

Sierra Citizen, Volume 1, Number 10, 15 April 1854 — Sierra VaUer.
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Sierra Valley.

Much attention has already been directed to this rich little valley, situated some thirty miles east of Downieville, on the head waters of the South Branch of the North Yuba. The valley is about thirty miles long and from three and a half to six miles wide, and contains a great amount of tillable land, which is said to be as productive as any in the State.

Farming will be extensively carried on there the coming summer; several hundred acres are now prepared for cultivation as soon as the season will admit; and from the experiments of the last year it is believed that potatoes, turnips, beets and other vegetables, can be as successfully raised there as in other little valleys lower down in the mountains, where farming has been found so profitable. Wheat was last year sown as an experiment, and turned out well, convincing the settlers that the soil is adapted to the raising of winter grain. Many tons of excellent hay were cut during the last two years and brought to Downieville—more than enough to sup-

ply the demand.

There are in the valley at present some five or six families, who have determined to make it their future home. In addition, there are fifteen or twenty ranchos claimed and occupied by men without families, who design settling there as soon as their land can be gotten under cultivation and commodious houses erected.

This is perhaps as pleasant a place as can be found in the mountains of California. In the summer the air is cool, and in the winter it is hardly ever extremely cold. Snow never falls deep in the valley, but on the surrounding hills it completely blocks up the trail. Game of all kinds is plentiful—bear, deer, antelope and hares, geese, ducks and snipe, may be seen in the summer months, but on the approach of winter they leave for parts unknown. The sportsman can there have an opportunity of pursuing any kind of game, from the grizzly bear to the playful little squirrel. California lions and very large wolves have been seen in the valley, though they do not often make their appearance. The streams contain an abundance of fish, which are easily taken.

Sierra Valley appears to have been a favorite resort for the Indians, who built rancherias, constructed fish dams, and dug

pit-falls for game. In the east end of the valley, among the oak timber, holes in the rocks are found which have been worn out in the preparation of acorns for bread. Two small tribes still remained there when the valley was first discovered by the whites; they were always at war, and at one time one tribe carried off all the squaws belonging to the other, with the exception of two. The first settlers found it very difficult to keep stock in the valley, on account of the thieving propensities of the Indians—one party would steal cattle from the settlers, and the other party would steal from the thieves. They at length became so troublesome that both tribes have been driven off.

This valley is destined to become a very important settlement. It has been satisfactorily ascertained that the soil is adapted to the growth of vegetables most in use in the mines; and as long as the diggings continue to pay ordinary wages, everything that farmers can raise will be in demand.

Persons who have a taste for "a life in the woods," can there find a quiet home, and such as are romantically inclined, can build their cottage in a spot wild enough to suit the most poetic fancy. The scenery by the way is well worth a visit, and any

one fond of the chase, duck shooting, or fishing, would do well to collect his guns, fishing tackle, etc., and make an excursion to this beautiful and romantic valley.

GOOD ADVICE.—The San Francisco papers advise all who are out of employment, as well as the loafers about town to leave for the mines. This advice would be easily followed, provided the aforesaid indigent individuals had the *tin* wherewithal to pay their passage. But whether the severity of the climate and the “hardships incident upon a life in the mines would agree with their constitution, is a question which we can't answer.

We believe, however, that an honest, industrious man can always find employment in the mountains; and after becoming known as such, he will never lack for friends. To such as expect to make a fortune by shuffling little quadrilateral strips of pasteboard, or clandestinely exploring the pockets or money drawers of their neighbors, we have only to say that, there, is a peculiarity in the atmosphere which often brings about strangulation. Mountaineers cannot appreciate the fine points displayed in the scientific unbolting of a door, or the abstraction of a bag of dust; and when the operator is discovered, they will insist on his being *held up to*