

nectarine, cherry, plum, and nearly all kinds of small fruits being successfully cultivated. The orange, lemon, and lime also do fairly well in some localities; but do not thrive as well as at some other points more distant from the ocean, and at a little higher elevation.

About the first of February we said good-bye to our kind friends in Santa Barbara, and left by the steamer, *Queen of the Pacific*, for San Diego, at the southern extremity of the State, where we remained about fourteen days. This is a new city, having grown within the last two years from a population of 4,000 to nearly 30,000 at the present time. The boom is over for a while at least, but the people are still hopeful for the future. The harbour is certainly a splendid one, and with the railway connections, which have already been made, and are likely still to be made, across the continent, it must soon become a very important shipping and commercial centre, there being no other harbour near than San Francisco, a distance of about 500 miles, having equal advantages. The surrounding country has at present few attractions as compared with Santa Barbara and some other points. Scarcely a tree is visible as far as the eye can reach, the hills presenting a very bare and uninviting appearance; but a large flume has recently been constructed to bring water for irrigation purposes from the mountains, and with plenty of water it is possible that what appears to be now a desert may be made to "blossom as the rose." The climate is certainly very equable, but too dry for agricultural purposes, unless irrigation is extensively used. This is, however, quite true of many other places in this southern country.

Riverside was next visited, a flourishing city of about 5,000 people, mostly Americans, in the best part of the "citrus belt" as it is called here, with

suitable soil, sufficiently distant from the ocean, at a proper elevation, and with plenty of water brought from the mountains to produce the finest qualities of oranges and lemons. It is situated in the County of San Bernardino, in the valley of the same name, 110 miles due north from San Diego, about 1000 feet above the ocean, and forty miles distant from it, being protected by mountain ranges from the trade winds. The surrounding mountains rise to a height of 2500 to 5000 feet, with three or four more distant snow-capped peaks, reaching up ten or twelve thousand feet above the plain below. At the time of our visit snow was falling on the mountains some miles distant, while in the valley or plain on which the city stands we were surrounded with large groves of orange and lemon trees, making altogether a scene of great beauty—the deep golden colour of the orange, the paler yellow of the lemon, their bright green foliage, the long avenues of pepper palm and eucalyptus trees, and the varied tints of the mountains and distant parts of the valley forming a picture difficult to describe, and which should be seen in order to be fully appreciated. The average rainfall at Riverside is only about seven inches annually, and to produce good crops the farmers and fruit-growers have to depend to a great extent on irrigation; but there is an abundant supply of water brought through a flume of many miles in length from the mountains. The Navel oranges, grown at Riverside, have during the past few years established a very high reputation in the American market. They are of large size and fine flavour, and being free from seeds, bring a very much higher price than more ordinary kinds. This variety is propagated by bud grafting, and the growers take the greatest care of their trees to keep them free from the black, white and