlay of money has been made by comparatively poor men, who earned the money thus invested by their labor in surface or hydraulic claims. A portion, however, was invested by capitalists, but there is only an occasional instance of tunnels having been run by capitalists where they have received any return from their claims for the money thus invested.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF TOWNS.

IOWA HILL.

Immediately connected with the history of Iowa Hill, is also the history of Independence Hill, Roach Hill, Bird's Flat, Monona Flat, and Grizzly Flat. The rich hill diggings at those places, the discovery of which was first made at Iowa Hill, in 1853, and soon after extended to all the places above named, caused the large, populous, and flourishing town of Iowa Hill to spring up like magic, and in two years to become the principal town in the eastern part of Placer County.

The first discoveries of gold made where the town of Iowa Hill now stands, was upon the ground known as the Jamison claims, first called the Kennedy claims. These claims lie upon the north side of the ridge, in the head of a gulch leading into the North Fork of the American river. The claims are now worked on an extensive scale by the hydraulic process, and are rapidly ascending the hill towards the principal street of the town, which is destined eventually to be washed away; tunnels driven through the hill having demonstrated the fact that the whole of the ground upon which the town stands is auriferous; also, that rich and extensive deposits of gold exist at a great depth immediately under where are now the principal business houses. The Jamison and North Star claims are the principal claims at this place, and each have yielded sums of money to their lucky owners almost incredible to relate. The North Star is said to have yielded three hundred thousand dollars for the first twelve months' work done in the claim after pay dirt was reached. This statement in regard to the yield of the North Star claims, is authentic. Mr. John C. Coleman is the business manager of the North Star Company; and under his management, notwithstanding the quality of dirt washed is not what would be denominated rich, it pays good dividends to the shareholders. A tunnel has been driven clear through the hill, from the north side of town, a distance of 3,000 feet, to Indian Cañon, on the south side of town. At the mouth of the tunnel, on Indian Canon, there is a mill for crushing the stone and cement, similar in structure and upon the same principle as the common quartz mills. The dirt being a hard cement, it was found impossible to separate the gold from it by the ordinary process of washing, and the experiment of crushing was made with cheap machinery, which, upon a fair trial, was found to answer the purpose. The North Star cement crushing mills, are the first works of the kind erected for that purpose in the State, and as they have proved so eminently successful in this instance, can scarcely fail to come into constant and universal use wherever the dirt in which gold is found is of a similar character.

The principal tunnel diggings of Iowa Hill are situated above the town, at Roach Hill, and extend a distance of near three miles up Indian Canon. Many of them have been driven into the hill to the centre, a distance of

1,000 feet, and some of them even as far as 2,000 feet. According to a calculation made upon authentic information obtained from an undoubted source, the tunneling upon the Iowa Hill divide, on both sides of Indian Cañon, including Wisconsin Hill, Grizzly Flat, and Elizabethtown diggings, amounts to 62,460 feet, at a cost of \$827,300. By far the most costly, and at the same time the most productive of these tunnels, are those at Iowa Hill proper, and Roach Hill, and Monona Flat. The amount of money which has been taken out of those which are now worked and are paying, cannot be correctly ascertained; but it far exceeds the cost of running the tunnels, and yet the riches of the hills are only just commenced to be developed.

The business of Iowa Hill consists of three large grocery stores, four hotels, five drygoods and clothing stores, one fancy store, three variety stores, one brewery and soda factory, two hardware and tinware stores, and two butcher shops; besides the usual number of bowling alleys, billiard, and lager beer saloons. Iowa Hill also has a splendid Catholic Church building, a Methodist Church edifice, a Masonic Lodge, and a lodge of the I. O. of O. F.'s; also a public school, and a theatre.

On the 2d of February, 1857, the whole of the business part of the town was destroyed by fire; the loss to the citizens by which was estimated at a half million of dollars. Notwithstanding this severe loss, the town was immediately rebuilt with better buildings, presenting a better appearance than before the conflagration. The buildings of Iowa Hill are principally of wood, yet there are some of brick and stone. There is a daily stage, running from Iowa Hill to Illinoistown, connecting with the California Stage Co.'s stages to Dutch Flat, Grass Valley, Auburn, and Sacramento.

Iowa Hill, like all other old towns in California, has been the scene of many of those outrages upon law so common in this State, and which have rendered our people subject to the charge of an inclination to take the law into their own hands, and execute it without the sanction of judge or jury. But whatever may have been the habits, customs, and morals of the inhabitants of the town in former years, the citizens of the place at the present day are as religious, moral, and intelligent, as those of the average of small towns in the State.

There have been two newspaper enterprises started in Iowa Hill. The *News*, by Olmstead and Miller, in 1855, and the *Patriot*, by E. B. Boust, in 1859; both of which practically demonstrated the fact that the business resources of the place were not sufficient to support a respectable newspaper. Both of the papers mentioned, were conducted with the average ability of similar publications in country towns, and both were worthy of support; but notwithstanding their deserts, and the high appreciation in which they were held by the citizens of the town and vicinity, the publishers were forced to seek a larger and better field in which to display their genius and talents with a reasonable hope of obtaining a living.

A great deal of the ground upon which the town is built, having been undermined, it is observed that it is gradually sinking, rendering brick or stone structures unsafe to live in. This doubtless has an injurious effect upon the value of property, and will, eventually, as was the case with Michigan Bluff, cause the buildings to be removed to where there is a more stable foundation upon which they may stand.

