

An Eastern View of Los Angeles.

A friend has handed us the following letter written by a gentleman lately arrived in this city, to an Eastern journal:

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24, 1874.
EDITOR BANNER.—It is now the middle of winter, and yet there has been no day or night, excepting probably a few hours when it was raining, that it was not a continual delight to be out of doors. I have no use for an overcoat, and have not for a single moment had a fire in the room where I write till midnight. After the first rains, vegetation sprung up in all directions, and sandy plains that looked as barren as a desert are clothed in verdure, affording rich pasture for extensive herds of stock.

The climate is simply delicious. It will not, as some people think it ought, bring to life those already dead with consumption, but if there is enough of vitality left in a person, it will reinvigorate their failing energies, and breath fresh life into their veins. I know of numerous cases of incipient consumption that have been completely cured, and my wife, whose health was seriously undermined by the malarious diseases of the Mississippi Valley, is fast regaining her strength, and is already fifteen pounds heavier than she was when we came here, or has been in the last two years.

There is not a day in the year that one cannot enjoy himself in the open air. On New Year's day we took a horse-back ride into the country, staying out all afternoon without a wrap or overcoat, and our Christmas dinner comprised all the ordinary articles that Illinois furnishes in summer, including green peas, fresh tomatoes, strawberries, green corn, etc., besides oranges and other fruits that you only get from other countries.

The view from one of the hills overlooking the city is grand. Within a few rods of the principal business street rises the look bluff on which, Gen. Pico threw up his earthworks to stay the advance of Fremont and his adventurous troops. Stretched at length, this soft January day, upon the young grass now springing up over the old fortification, my eyes rest upon the rugged mountain-tops a few miles to the left, their crests covered with snow, and glittering like diamonds in the brilliant sunlight. Rolling away in waves of verdure, the beautiful valley of Los Angeles, dotted with farms and orchards, spreads out before the vision, while just at my feet, the city, embowered in orange groves and tropical flowers, its streets gay with pleasure-seekers, and its cottages half hidden in masses of verdure, nestles amid its drooping hills and reveals in the fragrance of perennial flowers. Even here distance lends enchantment to the scene. The orange groves, the olive and the oleander hide from view adobe huts, and the mellow sunshine, softly tinting the salient points of the landscape, is not strong enough to bring into prominence the want of sidewalks and crossings, that is so painfully manifest to the eastern visitor, when he sets out to inspect the town from a nearer point of view.

But the city is improving in all respects, and with a few more years of growth, and a little greater influx of eastern capital and enterprise, it will rank as the most attractive city on the Pacific Coast. Already it is the resort of thousands who come here to enjoy the incomparable climate, and a large percentage of them are staying. Their presence is shown by the increased taste displayed in private buildings, and in the adornment of the yards and gardens. There is room for thousands more like them. Not more than one-fifth of the land around the city that can be watered by a proper system under irrigation, and but a beginning has been made in the cultivation of the semi-tropical fruits.

The attractions of a mild climate, where tender house-plants grow in the open air, where one can surround himself the whole year with a wilderness of fruits and flowers, and where these very pleasures can be made a source of continual profit, can not help but bring us a population that will make this valley as near a paradise as earthly homes are allowed to be.

I would not, however, advise any one to come here that has not some capital to begin on. To begin the culture of fruit, one must have the money to buy his land, and improve it, and enough to live on for a few years, while his trees are growing; and even to pursue other farming, something must be made a start on, and keeping going in case of a failure of crops, is necessary. Grape culture for the past year has not proven profitable, but this is caused more by the way it has been managed, than by any other cause. Until lately little care has been exercised in selecting the varieties for planting. Those going into the business knew little of wine-making, and many depended wholly on selling their grapes to those who keep presses. It is my opinion that wine-making will settle down into a regular business, and that with more knowledge of the treatment of the vine, its culture will be uniformly profitable. Bee culture is one of the most profitable businesses followed here. The honey produced is of a superior quality; there is a ready market for it, and the price is good. Bees work the whole year, increase rapidly, and have but few enemies. It takes less capital too, than many other occupations, and one can at the same time improve his place and surround himself with home comforts. Tobacco is easily raised and is a very profitable crop. The castor bean flourishes, and finds a ready sale, the Pacific Oil Company contracting for the crop in advance, at \$75 per ton. The plant becomes a tree here, and I have seen them fifteen feet high, and six inches in diameter, the trunk being as hard and solid as an ash sapling. Sheep raising is also very profitable, and large quantities of wool are shipped. The mild climate renders shelter and extra care unnecessary, and the increase is very rapid and certain. In some locations vegetables and corn are raised, that in size and quantity to the acre, would make even an Illinois farmer look wild; but the profitable farming in the cultivation of fruit. The price is good, the yield large and reliable, and after the trees are once firmly established the labor of taking care of them is trifling. The limited area of country adapted to the production of these fruits, will always have a tendency to keep up the price, and the prospect is that the increase of population on the coast will more than keep pace with the production.

Samuel Lord, a boy of twelve years, while out hunting on the Marsh grant in Contra Costa county last week, encountered a California lion. The boy, instead of beating a hasty retreat, sent a bullet through the beast's heart, killing him instantly.

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