

THE HUMBOLDT MINES.

According to a minute description given of the mines in the Humboldt country, by a correspondent of the *Sacramento Union*, who had given them a thorough exploration, they are situated in a range of mountains about thirty-five miles long and fifteen miles wide, running parallel to Humboldt river, and about five miles east of it. Their course is north and south, and their altitude between two and three thousand feet. On each side of this range a tier of mining districts has been laid out, being ten altogether. They are of variable extent, generally being from five to ten miles square and reaching from the base to the crest of the mountain. These mining districts have been named respectively: Sacramento, Echo, Eldorado, Humboldt, Prince Royal, Santa Clara, Star, Buena Vista, Indian and American, the four first on the west, and the last six named on the east side of the mountains. Each of these districts has a recorder and a code of laws or local regulations, all similar in their general provisions.

In the Sacramento district there have never been, says the narrator, more than a dozen or two men at a time, and during the past winter it was entirely deserted. It is represented as containing a large number of quartz ledges, but, as few of them have been opened, there is nothing to support the claims that have been set up as to their richness but "favorable indications." Through the district runs a deep gorge, cutting the mountain nearly to its base, and through which a wagon road is being built, and which, when completed, will enable wagons to pass from one side of the mountain to the other without difficulty. There is a small stream of water in this canyon sufficient to run a few sluices in the spring, but in the summer it is quite diminutive in size, as is the case with all the mountain rivulets in those mines.

In the Echo district, on the 25th of April, there were two families and about twenty men, opening claims, to some of which they had given splendid names, such as Scottish Chief, Mason and Dixon, Rattlesnake, Wolverine, Washington, Lafayette, Constitution, etc. Being names of good omen, and as the ledges had a favorable appearance, it is presumable that the boundless hopes entertained by the miners will measurably be realized in time to come.

There had been less work done in Eldorado district than in the Echo, and there were at the time only eight or ten men operating in the mines, which resembled very much those in the Sacramento and Echo districts.

The Humboldt district, including the northwest angle of the range, was the first formed in that region, and was marked out about a year and a half since. Humboldt City, the principal camp and the largest town in the county, is situated on Lindsey's Canyon, about a mile from its mouth, and ten miles southeast of Lassen's Meadow on the Humboldt river. It is reported to contain some two hundred inhabitants, including several families. The houses are built exclusively of stone and adobe, lumber being entirely out of the question. The leading claims in this district are the Cuba, Huntington, Crittenden, Ed. Payne, California, Live Yankee, Winnemucca, Boston, Monte Cristo, Lachine, Canada, Louisiana, Cleopatra, Cape Cod, and Johnson. There are others, it is said, equally as good, but have not been opened. Into the Cuba, a tunnel had been run two hundred feet and a large quantity of ore had been taken out for crushing. Upon several of the others a large amount of work had been expended, and, in every instance, with satisfactory results.

In the Prince Royal district, the most northern on the east side of the hills, there is, as per statement, water sufficient to drive two or three quartz mills eight months in the year, but there were only a few miners there and but little had been done excepting prospecting and making claims.

Six miles south of Port Royal district, the explorer found in Santa Clara district, an active camp of thirty miners who had been industriously at work all winter sinking shafts or drifting tunnels. They had a store and a blacksmith shop, but the store contained no goods, and there was no iron in the smith's shop. Goods and iron were in perspective. There is a never-failing stream of water in that district of sufficient size to turn one or two mills of small capacity.

Five miles south of Santa Clara, is Star dis-

trict, where, as stated, there is a canyon and a city bearing the same name. The explorer found the canyon which spoke for itself, but the city was not discovered, for the simple reason, that it had not been built, and existed only in imagination, the miners having provided a name in the event a city should be built there, which may be done at no distant period. There were seventy or eighty persons in the district who had done much work. A company has been formed there to run a tunnel into the mountain with a view of striking parallel ledges. They propose conducting business on an extensive scale. There is a good stream of water flowing from the mountains which has such a rapid descent that it can be used several times over and can be made to drive four or five mills most of the year.