WISCONSIN HILL AND ELIZABETHTOWN.

Wisconsin Hill and Elizabethtown are situated on the southerly side of Indian Cañon and about two miles from Iowa Hill. The two places are about three-fourths of a mile apart, and, were it not for a deep ravine which separates them, and the two different appellations which distinguish them, they might be considered as one village. Elizabethtown was settled by miners early in the fall of 1850, and took its name from the wife of one of the early settlers, who moved with his family to the place and opened a boarding-house, his wife, Elizabeth, being the first white woman who ever visited the place. The diggings at Elizabethtown were good, and soon after their discovery the place grew to be a considerable town, sporting several provision stores and drinking saloons, the requisite number of hotels to furnish accommodations to travelers, prospectors and the sporting men who favored the place with their presence—this class being looked upon at that day, in California, as being as essential acquisitions to a town as "round tents" and grocery stores, and without whom no place could flourish. The place grew rapidly, and was the most noted place north of Shirt Tail and south of the North Fork, until it was eclipsed in 1854 by its rivals, Wisconsin Hill and Iowa Hill. The era which marks the rise of the latter places also marks the downfall of "Elizabeth," it dwindling down until nothing remained to mark the spot where it stood but a few scattered miners' cabins and an apology for a hotel, dignified by being called "the boarding-house."

Wisconsin Hill took its rise in 1854, and gained immense accessions to its population, caused by reports of rich and extensive hill diggings being discovered in the hill upon which the town was built, and those adjacent. About this time there was quite a mania for tunneling, and about one hundred companies were formed, who staked off claims and commenced running tunnels into the hills in the vicinity of the town. The operatives in the tunnels were men who owned shares in the claims in which they worked, yet, as every claim was owned by joint stock companies, the wages received by the working men in each was sufficient to keep up the assessments upon their own shares and supply them with sufficient means to pay their board, purchase their clothes and leave them a handsome allowance for spending money. The laboring population of Wisconsin Hill proper perhaps never amounted to more than one hundred and fifty men; but there were a number of miners on Shirt Tail and the tributaries of Indian Cañon who resorted to the place weekly for the purpose of purchasing their supplies and indulging in a Sunday's recreation, and as this class usually had plenty of money and there were plenty of inducements offered them for investment, they managed always to deposit enough in the different institutions to keep up some half dozen saloons, two hotels, several restaurants, clothing establishments, grocery stores, etc., until the spring of 1856, when the tunnels commenced to reach the center of the hills, and no rich deposits being struck, capitalists ceased to furnish the wherewithal to pay men for driving the tunnels, and claims were "laid over" to wait for future developments. From this time they commenced to dwindle; but soon again the hopes of the business men and property-holders were revived by the completion of a turnpike road across Shirt Tail Cañon, connecting the place with Yankee Jim's, and another across Indian Canon, connecting it with Iowa Hill. But instead of

these roads inducing an increased population, by rendering the place easy of access, they furnished the superabundant population with an easy mode of transit from it to some more favored locality, where men could invest their labor to better advantage, and so the place continued to decline until the completion of several ditches leading water to the place furnished such increased facilities for washing that the few miners remaining, by washing away the hill-sides by the hydraulic process, could make mining a paying business, since which a slight improvement in the business appearance of the place is perceptible. It now supports two provision and grocery stores, two butcher shops, two boarding-houses, a hotel, and several drinking saloons. The residents have also, within the last twelve months, renovated a number of the old dilapidated buildings upon either side of the street, which gives the town an improved appearance.

GOLD HILL.

Among the prominent towns built on the banks of the Auburn Ravine, is that known as Gold Hill. As the name indicates, it is a mining village; although it receives considerable support and trade from the agriculturalists who reside below and contiguous. The town received its name from the fact that gold was discovered on the hill, which rises in a conical shape a few yards west of the main street. In the spring of 1851, about simultaneous with the discovery of gold on various hills of the State, a party of Georgia miners set out from the town of Ophir, four and a half miles above the place now known as Gold Hill, on a prospecting expedition. They passed down the Auburn Ravine from bar to bar, looking for some place where they might make a "rich strike," as others had done before on the bars above and below Ophir. Our party of prospectors little dreamed of finding "hill diggings," but were anxious to discover some locality in the bed of this rich stream, where the sands had not buried the bed rock beneath the hope of a prospect in the dry season. As this party reached a low point making off a hill in the Auburn Ravine, just below an extensive flat, gold was discovered in the rich and dark alluvial soil. This lead or deposit was traced by the usual mode of pan prospecting, until it was decided that the hill "would pay." The spot or elevation of ground at once was, as a matter of necessity, designated "Gold Hill," and by common consent it has been since known by this name. Two large mining companies were soon after organized, their claims staked off, and preparations made for bringing water from the ravine, about one mile and a half above, to the top of the hill. These companies were respectively known as the "Georgia" and the "Ohio," and the members of each immediately commenced the survey of the ditches, which were, and are still known by the same names, and which were completed and conducted water upon the hill early in 1852. The Georgia ditch was first completed, and the company commenced the work of "ground sluicing" on the southeast point of the hill, which is now marked and covered by the building belonging to Hill & Devane. About the same time, the point opposite, on the south side of the ravine, distinguished at this time as "Gardner's Hill," was discovered and mined by Castle & Co.; also, a point of land of less altitude, off the northwest section of Gold Hill. Both

these localities afforded the richest yields of gold ever discovered in the town. A small blind ravine winds and turns immediately north of the base of Gold Hill, and which has been known since 1853 as "Humbug." This was prospected in pits, later in 1852, by Dr. J. A. Bond and Charles Sprague; but in the year following, A. S. Smith made further discoveries, and staked off the ravine for a quarter of a mile, dividing the ground into one hundred feet claims among the miners. These claims proved quite rich, and Dr. O. K. Levings, Spruance Brothers, and Mariner, Willard & Co., during the summer of 1853, took from the same a large amount of gold dust. This mining led to further and later discoveries, and to the final opening up of "Humbug Flat," into which this little stream of water emptied and lost itself; and which is finally being worked out by Chinese miners.

