

## Amador County! Descriptive Article

Amador county comprises an area of 548 square miles. It lies on the western slope of Sierra Nevada mountains, and embraces within its territory all the diversity of valley foothill, and high mountainous lands.

Climate.—The climate of the populous portions of the county is as genial and healthful as can be found anywhere in California. As climate is one of the most valuable assets of this favored state in attracting population, Amador stands second to no county in this regard. It should, and no doubt will in time, when its climatic advantages are more thoroughly understood and appreciated, become a health resort not only for those in less favored states, but for the residents of other parts of California. The temperature alone the central portion rarely falls below 30 degrees above zero in winter, and as rarely rises to 100 degrees in the summer. Snow seldom falls in the settled districts, and never remains on the ground for more than a few hours. Of course, in the high mountain regions of eastern Amador the snowfall is very heavy—which is characteristic of the entire Sierra Nevada range. The summer season is always accompanied with cool nights; permitting of sound, refreshing slumber. Fogs are rare, cyclones are unknown, thunderstorms are infrequent.

Gold Mining.—The county, although rich in other sources of wealth, comparatively untouched, is noted principally for her quartz mines. The deepest gold mines in America are located here. The Kennedy mine is now taking gold in liberal quantities from quartz extracted from a depth of over 3000 feet below the surface, with every indication that the pay-ore extends to a much greater depth. Since the discovery of gold, the county has contributed fully \$100,000,000 to the world's supply of the precious metal. The mines are still yielding at the rate of about two million dollars annually. Nearly all of this wealth is produced by eight or ten mines operating on what is called the "mother lode," stretching clear across the county in a north-easterly direction a distance of twenty miles. The mines aggregate between 400 and 500 stamps, and furnish employment for over 1000 miners. This industry is still in its infancy. The unexplored territory, even along the main gold belt, is far in excess of the ground that has actually been worked or prospected. The county offers today one of the most inviting fields to be found anywhere in the world for the investment of capital in the fascinating business of gold mining, not alone along the mother lode, but also in the almost untouched mineralized country of the east belt, some ten or twelve miles from the main lode.

Besides gold, we have copper, deposits of pottery, coal, iron, slate, limestone, granite, and soapstone or talc—all undeveloped.

Agricultural Capabilities.—The agricultural possibilities equal, if not excel, the mineral riches. The valley lands will produce anything that can be grown in the most favored sections. In the foothill lands all kinds of deciduous fruits thrive; also all kinds of vegetable are raised where irrigation is practicable along the numerous water courses. Further up in the mountains, at an altitude of 2000 to 2500 feet, the soil is admirably adapted for apples and potatoes. A ready market for many times the quantity now raised of these commodities can be found in the various mining towns.

Grape culture and winemaking are becoming important industries, both the grapes and wine commanding a better price than the product of the lowland.

Land is cheap compared with other California lands. Improved farms may be secured for one-fourth the price current in some places. Unimproved lands can be had from \$5 to \$10 per acre. It does not require a fortune to buy a small ranch. There is room for a large addition to our agricultural population. Vast tracts now devoted to cattle ranges might be made the homes of hundreds of prosperous farmers.

Amador has a population of less than 12000. Three fourths of this is concentrated in a strip of three miles above and below the mineral belt.

Jackson, the county seat, has about 2500 inhabitants, and is an incorporated city of the sixth class. Other towns are Sutter Creek, Amador City, Drytown, Plymouth, Volcano, Pine Grove and Oleta. Ione City is the metropolis of the valley section, a thriving town of 1000 inhabitants.

The community is law-abiding. Educational facilities are excellent. A schoolhouse is within easy reach of nearly every family. There is one high school, located at Ione.

The assessment roll for 1907 is \$5,800,793, and the tax rate for both state and county purposes \$2 on the \$100.

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Advertisements under this head, not exceeding 5 lines, will be inserted at 50c per month, or 5 cents per line for less than one month.

All kinds of Blanks for L. S. Land Filings—Homestead, Timber and Mineral Blanks—may be had at the Ledger office; also deeds, mortgages, mining locations, proof of labor, and other legal blanks kept for sale.

Mining Signals on cloth, required to be posted in all mines, for sale at the Ledger office.

Receipt books, location blanks, deeds mortgages, promissory notes, etc. for sale; also mining signals on cloth, graduation diplomas, at the Ledger office

Acknowledgment blanks for notaries, specially printed for Amador county, may be had at the Ledger office. Price 50c per packet of 50.

Furnished Rooms to let; inquire at Ledger office.

Copies of the license ordinance of the City of Jackson in pamphlet form may be had at the Ledger office; price 15c. each.

FOR RENT—Three furnished rooms for light housekeeping on the Mason tract. Apply at this office.

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Leaves Jackson every morning at 7:30 a. m.; arrives at Plymouth 10:30 a. m. Leaves Plymouth at 1 p. m.; arrives at El Dorado 5 p. m.

Leaves El Dorado 7:15 a. m.; arrives at Plymouth 11 a. m. Leaves Plymouth at 2 p. m.; arrives in Jackson at 5 p. m.

OFFICES—Jackson, National Hotel; Sutter Creek, American Exchange; Amador City, Amador Hotel; Drytown, Exchange; Plymouth, Forest House.

Prompt delivery of packages.

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SISTER SUPERIOR

## BIBLE STUDY CONTEST.

For Class Leaders, Pupils, Church Members and Others.

The Amador Ledger is authorized to form a local Newspaper Bible Study Club for its readers, and guarantees to all who join and fulfill the conditions, that everything herein promised shall be faithfully carried out.