In the Buena district there were over one hundred miners, and it is reported as being quite a thriving place, and cannot fail to be one of the most important in that county as it is surrounded by a great many rich quartz ledges. It is said that there are thirteen tunnels under way in the district, some of which have been run into the mountain a distance of two hundred feet and were being worked upon day and night, and about as many more had recently been commenced. Unionville, in this district, is the county seat of Humboldt, and contains two stores, a blacksmith shop, and a room or two for public officers, but slight provision however has yet been made for their accommodation. There has, as reported, been very little need for a jail, as only one or two criminal offenses have been committed in the county since it was organized. A number of lawyers have congregated there, who, as per statement, and as is usual with the craft, manage to live in a way wholly inexplicable to all but themselves. There being but little litigation their practice is small, and when they do have a case they are obliged to take their fees out in "feet," which in the absence of money has become a sort of currency there. The town has been regularly laid out, squares have been reserved for county buildings, school and other public purposes. The houses are built of adobe, and a species of slate stone found near by.

Seven miles south of Buena Vista is an Indian district, containing many fine ledges, but not over twenty miners. The wealth of those who have made claims there and the importance of the place as a mining district are all prospective.

The American district, the last found and least explored, is said to abound in rich quartz ledges which have been taken up, but not worked, and like many others are for sale, and will change hands the first favorable opportunity.

The population of Humboldt county is supposed to be between four and five hundred, of whom about forty are women and children. There have not been many accessions to the number of people in that part of Nevada this spring, for, as reported, as many have left for Salmon river, as have gone there since the opening of spring. It is represented as being a hard country for poor man; for, however rich and valuable their claims, they cannot be worked until they are opened by means of shafts or tunnels, and mills are erected to crush the rock, which require money and time to accomplish.

The winter in the Humboldt Valley, as in all the region of country west of the Rocky Mountains was severe. The Indians say they never saw any like it before. It is said there are large herds of cattle and several flocks of sheep on the Humboldt river, and fresh beef and mutton are plentiful at from fifteen to twenty cents per pound. Flour has been selling there of late at from twenty to thirty cents, barley twenty-five and bacon forty-five cents per pound, and but little to be obtained at any price. Of other necessities there are none there, and will not be till the roads will admit of importations.

The Indians are represented as being, and having been, during the winter unusually quiet, and no fears of hostilities from them are entertained.

AN ACCIDENT.—As one of the mule trains going to the Missouri river was passing up Echo canyon recently, one of the many bridges across the creek broke down as one of President Kimball's teams was crossing, precipitating the wagon into the stream, and his son David P. and others with his train lost all their clothing and some of their provisions. The mules and wagon were fortunately not injured.

Salmon River Gold Diggings.

In recent issues we noticed the departure of several small companies for the new El Dorado in Washington, and we hear again of others fitting out in various parts of this State for the same destination. Several small parties have already passed through the city from Pike's Peak, and larger companies are reported on the plains wending their way thitherward. Nevada has sent some few by overland mail, and had there been no interruption to the daily mail it is presumed that from both east and west there would have been large contributions to the new field of gold explorations.

The news from the mines of great abundance of gold is calculated to turn ill-balanced heads, and we have no doubt that large numbers of that class, and a few others, will strike out northward, during the present summer, from here and from all parts of the States, and before the rush is over, there will, in all probability, be assembled there a conglomerated mass of humans, extensive enough to claim, within the present year, a political organization, separate and apart from anything now in name, extended over that part of Uncle Sam's domains.

Towns and cities are said to be springing into being with wonderful celerity and extensive business concerns are right in the rear of the multitude to establish in the place of the mountaineer's trading post and the associate wick-i-up, their stores, their hotels and their banks of commerce. The mountains that have been unbroken for ages in unbroken silence, and the rivulets that have in their murmuring meandering course been only refreshing to the Indian, the grizzly and the wolf are now seemingly destined to be dotted with every modern institution of the nineteenth century civilization.

With this onward march of events, change of habit, and revolution in occupations and habits of such a vast multitude, as is ever ready to woo and win fortune or to chase the wild goose, and before the land can be peaceably possessed and developed by the pale faces, there will doubtless be the usual long catalogue of fortune and misfortune, joy and misery; much that will be agreeable and much more that will carry grief, and disappointment to thousands—the predominating mass, the victims to unsatiable ambition. Wrecked in morals, and frenzied by the anguish of thoughts of home, and the ties that once were fragrant with the pleasant affection of relatives and friends, many who might have been a blessing to society, fall into the abyss of human degradation, and then stung with the reproaches of the last lingering whispers of self-esteem, desperation ensues, and the crimes that have darkly shaded the bright pages of every gold field history will ensue. Such is the sickening picture that will yet have to be looked upon to the lot of us, for Salmon River will be no exception to the experience of the past.