During the same year, rich gold deposits were discovered in the vicinity of Gold Hill, which all contributed to build up rapidly the town. Half a mile north of the town Doty's Ravine makes its way towards the plains. Bars were opened along this little stream, which proved to be very productive. Peters Brothers, in the year 1853, with the use of the common rocker, took out over ten thousand dollars, in coarse gold, on this stream. Their successors, in the latter part of the same year, also re-worked the same claim with a "tom," and made another fortune. Dutch Ravine, which also runs parallel with the Auburn Ravine, and empties into it immediately below Gold Hill, was partially opened by miners the same year, and is yet yielding up the precious metal.

The site of this town being among the foot hills, the topography of the vicinity is one continuous succession of hills and ravines—one day, perhaps, an extensive table land, but by the action of water at the annual floods, during a period of generations, the face of the country was cut up into ravines and hills. The locality is also thickly interspersed with quartz ledges, which generally follow the northeast and southwest points of the compass, and crop-out on many of the highest hills. Some of these ledges have been prospected, but they have been found to be "spotted," and generally their working has not proven remunerative. A small quartz-mill was erected on Shipley's Ravine, in 1857, by Stewart & Co., but the rock failed to prove remunerative. The same mill was subsequently worked by J. W. Spann & Co., but after a more thorough trial, again abandoned.

Soon after the discovery of gold on Gold Hill and the surrounding hills, parties of miners began to agitate the feasibility of working the Auburn Ravine, in the vicinity. Although that which was denominated "pay dirt" was deeply buried in sand and gravel, washed by the floods from the debris of the miners, then and before laboring for miles above, it was determined by the enterprising people who settled at this camp, that the ravine might be opened by long drains, and the worthless dirt removed by the shovel or wheelbarrow. Consequently, in the year 1853, the Auburn Ravine for miles was located, and a company opened a frail and shallow ditch through the sand. But from inexperience and want of perseverance, little effectual mining was done, though several of the companies "got down," and found good prospects. However, at the upper end of the flat, opposite Gold Hill, one company (Bedford & Co.), worked successfully for two or three months, and made fine wages, until driven out by the winter rains; since which time the Auburn has been opened up annually by mining companies; and from year to year the mining has been retired down the stream, until the same has

Placer County Museum

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PLACER COUNTY MUSEUM
AUBURN, CALIF.

been opened for a distance of five or six miles. At this time, the best general paying claims in the county, estimating comparative expense of opening, are found on the Auburn Ravine, between Virginia and Walkup and Wyman's old ranches.

While all these mineral discoveries were being made, another class of people were attracted to the new El Dorado. The merchant and mechanic were assured a field for trade and labor was being developed; and during the first years of this new mining *furor*, a town of no small pretensions was laid out and erected. In June, 1852, the present streets of Gold Hill were laid out and quickly built over. The pioneer merchants were Messrs. Hill & Devane, and the pioneer "mine host" was Augustus Foost. Both of these structures were originally cloth houses, and Hill & Devane's was erected nearly opposite their present location. The hotel occupied the ground now covered by Hill & Devane's building.

Subsequently other merchants located in the town, and other hotels were erected. Flagg, of Ophir, opened a branch in 1853, the successors of whom are Crocker & Co. Morgan Bros. also opened a store next door east of Decker's Bakery, (then Marshall's); but the boys failing to have a "California sense" of doing business, they closed out after about one year's hard struggle. May their shadows always be less! They were succeeded by Douglas & Pendleton, who opened in the old wooden building built by Pery Clark and Alexander Mills, and which was so long and profitably occupied by their successor, T. Ross. This old California "shake and pole" erection was supplanted in 1859 by a brick building, the only one in the town. Other improvements, however, have been made in all parts of the town, and but a few remnants of 1852 now remain to mar the general appearance.

Perhaps the writer of this brief sketch ought not to pass by unnoticed the first case of "secession" which occurred in this town in the year 1852. It is an incident of importance, from the fact that Oro City owes its birth to the "rebellious movement."

The good people of Gold Hill, like all other communities at an early day, entertained jealousies, resulting from prospective trade and difference about which direction the streets should run. Two formidable parties arose, and they very nearly equally balanced in numbers, and "prospective" wealth. The first party was anxious the main street should run east and west, and the second party stubbornly in favor of a street running north and south. They could not agree, and the result was that the east and west-streeters lost their temper, and "seceded" down the ravine about half a mile, among those romantic native oaks, and to that beautiful flat, and builded up "Oro City." This is a brief history of the rise of this city, now unfortunately in the hands of the Celestials.

