

stopped and is gazing at us. Now she is walking away."

"I see nothing," said the older man, coldly.

I came out of the shadow while Hector's eyes were still following the figure he had seen, and stood before them.

"Gentlemen," I said, trying to speak calmly, "I have brought this box at the request of the lady you are speaking of, for she is dead."

CHARLES RUSSELL GURNEY.

THE TOWN OF CENTRAL POINT.

ON the eighteenth of February, 1889, the late legislature incorporated the town of Central Point, in Jackson county, Oregon, one of the new and rapidly growing towns of Rogue river valley. The town was so named because of its location, being in the very center of the inhabited portion of Jackson county, and the "central point" for a large area of the most fertile and productive portion of that part of the state so often referred to as the "Italy of Oregon." The town has sprung up in response to a demand of a large and populous region for a shipping and trading point nearer than the older towns of Ashland, Jacksonville, Phoenix and Medford. The county roads leading from those towns into this portion of the valley, all pass through Central Point, thus rendering it unnecessary for the residents of this region to go to the older towns either for purposes of business or to reach a good shipping point on the railroad for their produce. The town now has a population approximating five hundred, and is making a rapid and most gratifying growth. The best idea of the prospects Central Point has for becoming a city of much commercial importance can be obtained from a brief glance at the extent and character of the country naturally tributary to it. Immediately north and northwest lie several thousand acres of land unsurpassed in fertility for both grain and fruits. On the west lies a large area of hill land that is becoming famous for its productive qualities for fruit and grapes. The lands are exempt from frost and drouth, and the products are of superior size and flavor. Here, also may be found a large acreage of grain. On the southwest, south and southeast lies a soil of fertile, black loam, unexcelled for general farming purposes in the state. The products of that region find Central Point the cheapest and most convenient point of shipment. A most extensive area of agricultural land lies to the east and northeast, the soil being of a rich, alluvial loam, celebrated for the production of grain and vegetables. Were it necessary to irrigate these lands, it could be easily done, but as

yet excellent crops have always been produced by careful cultivation without irrigation. Farther east, just beyond Bear creek, is a tract of adobe land known as the "Big Sticky" country, because of the adhesive properties of that class of soil. Cultivation of this adobe land is harder than the loam soils, but wonderful crops are produced. The foothills of that region possess those great fruit producing qualities which are rendering the hill lands of Jackson county so famous. Here are thousands of acres the home seeker and prospective fruit grower can obtain at a price but little greater than that charged by the government. Valuable deposits of coal, iron and copper lie in these hills, and will ere long be called upon to yield up their stores of wealth. North of the "Big Sticky," and at a distance of only five miles from Central Point, lies a region known as the "desert." It is now used chiefly as a stock range, but will soon be as productive as the other regions mentioned. Its soil possesses all the elements of fertility, and water is all that is necessary to render it arable. Water may be brought upon this tract from Rogue river and both Little and Big Butte creeks. In a few years irrigation ditches will convert the desert into a valuable farming region. Still farther to the northeast, and distant ten miles from Central Point, lies the Little Butte creek country, through which flows Little Butte creek, and on this stream is situated a thrifty little town called Eagle Point. The soil of this country is of loam and adobe, very rich and productive. This country consists of small valleys and rolling hills, and is settled quite extensively. Little Butte creek, for water facilities, is not surpassed in this country, although but little is used, there being but one grist mill on its banks. Little Butte creek, from the main valley to its source, is bordered by small valleys and rolling hills, while away from the stream are large belts of timber, consisting of yellow pine, sugar pine, cedar and fir, which for lumbering purposes are very valuable. The upper portion of the Little Butte, as well as the entire Big Butte country, is used principally as a stock range.

To view the country north-northeast of Central Point a distance of five miles, Rogue river will be crossed on a free bridge, which cost the county nearly \$14,000.00 to construct, and is located directly opposite the upper Table Rock, from which the country in question takes its name. The Table Rock country embraces a large scope of territory, and a large portion of its soil is exceedingly productive in grain and vegetables. Along the north bank of Rogue river are grown the celebrated watermelons raised by G. W. Jackson, from whose farm the Portland market is in a great part supplied. This Table Rock country has many natural advantages, which, when fully devel-