We have no disposition to stop any person from going to the diggings; those who want to go, are certainly as much at liberty here as in any part of the world to choose for themselves; we would, however, be wanting in duty to our young and inexperienced did we not honestly speak out against the allurements of reported mountains of gold. Wealth is convenient; but there are greater riches than the possession of the "filthy lucre." Stores of knowledge, cultivated habits of refinement and general usefulness will command a people's unchanging respect, and the soul who aims in that direction will live forever, while that of the sordid perisheth and is forgotten.

Late from China and Japan.

The ship Phantom arrived in San Francisco on the 7th of May in thirty-three days from Hong Kong. The voyage is said to have been the most remarkable on record. The news brought by her from the Celestial empire, was to the 31st of March.

There are, it is said, three independent rebellions in progress in China: the Taipings; the rebellion of the canal men at Sang-tung, north of the Yang-tee-kiang river, the same who murdered the missionaries Parker and Holmes; and the rebellion near Thibet. The Taipings, who took Ningpo, maintained their agreement with the foreign consuls to respect private property, and so much confidence had been instilled that the foreign trade had doubled in importance. An

Imperial expedition was talked of at Chusan to attempt the retaking of Ningpo. The Imperialists had attacked Nanking and held possession of the river, except the fort. The famine there still continued.

The Taiping chiefs, Liang and Hesiao, had promotion accorded them for zeal. The Imperialist governor general of the Two Kiangs, Ho-Kerei-Ching, who was defeated at Lo-Chow, had been restored to Imperial favor.

At Shangae, the Taipings had been driven back, but still continued to desolate the surrounding country, and to menace the city in large numbers, from different quarters. They had recently suffered two defeats.

At Hankow and Kiukiang trade was remarkably good. The braves or Imperial troops, however, were extremely inimical to foreigners, and molested them at every opportunity.

The latest dates from Kanagawa, Japan, are to February 22d. On the 20th, the second minister of Foreign Affairs and one of the members of the council of State, as he was proceeding to an audience with the Tycoon, surrounded by his retinue, was attacked by ten or twelve Loonings and fired upon and slightly wounded. The minister alighted from his morimon and killed five of his assailants.

It is stated that the Government will not allow their subjects to attend places of Christian worship. They seized some who were coming out of the Roman Catholic chapel at Yokohama, bound the captives with cords and cast them into prison. The subject had been taken up by the Minister Plenipotentiary of a Catholic power.

Mr. Walsh, a member of the British Consulate, had been accused of setting fire to a public house and behaving in a riotous manner. An inquiry was held and he was acquitted, but there were strong grounds for suspecting his guilt.

The markets were dull; imports depressed; silk firm, and teas scarce.

The premises of O. H. Baker & Co., and Harkort & Co. had been burned.

Afraid of Indians.

A person recently from Salmon river reports that the small companies that left this city a few weeks back, are corraled about a hundred and fifty miles from here afraid to advance till reinforced, as the Indians are anything but pleasant on the road. It was reported by the same party that a train from Salmon river was on its way to our settlements for provisions. Out of a company of fourteen persons that had been traveling together from there to this place only six have arrived in safety. A fight had occurred on the road in which two Indians were killed and one white wounded. It is thought that the remaining Indians had been reinforced, and overtaking the eight whites—who were a little behind the others and had finished them off by way of satisfaction.

We hear of a demand for teamsters to take some merchant trains now fitting out here for those diggings, and wonder if the giddy youngsters have balanced in their arrangements, that \$40 a month, Johnny cake and Camp Floyd, bacon are compensation enough for the risk of livewear, tear, and the general deterioration of morals incident to the trip? Fathers, mothers and guardians send your boys to the farm, canyon, quarry or the cotton fields; let the merchants themselves risk the little brains they have if they will speculate.

The Mails.

We are not informed of the day on which the daily mail will again leave this city for the States, east and west, but presume that before another issue of the *News*, the Overland Daily Mail Company will be again in the discharge of its public obligations.

We understand that Col. Burton was to arrive at Bridger last evening with several sacks of back mail matter, found at the Sweetwater. In all probability the company's stage will bring that mail into the city and have it here for delivery on Saturday.

A DONGER.—If you want chicken dinners—which the law allows at this season of the year—and your neighbor's chickens are cooped up and can't trespass upon your lot and afford you opportunity of twisting their necks, just slip out early in the morning and open your neighbor's chicken coop door—they'll come out and go over to your lot. They will—they have done it.