The prosperous and healthy growth of Gold Hill was greatly retarded in 1852, from the want of water for mining purposes. The two small canals, Georgia and Ohio, afforded only a small quantity of water, during the rainy season, and the town, in the summer of 1852, was almost entirely deserted for the want of this element. Several other important canals were consequently surveyed in 1852-'53. The McMartin ditch was commenced in 1853, and conducted water from Sailor's Ravine to Gold Hill in the latter part of this year. O. K. Levings, also, surveyed and constructed a canal leading to this section on a higher grade, taking water from the Auburn

Ravine half a mile above the other canal privileges. This new and valuable canal was finished in 1853, and lay idle from pecuniary embarrassments and opposition brought to bear by the Auburn and Bear River Water and Mining Company—by which company it was finally bought. A flume from this canal is the only one now running water upon the brow of old Gold Hill, all other canals having withdrawn through the force of competition. The first canal of importance brought into Gold Hill and its vicinity was the Gold Hill and Bear River canal. This work was also finished in 1853, and on the introduction of its waters, a large mining population was attracted to Gold Hill, Virginia, and contiguous mining localities. Old ravines were then reworked during the dry season, when they could be mined with greater advantage and profit, and other ravines where "natural" water could not be obtained before, were opened to the labor of the miner. From this period to 1856, the prosperity of this mining community was at its zenith; and the mining population was larger than during any former or subsequent years. A lively competition in water springing up between the Auburn and Gold Hill canals through the purchase of the Levings canal, water was offered to the miners at low prices, to the advantage of the consumers, but seriously to the detriment of the Gold Hill Company. The price of water was not only reduced, but the finances of the Gold Hill Company were seriously affected. Other causes, beyond the control of the managers of this canal, conspiring, this enterprise failed to remunerate its stockholders, though the community in general have reaped a rich reward therefrom.

This town organized a civil government in the spring of 1852, by the election of James Bedford to the office of Justice of the Peace, and a Mr. Waggoner, Constable. These gentlemen were the first judicial officers of the town. Mr. Bedford resigned after about one month's service, and a Mr. Green, resident of Oro City, was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Waggoner served as constable for two years.

The limits of this publication would not permit the writer to give as full a description of this town as he desired. He would have alluded to its former normal and healthy condition from its settlement to the year 1856, and to other prominent physical changes, and the causes of the same. Thus much has been written without notes or memoranda, and from bare recollection; and which, though mainly correct, cannot be free from errors in facts, and perhaps conclusions.

FOREST HILL.

Forest Hill is situated upon the divide between the Middle Fork of the American River and Shirt Tail Canon. Its altitude is about 3,600 feet above the level of the sea. The location is beautiful, the atmosphere is pure, the water good, and the people are healthy and prosperous.

The first settlement at Forest Hill was made in the fall of 1850 by M. Fannan, James Fannan and R. S. Johnson, who located there and established a trading-post. During the winter of 1850 and '51 they built the house now known as the "Old Forest House." The place, at the time they made the location, being a dense forest of pine, spruce, fir and oak timber, they gave the place the name of "The Forest House," from which the

been 124,530 feet of bed rock tunnel run, at a cost of \$1,888,300. A very large proportion of this immense outlay of capital has been made immediately in the vicinity of Forest Hill; and by far the greater proportion of those now paying, are within three miles of that place. The resources of Forest Hill are perhaps greater than those of any other mining town in the county. In addition to its vast mining resources, its extensive forests are supplying not only sufficient lumber for the wants of its people, but the mills in the vicinity are sending large quantities to Auburn, Sacramento, and the ranches in the agricultural districts. Lumber is so cheap upon the Forest Hill divide, that notwithstanding the great distance it has to be hauled to market, it can be furnished at Sacramento at prices as low as from any other part of the country.

ILLINOISTOWN.

This place is situated in a small, though beautiful valley, upon the divide between the North Fork of the American and Bear river, about eighteen miles from Auburn, and seven miles from Iowa Hill. Illinoistown is on the direct stage road from Auburn to Iowa Hill. From Illinoistown to Iowa Hill there is one of the most important turnpike roads in the county. The road is known as the "Mineral Bar" road, the grading of which could not have cost less than from \$60,000 to \$75,000. The hills are precipitous, and in many places the track is blasted out through solid granite of the hardest quality. The road is under the supervision of Chas. Rice, Esq., one of the principal stockholders, and as the whole of the travel and freighting from Sacramento and other places below for Iowa Hill and all the rich mineral region of country lying between the North Fork of the American river and Shirt Tail must necessarily pass over this road, it pays a reasonable profit upon the cost of its construction.

The mining at Illinoistown was never extensive, and no rich developments were ever made there sufficient to make the town worthy of note as a mining camp, but the situation is an important one in many other respects, and although there are few inhabitants in and about the place, the trade in lumber, miners' supplies, etc., has always been considerable and profitable. The circumstances attending the first settlement of the place, and the ceremony of its christening we find graphically described in a historical sketch of the place, published in the *Placer Herald*, on the 18th of September, 1852, from which we extract the following as the most reliable information in regard to its early history that we can obtain:

"This beautiful valley was first occupied by a few traders in 1849. At that time there was but little mining done within several miles of the place, but discoveries of rich deposits soon after caused hundreds to settle there. [The writer evidently means that the "discovery of rich deposits" were made upon the rivers, and not immediately in the vicinity of the town.—ED.] The bars, and not unfrequently the banks of the North Fork of the American and also of Bear river proved very rich, added to which, many of the immigrants arriving by the Truckee route halted there. Although immense piles were not often made, yet few portions of the mines ever paid better on the average. The settlement at first had as many names as the heroine of a modern romance; but in the month of October, '49, the miners had a

grand dinner in the town of four houses, and as the residents and miners were mostly Illinoisans, they, by acclamation and a bottle of whisky, named the place Illinoistown."

