

TWO YEARS
IN CALIFORNIA

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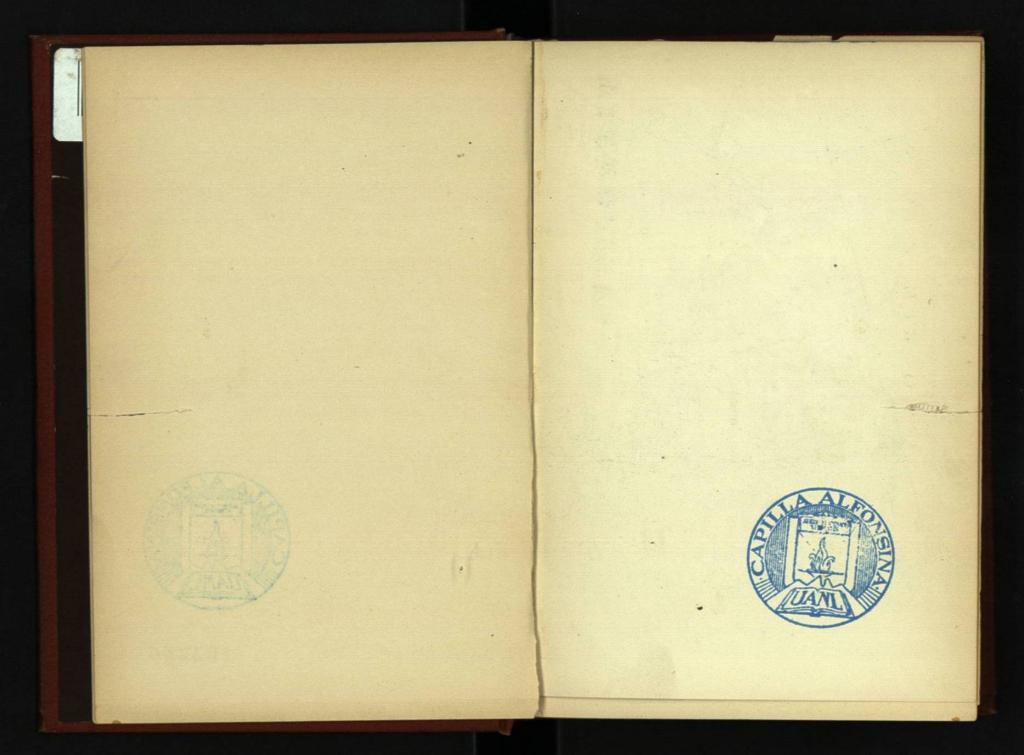


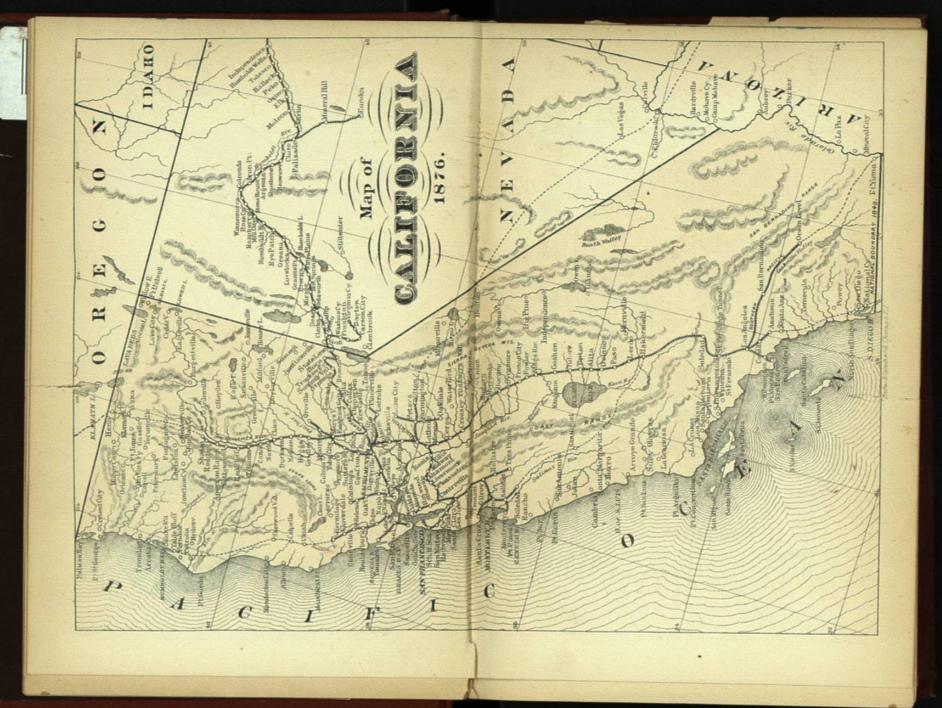
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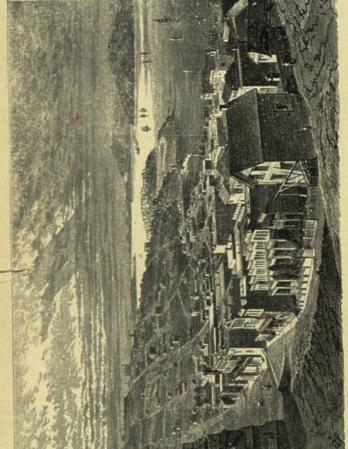
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THE GOLDEN GATE. PAGE 19

