

One of the falls of the Yosemite is known as the Bridal Veil. The water in this drops down a distance almost one hundred feet greater than the height of the Washington Monument. As it falls it is swayed by the wind and turned to a spray, making it look like a fleecy white veil, which, when the sun strikes it, becomes a sheet of rainbows.



### XXXVI. SAN FRANCISCO AND THE CHINESE.

THE large cities of the Pacific slope are to be found at the western ends of the railroads crossing the continent. Most of them have harbors on the coast, so that goods can be easily shipped to and from them by sea as well as by land.

At the south is Los Angeles, at the end of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which starts at New Orleans, and passes through Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, on its way to California. Los Angeles is so beautiful, and is surrounded by such a beautiful country, that it is well named the "City of the Angels." It is a thriving place, with wide streets lined with shade trees, and many gardens filled with beautiful flowers. Under the city large deposits of petroleum have been discovered, and there are so many derricks that we think of the cities of the Pennsylvania oil regions until we look at the orange trees, the hedges of calla lilies, and the geranium bushes, which here sometimes grow to a height of ten feet. There are banana and lemon trees about Los Angeles, and all kinds of tropical fruits are sold in its markets.

A day's ride by train farther north is San Francisco, at the end of the Central Pacific Railroad, by which we

crossed Colorado, Utah, and Nevada, on our way to California. San Francisco has been called the "Child of the



San Francisco.

Mines." When gold was discovered, it consisted of a few shanties built upon sand hills near the shores of the beautiful San Francisco Bay. Now it has about one third of a million people. It does a vast deal of manufacturing for the Pacific coast. It is one of the great shipping ports of the world, and we see at its docks vessels from Asia, Europe, and Australia. There are ships here which have come ten thousand miles round Cape Horn from New York, and there are whaling ships ready to start out on their cruises to the Arctic Ocean.

We find San Francisco anything but a town of shanties to-day. The sand hills have been cut down, and fine

buildings have taken their places. The residence parts of the city are magnificent. Some of the richest people of the United States live here, and we ride on cable cars up Knob Hill, past the houses of millionaires who have made their fortunes out of gold mines, the vast wheatfields, and the fruit and other industries of the Pacific slope.

Some of the poorer people of San Francisco interest us even more than the rich. These are the Chinese. There are more of them in San Francisco than in any other part of the United States. We see them everywhere on the streets. What queer-looking people they are, and how curiously they dress! They have yellow complexions, and their little black eyes look out of what seem slanting slits in their faces. They are dressed in long gowns of bright cotton or silk, and some of them wear little round skull-caps with a bright button on the crown.

There is a Chinaman who has his hat off! See! his head is shaved up to the crown, leaving a place for the hair to grow that is not bigger than the bottom of a tea-cup. His hair is nicely braided, and his braid, or cue, is so long that it reaches almost to the ground.

There is a Chinese woman. Her eyes are just like those of the men, but her yellow face is painted and powdered. Her head is bare, for Chinese women do not wear bonnets and hats as our women do. They do not cut off their hair like the Chinese men, but comb it in rolls and braids, putting it up in ways which seem very strange.

Notice how that woman walks. She is hardly able to totter along. That is because of her small feet, which are covered by her little red satin shoes. When she was a little girl her feet were so bound up that they could not grow, and the shoes she wears would be tight on the feet of an American four-year-old girl.

We see more men, however, than women. Most of the Chinese who come to America leave their wives and daughters at home. There are quarters of the city in which thousands of Chinese men live. They are packed



Chinese Restaurant—San Francisco.

away at night in large buildings, scores of them often sleeping in the same room. We see them on the streets doing different kinds of work; and did we go into the kitchens of our hotel, we should find that most of the servants are men of this yellow race. Many of the Chinamen act as cooks; many are employed on the fruit farms and vineyards; others have laundries, and a number have Chinese stores in that part of San Francisco where the most of the Chinese live. Not all are poor. They are a very thrifty people, and some of the storekeepers are quite

wealthy. Even the common workmen save their money. They work for low wages, and can live on a few cents a day. When they have saved a certain sum of money they go back to China to live, taking their money with them.

For a time the United States allowed the Chinese to come here; but so many of them were brought across the Pacific that our people became afraid that they would do all the work. It cost them so little to live that they could work much more cheaply than white men, and China has so many people that millions might come away and not be missed. And then, the Chinese who came did not seem to adopt our ways; and hence the government has concluded that, since they are not likely to make desirable citizens, no more Chinese can come into the country. Those who were already here at the time this conclusion was reached are allowed to stay; but all ships coming from Asia are now carefully watched, and the Chinese upon them are not permitted to land.