From the same sketch we learn that there was at that time—1852—a nursery of fruit trees, and some excellent gardens at the place; it being the only account we have of an attempt being made, at that early day, to raise fruit in that portion of Placer county. Illinoistown was at that time considered the "head of wagon navigation," from which to the mines on the rivers, and between the North Fork and Shirt Tail, all the supplies of the inhabitants had to be packed on the backs of mules.

One great source of wealth to the residents of the town is the extensive forests of excellent timber which abounds in the vicinity. There are two steam saw mills here, which produce yearly millions of feet of lumber, which is sold to the miners in the vicinity, and to the people of the towns in the foothills, at a good price.

RATTLESNAKE.

The village of Rattlesnake is situated on a beautiful flat, on the North Fork of the American River, about seven miles below Auburn. It is located near Manhattan, Horseshoe and Rattlesnake Bars. The mines in the channel, banks and bars of the river were worked in 1849, and were exceedingly rich; and large numbers of miners flocked to that portion of the river to work during the summer and fall seasons, but left again as soon as the winter rains set in, and no permanent settlements were made until after the discovery of the rich diggings in the flat on which the village now stands; which discovery was made by John C. Barnett & Co., on the 19th day of April, 1853. The first pan-full of dirt washed by the happy discoverers, after they reached the bed-rock, contained \$15 27. They then washed a bucket-full of the dirt, and obtained \$20.

The discovery of these rich diggings in the flat created great excitement among the miners in the vicinity on the river, and at Auburn, Ophir, and other towns in the region round about, and hundreds of men were to be seen daily flocking to the place to secure claims. Many persons who visited the claim of Barnett & Co. would obtain leave of the company to wash out a pan-full of the dirt, and were often surprised to find a pan-full of the gravel to contain several dollars' worth of gold.

The pay-dirt in the flat was from twenty to sixty feet deep, and so extensive as to give employment to a large number of men. During the summer of 1853, the travel to and from the place was so great, that a stage line was started between it and Auburn, which ran daily, and did a good paying business. Substantial buildings were put up, and the place grew rapidly, soon becoming one of the important towns of the county. The location being one of the prettiest of any town in the county, it became the pride and boast of its inhabitants. Gardens, orchards and vineyards were planted, and handsome and comfortable cottages were built; showing that, if the people had not confidence in the permanence and stability of the town as a business place, they were satisfied that by a proper cultivation of the generous soil they would receive handsome returns for their labor. The superior

Young S. M. miner,
Yarrington —, ditch owner,
Yaw Wm. miner,
Yule James, miner,
Yager Fred. saloon keeper,
Yorkich Geo. hotel keeper,

Iowa Hill
Michigan Bluff
do do
Michigan Bluff
Yankee Jim's
Fox's Flat

Z

Zentmyer J. J.
Zeginbine John, merchant,
Zinwalt Chas. miner,
Zerr John, saloon keeper,
Zagenbien Wm. merch't, [Last Chance]

bds Empire Hotel, Auburn
Danesville
Rattlesnake
Dutch Flat
Michigan Bluff



APPENDIX.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF TOWNS.

VIRGINIA.

A sketch of this enterprising mining town cannot be written in detail without re-stating many similar points described in the sketch of Gold Hill. Both towns being cotemporaneous in time of discovery and settlement, a history of one is almost essentially a history of the other. The parallel goes still further; many of the earliest settlers prospected and worked in both towns at about the same time.

Virginia was opened to mining in the year 1852, by the discovery of gold on the adjoining hills and ravines. The want of water during the dry season retarded the work of miners for two or three years subsequent, which was finally remedied by the introduction of water by the same canal which conveyed water into the Gold Hill district.

In 1853, a company of miners, of which Capt. John Birston was an active member, built a railroad track from Virginia Hill to the Auburn ravine, for the transportation of mineral earth; and mining was successfully carried on by the means of this road for several months of this summer. This road was certainly the pioneer railroad of Placer, if not the first laid down in the State for any purpose. This work was finally abandoned by the company, and its labor was better and more properly directed towards the introduction of water, through canals, direct to the tops of the various hills lying in and composing the Virginia district.

In the same summer a wild project was inaugurated, and a stock company organized, to build a railroad from Virginia to some point on Bear river, twenty or twenty-five miles from the town, for the purpose of carrying the "pay dirt" for washing. Stock was issued by the grand financiers of this extensive mining company, and several persons invested money in the chimerical movement. But the project was so impracticable that the bubble soon exploded of its own absurdity.

On the completion of the Gold Hill and Bear River Ditch, this town began to assume an importance as one of the safest and surest mining localities in the State. Thousands upon thousands of dollars were mined from the hills and ravines of Virginia, and subsequently paid in as assessments to tunnel companies, prospecting the hills at Iowa Hill, Dutch Flat, Todd's Valley, Forest Hill, and other successful mining camps in the upper end of the county. Virginia and Gold Hill were the "banks," where for years the honest and industrious miner recuperated his wasted means, and from which, annually, he returned back in the fall, to the mountains, to prosecute his

Placer County Mining

labors to obtain possession of a more permanent and lasting "paying" claim. The miners in and about Gold Hill, Virginia, Ophir and Doty's Flat, were as migratory as the antelope, who came down upon the foot hills and plains, after the subsidence of the rainy and snowy seasons. The miners, after a summer's labor in these sure diggings, returned to the hills with a well filled purse, and with light hearts and strong arms, re-entered upon their prospecting labors. So time passed along with the early settlers of Virginia, and in this manner many of those rich hills in upper Placer became early developed of their mineral wealth. Early settlers of Virginia thus also became permanent residents of the mountain towns.