TWO YEARS

IN

CALIFORNIA.

BY

MARY CONE.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

CHICAGO: S. C. GRIGGS AND COMPANY. 1876. C1 E866

Сорукиент, 1876,

BY S. C. GRIGGS AND COMPANY.



FONDO BERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

KNIGHT & LEONARD, PRINTERS, CHICAGO.

Electrotyped by A. EEESE & CO., Chicago. TO

COL. JOHN MILLS,

THIS BOOK IS INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR,

WITH REGRET THAT THE TRIBUTE IS NOT MORE WORTHY OF HIM AT WHOSE FEET IT IS LAID.

PREFACE.

THE "Star of Empire" that has been so long traveling on its westward way has at last reached the end of its journey, and taken a fixed position. It stands over a fair land; the best, perhaps, all things considered, that it has looked down upon in all its course. Not that perfection is found even here. It is the law in this world that good shall never be unmixed. But, in the case of California, when the advantages and disadvantages are laid in the opposite sides of the balance, the former will be found to weigh down the latter to a degree that is scarcely to be seen elsewhere.

There are just now important reasons for directing attention to this comparatively new State. These are found in the disturbances that are now prevailing in the commercial and industrial interests in the eastern and older parts of the country. The wheel of fortune is revolving with unusual rapidity. Those who were at the top yesterday are at the bottom to-day. To those who are by these changes despoiled of home and of goods, new conditions may be desirable, and they may be looking with eager eyes to see where they can best find other foot-holds from whence they can make a fresh

start in the race of life. To such—to all who for any reason desire to go and seek their fortunes in the West, California presents strong attractions. That these attractions are appreciated by many is proved by the fact that during the year 1875 sixty thousand emigrants found their way into the State—a greater number than had ever before gone in the same length of time.

The permanency of first impressions is strikingly shown by the very common impression in regard to California. It was first known to the world as a goldproducing country, and men are slow to learn that while gold continues to be a very considerable product it is far exceeded in value and extent by other industries. The gold product is now principally obtained by quartz-mining, which requires large capital to conduct it. There is no longer any furor connected with the business, nor are fortunes now made in a day. Mining is conducted as a legitimate business, of which the average yield has been, for the last few years, about twenty millions of dollars per annum. As a bullionproducing State, including gold and silver, California has fallen into the second place - it is outranked by Nevada, which, in 1875, produced more than twice as much as the Golden State. But the increase in agricultural products is more than an offset for the falling off in this direction.

The increase in agricultural products has been so rapid as to seem almost a marvel. Until 1861 flour was imported for home use; now California yields the largest wheat product of any State in the Union, and is second only to New York in the production, of fruit. The yield in wine for 1875 was ten millions of gallons. One-fifth of all the wool grown in the United States is furnished by California; during the current year it is estimated that the product will reach the enormous amount of fifty millions of pounds. Then, the possible industries are so many and various that it would seem impossible for anybody to fail to find something to suit his taste and his capacities.

There has been much that was partial and untrue written in regard to California. The writer of the following pages lays no claim to infallibility, but does claim that during the two years spent in California, she made an honest effort to see things as they really were, and has tried to describe them as they appeared. Bought up by no corporation, never dead-headed, protected by insignificance from all ovations whatsoever, there was nothing to cast a glamour over the eyes or bias the judgment except so far as the loving-kindness of friends brought content to the heart, and opened pleasanter and fuller facilities for seeing and knowing. Great care was taken to examine and compare testimony, and sift out, if possible, the chaff. To what

extent the effort has been successful, those must judge whose superior knowledge enables them to decide.

The author takes pleasure in acknowledging her indebtedness to "The Natural Wealth of California," by T. F. Cronise, for valuable information embodied in this work; also to a lecture by the Hon. S. Garfield for hints in regard to climate, and to The California Immigrant Union for the prompt and generous manner in which they have responded to appeals for aid.

M. C.

Marietta, Ohio, April, 1876.

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