The gold hunters of California

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Author: Farish Thomas Edwin

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THE GOLD HUNTERS
OF CALIFORNIA

BY

THOMAS EDWIN FARISH

ILLUSTRATED BY F. I. WETHERBEE, CHICAGO

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THOMAS EDWIN FARISH
This volume is dedicated
to the
Pioneers of California,
their
children and their children's children,
wherever scattered
throughout the world.
ILLUSTRATIONS

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INTRODUCTORY.

While gold has been responsible for much evil in the world, it has been the propelling force that has marked the most brilliant epochs of human progress. When Israel was a world power, she owned or controlled the land of Ophir, from which her wise King Solomon drew the gold to build and beautify the temple.

The gold and silver dug from the mines of Europe and Asia created the schools of art, philosophy, and literature of Greece and Rome.

The treasures of North and South America for centuries pouring a golden stream into Europe raised the curtain of the dark ages, ended the night of brutality, ignorance and superstition which enveloped mankind and ushered in the morning of a day, the noonday splendor of which we of the twentieth century now enjoy.

The advance of the human race, during the last fifty years, in all the fields of art, in mechanics, commerce, science and religion is due to the opening of the gold fields of California and Australia.

The stars and stripes was first raised in California above Sutter’s Fort near the present city of Sacramento in the fall of 1846. Fremont’s command, and Stephenson’s regiment and Commodore Sloat’s Marines conquered the state, and it became American territory
upon the close of the Mexican war in 1847. On the 24th of January, 1848, in digging a sluiceway at Sutter's Mill, at Coloma on the American river in the upper Sacramento Valley, James W. Marshall found yellow particles that were soon proven to be gold. The men of the valleys scattered over the hills and mountains, and gold placers, rich beyond the dream of avarice were found to be generally distributed through the northern part of the state. The news electrified the world. 1849 witnessed a mad rush to the new gold fields from all parts of the earth. Sailing vessels sailed in scores from New York, Boston and other ports for San Francisco, around the Horn, and thousands from the southern and western states took up the weary six months trudge across the plains, defying the forces of nature and the more dangerous savage, in a wild desire to enter first the new Eldorado. Ships on arrival were abandoned by their crews. All was excitement. Hardy prospectors crowded into the diggings, nothing dismayed by the dangers awaiting them these soldiers of fortune braved all in their eager search for gold; in their success they laid the foundation of civilization on the Pacific deep and strong in the mortar masonry of true Americanism.

In 1847 San Francisco was a port of entry for the North Pacific whaling fleet, a few huts scattered over a sandy beach housed a population of a few hundred. Her only exports were hides and tallow. A transfor- mation came with the opening of the gold fields.

The Pacific Mail Steamship line was established