

## 2 *W. P. Blake on the Gold Region of California and Oregon.*

of the State and a portion of Oregon, reaching the coast between Cape Mendocino and the Umpqua river in lat.  $43^{\circ} 45'$ .<sup>\*</sup> The placers are therefore no longer confined to the State of California but extend into Oregon, not only to the Umpqua river but beyond it, throughout both Oregon and Washington Territories to the parallel of  $49^{\circ}$ .<sup>†</sup> Of this northern portion of the gold region there is however but little known, and the latitude of the Umpqua river may be regarded as the northern limit of general mining operations for the present. On the south, the limits of the field have been extended nearly to the Tejon pass at the head of the Tulare valley in lat.  $35^{\circ}$ . This point is about forty miles south of Kern river where, according to the recent intelligence the placers are rich and are exciting considerable attention. This river rises in Walker's pass (lat.  $35^{\circ} 39'$ ), and flows westward over a broad area of granitic rocks to the Tulare valley, where it empties into the most southern of the Tulare lakes. South of the head-waters of this river the crest of the Sierra Nevada gradually deflects to the west and the breadth of the exposure of granitic rocks decreases, until at the Tejon, the slopes of the Great Basin and the Tulare valley are only thirteen miles distant. The auriferous slates, (talcoose slates,) are not found in the section at the Tejon pass, and this may be considered as the southern limit of the Sierra Nevada gold field.

It is more difficult to determine even approximately the eastern and western boundaries of the auriferous area. The elevated portions of the Sierra having been but slightly explored, its eastern limits are not yet defined. Its western margin along the Sacramento and San Joaquin is better known, but is exceedingly irregular. The greatest expansion of the field from east to west is probably in the northwestern part of the State where gold is found from Mt. Shasta to Gold Bluffs on the coast south of the Klamath (lat.  $41^{\circ} 30'$ )—a distance of 110 miles.

Farther south on the Yuba river the breadth in the direction of the general course of the river is not less than fifty miles. This is believed to be its average width for a long distance southward or to the vicinity of the San Joaquin, beyond which, its limits become more and more contracted to its final termination at the end of the Sierra Nevada. The average breadth of the field for its entire length may be said to be not less than fifty miles.

<sup>\*</sup> It is interesting to observe in this connection that when Prof. J. D. Dana, the geologist of the U. S. Expl. Exp., passed rapidly over the section of country in 1841, he noticed that the rocks gave indications of the presence of gold and in an article published in this Journal in 1849, he mentions the region as follows: "It is quite probable from indications observed by the writer that gold may be found in many parts of the range of country between the Umpqua and Sacramento,"—*Am. Jour. Sci.*, [2] xii, 262.

<sup>†</sup> This statement is made on the authority (verbal communication) of Dr. John Evans, geologist of Oregon and Washington Territories.