

## A JOURNEY.—II.

BY A TORONTO MERCHANT.

## SANTA BARBARA AND OTHER POINTS.

THE State of California contains nearly one hundred and fifty-six thousand square miles of surface. The portion usually known as Southern California comprises probably about one-third of the whole, commencing at the boundary of New Mexico on the south, and running in a northerly direction about three hundred miles, the whole State, north and south, being under one local government. In the latter portion is situated the county of Santa Barbara, about three hundred miles south of San Francisco, and on the thirty-fifth parallel of latitude. It is crossed by the Santa Ynez Mountains, which run nearly east and west. On the south side of these mountains is the Santa Barbara Valley, in which the city of Santa Barbara is situated. The valley contains about 100,000 acres of land suitable for cultivation, its southern boundary being the Pacific Ocean. The western side of the city and of a portion of the valley is separated from the ocean by a range of hills known as the *Mesa*, which protect the city and the beautiful little valley from the trade winds of the Pacific. In this city the writer had the pleasure of living during the months of December, 1888, and January, 1889, enjoying the climate and the scenery very much, and making the acquaintance of a number of its citizens from whom he received a great deal of kindness. The winter months here correspond with ours in the east; but a visitor from Canada or the New England States, without knowing the season of the year, would in all probability suppose the time to be about

the middle of June. During the whole winter one can sit with comfort in sunny days with the windows wide open from ten o'clock in the morning until four or five in the afternoon. Winter is called the rainy season, and in the northern part of the State, and still farther north, in Oregon and Washington Territory, the term is quite appropriate; but here the average rainfall in a year is only about seventeen inches, and is spread over about five months, commencing about the latter part of October or early in November. The number of days on which rain may be expected to fall will not exceed an average of five or six days per month during this season, and with these exceptions, the majority of other days are bright and sunny, from one end of the year to the other. The summer is the dry season, during which rain scarcely ever falls; but there are frequently heavy dews, and near the coast, occasional fogs, so that in this country irrigation of farming lands is generally considered unnecessary. During the long summer of almost perpetual sunshine the hills turn brown from want of rain, and the country roads no doubt become very dusty; but in the city where a good supply of water is brought from the neighbouring mountains, the lawns may always be kept green and the flowers blooming. The winter all through the southern part of this State is the most enjoyable season of the year, although the difference in temperature at Santa Barbara between summer and winter is really very little, being less than fourteen degrees. After the first rains, about the first of November, the grass on the hills and in the valleys becomes green again.