After the exhaustion of the more prominent and first opened hills in this district, the attention of miners was called more particularly to the Auburn ravine and to the large and small flats in the vicinity. Auburn ravine, as at Gold Hill, was considered too deep to be mined with profit, but as the gold placers most easily worked became in a great measure exhausted, companies of miners were organized with the view of opening up drain ditches through this ravine, and preparations made for removing the surface, either by water or by the hand barrow. On some of the claims the horse scraper was advantageously used as early as the year 1854. Where draining was considered impracticable, water wheels were erected and large pumps put into motion for the purpose of keeping the claim dry while the rich bottom dirt was lifted with a shovel into the tom or sluice box. In this district, at about this time, the "sluice box" was first introduced, and which soon supplanted the celebrated "long-tom," and which improvement contributed so much to the value of shallow and easily mined surface diggings.

"Quartz Flat," a large territory lying under the very eaves of the town, also about this time began to be prospected; and subsequently was found to be extensive and profitable mining ground. This flat being covered with a hard conglomerated gravel, cemented together by a clayish compound, it was found to be safe to tunnel, especially when timbered with light material. The pay dirt being near the rocks, this mode of mining Quartz Flat was generally adopted, the miner drifting his subterranean chambers with a view to labor-saving and not with due reverence to the dignity and importance of his lungs. This flat contributed its full quota towards the fair mining reputation of Virginia, although the Auburn ravine to-day still tenaciously contends to contribute its share in holding good its original claim.

The Auburn ravine, it will not be disputed by any intelligent man, has contributed more gold dust, *pro rata* with its area, than any auriferous ravine in the Golden State; and its wealth has been the main-spring of building up town after town, from its head at and near the high lands on the North Fork of the American river, half a mile east of Auburn, to its terminus in the plains, a few miles east of the Sacramento river, near the boundary line of Sacramento and Placer counties. At its head, lump or coarse gold was found, and gradually the gold diminishes in size and specific gravity, as the miner follows the winding stream to the plains, where it is lost by its own deposits. All these towns have passed the meridian of mining prosperity, though Virginia, from her contiguity to the agricultural lands of the county, perhaps, to-day wears her old garbs of prosperity, and is still, to use a miner's phrase, "not played out."

Virginia No. 2, or Chinatown, ought not to be passed by without a notice. For years after the first settlement, John Chinaman was not allowed to hold

a claim in this district, but latterly the cupidity of merchants, and the interests of ditch proprietors have forced John to amalgamate with the white man, and a large Celestial population is now found here. The error of this policy will grow more apparent as time progresses on its cycle.

The agricultural wealth bounding Virginia on the north and west will continue to add to the growth and prosperity of both Virginia and Gold Hill; and when this section shall fully recover from its miasmatic vapors, and its early reputation for health shall have been restored, a more permanent and steady growth will be inaugurated. S.

LAST CHANCE.

The village of Last Chance is situated high up in the mountains, on a ridge south of the main branch of the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American river, at an altitude of nearly five thousand feet. Diggings were discovered in the cañons and gulches in the section of country in which Last Chance is situated, in the spring of 1850, but there was no permanent settlement made there until 1852. The general topography of the country is of the roughest description; the hills being precipitous, with here and there a large space of nothing in sight but bluff rocks, with scrub timber or chaparral growing out of the crevices. On the tops of the ridges, and on the benches of the hillsides, there is a heavy growth of excellent timber, of the various species most prized for lumber or fuel. On the ridge commencing immediately above the village, an open glade commences, and extends for several miles to the eastward; but on both sides of this bald spot is growing forests of the finest kind of timber, reaching far down upon the mountain sides towards the cañons.

The village is composed of about twenty-five houses upon the main street, and contains about seventy-five inhabitants, all of whom are industrious and steady miners, or careful and money-making traders. The mines are rich, and within the last two years have been paying well. In the summer of 1859, Messrs. Parkinson & McCoy succeeded in bringing water into the diggings from the main prong of the American river, in that part of the mountains, since which time the miners have been enabled to work their claims on the hillsides and in the heads of the cañons, by the hydraulic process; and as they have been supplied with water throughout the whole of the warm season, have never failed to make good wages.

Gold was discovered in the Last Chance diggings by a mere accident, the singularity of which is worth recording. A party of prospectors had encamped upon a small stream near where the town now stands, and having fire-arms with them, one or more of the party were generally sent out each day to hunt, and thus keep the party in meat; the balance of the company being engaged during the day in examining the gulches, ravines and cañons, and prospecting for gold. After being upon the ridge for several days, and the want of success having discouraged them, they were about to break up their camp and return to Bird's Valley, from whence they had set out on the tour, one of them remarking that that "was the last chance they would have to find gold on the west slope of the mountains," for they were so near the summit, he thought if they went further up they would have to pass over to the eastern side of the mountains before they could find any more

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auriferous soil. While this counsel was being held, one of the hunters, on his return to camp, and but a few hundred yards distant from it, finding a flock of grouse, fired at and killed one, which had taken refuge in a tall pine. The bird fell to the ground at the crack of the hunter's rifle, who, after re-loading his piece, proceeded to bag his game. On reaching the place where the bird lay he discovered that in its dying struggles it had scratched away the leaves, leaving the ground bare. In stooping down to pick up the bird he noticed a rock which drew his attention, and picking it up, on examination, discovered that it contained gold. He proceeded to the camp to report to his companions the success with which he had met, when, remembering the remark of one of the party who was in a most desponding mood during the consultation, they agreed to call the place Last Chance.

