

do not build canoes, although they admire and prize them highly; they are excellent swimmers, and in consequence of it do not need them in their narrow streams; they, however, make use of simple rafts, composed of one or two logs, generally split.

The venereal disease is said to prevail to a great extent among them; and whole tribes have been swept off by the small-pox. The former is said to have been communicated by the Indians who have been discharged from the mission. All agree that the Indians have been very unjustly treated by the governor. Cattle that had been given to them by the padres of the mission when they left it, have been taken away from them by this functionary, and added to his own stock—whence a saying has been derived, that the governor's cows produce three times a year. The Spanish laws do not recognise the Indian title to lands, but consider them and the Indians also in the light of public property.

Although the country around was parched up with the severe drought that had prevailed, yet the short grasses were abundant, and it was more completely covered with vegetation than that below. Scattered oaks are seen in all directions, some of which are of large dimensions,—five or six feet in diameter, and sixty or seventy feet high.

The scenery was very much admired, and Mount Diavolo, near the mouth of the San Joachim, adds to its beauty. The mountains to the east are visible from Captain Suter's settlement, and it is said that during some portions of the year they are covered with snow. A route across them was followed, directly east of this place, by a party, but they were twenty days in getting over, and found the country so thickly wooded that they were obliged to cut their way. The pass which is recommended as better, is two hundred miles to the north of this place, through the gap made by the head waters of the Sacramento. This has led to the belief that Pitt's river extends in this direction through and beyond them.

The best route to the United States is to follow the San Joachim for sixty miles, thence easterly, through a gap in the Snowy Mountains, by a good beaten road; thence the course is northeasterly to Mary's river, which flows southeast and has no outlet, but loses itself in a lake; thence continuing in the same direction, the Portneuf river, in the Upper Shoshone, is reached; and thence to Fort Hall. According to Dr. Marsh, (an American of much intelligence, resident at the mouth of the San Joachim, to whom we are indebted for much information of the country,) there is plenty of fresh water and pasturage all the way, and no proper desert between the Californian Range and the Colorado.