The Ledger has secured the right to publish the International Sunday School Lesson questions by Rev. Dr. Linscott, which have aroused so much interest elsewhere, and they will appear every Friday in the Ledger. One of these questions each week (the question whose first word appears in all capital letters, and with the note within parenthesis marks following it) is to be answered in writing, and upon these answers the prizes are to be awarded.

Persons may join the club at any time during the year, but must of course answer the 52 questions hereinafter explained, to qualify for the prizes. It is, however, desirable that the questions be answered as the lessons are studied.

The International Newspaper Bible Study Club is for the purpose of promoting in an unfettered way among the masses, a wider study of the Bible, the basal truths of christianity, and the problems which enter into every man's life. It is composed of all those who join a local club, and take up the simple course herein outlined, barring only ordained clergymen. Sunday school teachers, Bible class scholars, and church-goers generally, may belong to this newspaper club, also non-church-goers. All such who have not joined are warmly invited to do so and to compete for the prizes.

### CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST.

1. The contest is open to every resident of Jackson and Amador county who may join the International Newspaper Bible Study Club and this local club. No formal application for membership is necessary. All the contestant has to do is simply to forward answers to the questions to the editor of this paper.

2. Each contestant in this local club must answer each of the questions for fifty-two consecutive weeks, commencing for Sunday, February 14, that is to say the question for each week that commences in all capitals for the

first word, the answers must all be in possession of this paper within two weeks of the close of this period.

3. Each question must be answered separately, and the paper written on one side only. No answer must exceed 200 words in length, and may be less. Each answer must have the name and address of the writer at the bottom of the answer.

4. Students should be careful to understand the question before answering. To do this, the lesson text must be read, and especially the verse or verses upon which the question is based.

5. The answers from this local club must be delivered to this office, and they will be collated at the close of the contest, and forwarded to headquarters for independent examination by competent examiners. The prizes will then be awarded according to the highest number of marks won by members of the International Newspaper Bible Study Club, and prizes which may be awarded to members of this local club will be given out from this office.

### THE PRIZES.

First Series—A gold medal to each of the first five contestants.

Second Series—A silver medal to each of the next five contestants.

Third Series—A Teacher's Bible price \$5.50, to each of the next five contestants.

Fourth Series—The book, "The Heart of Christianity," price \$1.50, to each of the next thirty-five contestants.

Fifth Series—A developed mind, an expanded imagination, a richer experience and a more profound knowledge of the Bible and of life to all who take this course whether winning any other prize or not.

Each medal will be suitably engraved giving the name of the winner, and for what it is awarded, and in like manner each Bible and book will be inscribed.

All who can write and have ideas are urged to take up these studies regardless of the degree of their education, as the papers are not valued from an educational or literary standpoint, but from the point of view of the cogency of their reasoned ideas.

## Suggestive Questions on the Sunday School Lesson by Rev. Dr. Linscott for the International Newspaper Bible Study Club.

(Copyright, 1908, by Rev. T. S. Linscott, D. D.)

Feb. 21st, 1909.

Stephen the First Christian Martyr.—Acts vi:1 to viii:3.

Golden Text—They stoned Stephen calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Acts vii:59. Study Acts vi:8-15; vii:54 to viii:3. Verse.—Who was Stephen?

In view of present day distinctions, would you call Stephen a layman or a clergyman.

WHY is it not a crime against the gospel, that the preaching of the gospel is so professionalized, that our pulpits to-day in the towns and cities, are practically close to the laymen of the church, so that even men like Stephen, have to "keep silent" in our church pulpits. (This question is to be answered in writing by members of the club.)

What was the secret of Stephen's power as a preacher, and to what extent may every layman become like him.

Verse 9—When in a community of thoughtful men, who oppose the gospel, can its claims be established better by debate than by ordinary preaching or declamation.

Verse 10.—If you defeat an opposer in a debate, that is not likely to convert him to Christianity; unless he is a sincere seeker after truth, but is it likely to convert the hearers.

Verses 11-13.—What effect did Stephen's victory have upon his opponents, and what effect did it probably have upon the audience.

Is there any necessary moral value in mere opinion, and will men ever be condemned because of wrong doctrines; i. e. wrong opinions.

When a man with right views of truth, gets angry at the man with wrong views, and does mean things to him, that the latter takes with gentleness; which is likely to be the better man of the two.

Why is it that men who profess religion, can act so like devils, when new truth is presented to them as in this case?

Verse 14—Can a man's word in a religious dispute, be depended upon, on a matter of fact, if he is untrue to his conscience and to God.

How is it that unrighteous men will fight for their false religious creeds, and shrink from no sort of rascality to accomplish their purpose.

Can you give any other reason than their unrighteousness, or assign to any other principle, the hatred of these men for so lovely a character as Stephen.

Verse 15.—Did the fact that Stephen looked like an angel, make his persecutors love him, or hate him more.

Chap. 7., Verse 54.—What is it which cuts wrong doors to the heart more than anything else.

If these rulers had been innocent of the charge Stephen brought against them, would they have been cut to the heart as they were.

Verse 55.—What do you understand by Stephen being full of the Holy Spirit.

What did Stephen see when he looked up into heaven.

Would the onlookers have probably seen the same things, as Stephen, if they had looked up.

Verse 56-57.—Did they believe Stephen's testimony as to what he saw.

Do cold professors of religion as a rule, have any confidence in the experiences of those who walk and talk with God.

Verse 58.—How would these people justify themselves, for committing this great crime.

What was the method of stoning a victim to death.

Verses 59-60.—Does the spirit sleep at death, or go into a state of conscious presence with God.

By what power can a man love or forgive his murderers.

Chap. 8. Verse 1-3.—What was the measure of Saul's sin in the stoning of Stephen.

Lesson for Sunday Feb. 28th, 1909. The gospel in Samaria.—Act viii:4-25.

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