The diggings thus discovered was one of those outcroppings on the hillside, where, by some convulsions of nature, the rim rock has been broken off, leaving the rich gravel which contains the gold exposed to view. This discovery led to further prospecting and the discovery in the neighborhood of Little Duncan, Big Duncan and Miller's Defeat Cañons, and also other mines, which have been worked more or less during the last ten years.

For many years Last Chance was a kind of dernier resort for the "busted miner," and every season parties would repair thither to fish in the cañons, hunt and prospect for gold until the winter snows would drive them from the mountains and cause them to return to their homes in the old placers, lower down upon the divide. Among the first permanent settlers were Jack Hyland and his brother P. G. Hyland, the latter familiarly known as "Fip Hyland." These gentlemen for several years carried on the business of mining, milling and merchandizing; but the sparse settlement did not afford trade sufficient to keep up the business, and they quit trading and turned their attention solely to mining. They both yet reside in the village, and, like the balance of the working men of that vicinity, are making a good living.

Since the summer of 1858 the resources of the place have been gradually developing themselves, as the industrious and persevering population pushed forward their explorations, and at the present time there are few localities in the mining regions which have brighter prospects for the future, or in which miners are getting better paid for their labor than at Last Chance.

A little less than two years ago, a Division of the Sons of Temperance was organized at Last Chance, with upwards of twenty charter members, and in a very short time the Division made such rapid accessions to its numbers that at the end of the first year of its existence a splendid hall had been built by the society, and out of a voting population of about seventy forty-two had renounced the use of intoxicating drinks and become members of the order; and to their credit be it said, very few have fallen from the high position which they assumed upon connecting themselves with that institution, by returning to the degrading habits of intemperance.

A saw mill has been built just above the village, capable of cutting a million feet of lumber per annum, the machinery of which is propelled by water power, which supplies an abundance of lumber, at reasonable prices, to answer all the purposes of the settlers.

The greatest drawback to the rapid settlement of the place and development of its mining resources, is the great depth which the snow falls in the winter. During the winter season it is sometimes impossible for miners to obtain sup-

plies, except by packing them themselves over the snow from Deadwood, a distance of seven miles. After the snows fall at the beginning of the winter season, it is sometimes months that the inhabitants have no intercourse with the lower world, except occasionally when an expressman travels over the snow to Michigan Bluff to procure letters and papers, which he takes to the people at the moderate charge of twenty-five cents for each letter and paper.

On the first day of December, 1857, was tried the first civil case which ever came before a Justice's Court in that Township, a graphic account of which is given by a correspondent of the *Placer Courier*, under the signature of "Dot," which we extract from that paper to show the way they did things there at that time. "Dot" speaks of the important event in the history of the village as follows: "To-day, (Dec. 1st, 1857,) although 'tis clear and fair without, 'tis blustery within. The Justice's Court is in session to try the first case by civil law in this township; which is an action brought for the recovery of a town lot claimed by plaintiff to have been jumped by defendant. Mr. W. J. Harrison, of mining notoriety, appeared as counsel for the plaintiff, and Billy D. Smith, the celebrated butcher, as counsel for the defense. After hearing the evidence of witnesses until no more could be found of import to the case, His Honor quietly and calmly listened to the arguments of counsel, and immediately after gave judgment in favor of plaintiff. Notice of appeal was given. Hoor-rah for Last Chance!"

STONY BAR, HORSE-SHOE BAR AND BIRD'S VALLEY.

As the settlements at all these places were made at about the same time, and as they are but a short distance apart, we will notice them all conjointly.

Bird's Valley was first settled by a man named Bird, a packer, who built a log cabin for the purpose of storing his goods on his arrival from the city each week with his train of pack-mules. It was called Bird's Store, until the great influx of population from El Dorado in February and March, 1850, when quite a town was built up, and the name was changed to Bird's Valley. The diggings first discovered were in Dutch Gulch and Stitchner's Gulch, and a few dry ravines, which pitch off rapidly into the Middle Fork.

Below Bird's Valley about three miles are Stony Bar and Rester's Bar, on the North Fork of the Middle Fork, both of which were esteemed rich by the miners of '49 and '50. The diggings were shallow, and the greatest difficulty to contend with was the large stones which had to be removed by the miner in order to sink a hole to the bed-rock. Some of the stones were of immense weight, and as there were no blasting tools to be procured in that part of the country, and no blacksmith's forge at which to sharpen tools, they had to be removed by prying them up and rolling them out of the hole upon "skids." To obtain a few pans of earth off of the bed rock a company of a half dozen miners would often work a whole day to remove one of these stones, and yet the dirt was so rich under them that when removed the miners got well paid for the labor incurred.

Horse-shoe Bar is upon the Middle Fork of the American river, about two miles below Stony Bar, and about three miles from Bird's Valley. Here was cut the first bed-rock tunnel in the State. The work of cutting the Horse-shoe Tunnel was commenced in the month of February, by a company composed of seventeen men, under the leadership of a gentleman from

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Maine, named Butterfield. The company was organized at a mining camp in El Dorado county, then called "Bald Hill," and known as the Horse-shoe Bar Tunnel Company. The object of the company was to turn the water through the narrow ridge into a race leading from the mouth of the tunnel to the lower end of the bar near the mouth of Mad Cañon, and thus drain the bed of the river for a distance of about one mile and a half. The company persevered in their undertaking until the first object—draining the water from the river bed—was accomplished, with the labor of the members, and at the completion of the work people had so much confidence in the success of the enterprise, shares were sold at \$5,000 each. But the limited knowledge of the miners at that day of the science of mining, and the great disadvantages which they labored under for the want of proper tools and machinery to work with, together with the high prices of labor, caused the enterprise to fail, and the adventurous men who performed the vast labor of cutting a tunnel twelve feet wide and six feet high, through the hill, in solid slate of the hardest quality, were compelled to lose their whole year's work. In anticipation of the completion of the tunnel and the opening of the diggings in the bed of the stream to miners on the share, hundreds of them had flocked to the bar, and quite a town was built of tents, board shanties, etc. But the early rains of September of that year demolished the frail dam which had been thrown across the river when the water was low, and there being no mines open for the crowd of laborers, who had been lying around waiting for a chance to work among the boulders in the channels, where they could make their ounce per day, the camp was soon deserted and the miners scattered off to the mines on the hills and in the gulches of El Dorado and Placer counties.

The river has been worked every year since with varied success; but the prospects obtained one year were never sufficient to induce the miner of one year, whether successful or not, to "try the river again the next year." At the present time there are a large number of permanent settlers upon the different bars upon this part of the river, from the mouth of Mad Cañon to Stony Bar, and the miners are making good wages the whole year round. The diggings are extensive and rich, but require considerable capital to work them properly. There are several stores along here for the sale of miners' supplies, and quite a number of excellent gardens, orchards and vineyards.

TODD'S VALLEY.

Todd's Valley was first settled by Dr. Todd, who built a log house for a store and hotel, on the site of his present residence, at his ranch in the lower suburbs of the town, in June, 1849. The location at that time was the most eligible one to be found north of the Middle Fork of the American, and was the proper distance from the river to catch all the travel from the old diggings in El Dorado county to the new placers at Stony Bar, Horse-shoe Bar and Rester's Bar. The doctor also built a corral near his house in which to drive horses when he desired to catch them for his own or his customers' use, and took horses to ranch at the moderate sum of five dollars per week, cash; the owners to run all risks and hunt up their stock, themselves, when they desired to use them. The stand as a ranch and trading post was valuable,

and perhaps could have been sold in the fall of '49, or spring of '50, for \$10,000, or \$15,000.

Although Todd's ranch was much resorted to by miners from the river and gulches adjacent to it, for the purpose of purchasing their supplies, and obtaining their letters and papers upon each arrival from the "city" of the expressman, yet the town of Todd's Valley did not commence to grow up until 1852, after the discovery of rich diggings in the "flat," at the head of the little stream upon which the Doctor's house was situated. The discovery of these mines drew the attention of miners and traders to the place and a town was laid off on the ridge, midway between, and at a convenient distance from the "flat" and "Poker Hill." The mines were rich, and although Yankee Jim's, the nearest town and rival of Todd's Valley, was the place of the Divide, yet it flourished until eventually it became the most populous town of the two. In the early part of the fall of 1859, a fire broke out in the town which destroyed the whole of the business part of the place except the provision and grocery stores of A. A. Pond & Co., and Reed & Benedict, which, being fire-proof, escaped damage by the conflagration. The property destroyed was estimated to be worth nearly two hundred thousand dollars. After the fire, the town was again re-built, and soon presented a better appearance than before the conflagration. There are now in the place twenty-five business houses of all kinds, among which are two hotels, three grocery and provision stores, several dry goods and clothing establishments, one banking office, one livery stable, three variety stores, two butcher shops, one brewery, etc., etc. Since the fire in 1859, the town has been gradually improving in appearance and increasing in population. There are in the place a Masonic Lodge, an Odd Fellows' Lodge, and two Temperance orders, all of which are in a flourishing condition and constantly increasing in membership. The mining here is both tunnelling and hydraulic mining, and both methods prove remunerative to those who own claims. Some of the richest mines upon the Forest Hill Divide are located near this place, and the trade of the miners is divided between the two towns. The Dardanelles tunnel and the Big Spring tunnel are situated about midway between Todd's Valley and Forest Hill, and until the last two years Todd's Valley commanded the whole of the trade of this vastly rich section. The Independent Bedrock Claims, No. 1 and No. 2, situated at the foot of Parker Hill, are very rich hydraulic claims, and have paid their owners immense sums every year since they were opened. Some of the longest tunnels that pierce the main divide are run in here; one of them is now just completed and has been run through bed-rock a distance of 1800 feet. It is intended to drain the large flat at the back part of the town, and will open by the next year a large extent of mining ground that is known to be rich, but could not be worked to advantage for want of sufficient fall for drainage, which this tunnel was run for the purpose of supplying.

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 Dr. Todd's
 Stony Bar
 Horse-shoe Bar
 Rester's Bar