

SUTTER'S FORT.

ON the last page is given a view of Sutter's Fort as it appeared at the time of the gold discovery in 1848 and another of the ruins of the main building as it exists to-day. The movement now on foot to purchase the property and restore it as nearly as possible to its former condition, as shown in the engraving, dedicating the grounds for a public park, renders these engravings of peculiar interest. In its issue of November 9, WEST SHORE gave a portrait of Capt. John A. Sutter, in connection with an article on the gold discovery made at Coloma in 1848, and there related the circumstances of the founding of Sutter's Fort.

On the twelfth of August, 1839, Capt. John A. Sutter, with a party of six white men and ten Hawaiians, two of whom were women, established himself on the south bank of American river, a few miles above its confluence with the Sacramento. Subsequently he changed his location a little inland and nearer the Sacramento, where was built the fort shown in the engraving, standing on the western edge of the present city of Sacramento. He called his settlement New Helvetia, in honor of his native land, Switzerland, and his landing place on the Sacramento, where the city sprang up in 1848-9, the Embarcadero. It was known everywhere, however, as Sutter's Fort, and as such has taken its place in history.

The buildings and surrounding wall were constructed of adobe, or sun dried brick, the material of which all California structures were made in those primitive days. The importance of this settlement can not be over estimated. The Mexican governor of the province was glad to have it made, as it offered a bulwark against the Indians for the Mexican settlements to the southwest, and Capt. Sutter was given a large grant of land, of the greater portion of which, as well as his accumulated property, he was dispoiled in after years. This was the parent settlement in Sacramento valley, and from it sprang many others. In the days of early immigration it was the place whose hospitable portals opened wide to receive the bold men and women who made their way to California. It offered them shelter, protection, and even employment. In January, 1844, Fremont found it a perfect haven of rest, after his terrible battle with the snows of the Sierras, and two years later it was the place that offered shelter to the starving survivors of the ill-fated Donner party. The seed sown and nurtured into life by this settlement, bore fruit in the conquest of California in 1846 and 1847, and in the discovery of gold in 1848. What Sutter's Fort was to the Argonauts of 1848 and 1849 is a matter of common knowledge. Out of it has grown the splendid city of Sacramento, capital of

California, and it is fitting that it should be restored and preserved forever as the chief figure of those stirring times, and in it should be placed a statue of the heroic founder, the man who planted the seed of civilization in the great valley of California, and who, though not the person who actually picked up the first piece of gold at Coloma, is entitled to the chief credit for its discovery, the man to whom is due the greatest meed of praise of all the pioneers of the Golden State.

When it was learned that the remains of Sutter's Fort were about to be demolished to make room for the march of progress, a cry of protest went up from the entire Pacific coast. The Sacramento Society of California Pioneers and the State Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West immediately took active measures to raise means for the purchase of the site, which has now become valuable, and contributions began to pour in from all sides. The owner of the property, Benjamin Merrill, offered to sell the two blocks of land for \$20,000, and to donate \$2,000 to the fund for restoring it to its former condition, which offer was promptly accepted and a payment made. This negotiation was brought about by Gen. James G. Martine, to whom is due a large measure of the credit for the success of the movement to preserve the fort from destruction. Eugene J. Gregory, mayor of Sacramento, is treasurer of the fund, to whom all contributions should be sent. Col. C. F. Crocker and his brother and sister, children of the late Charles Crocker and all native Californians, have contributed the total cost of the property on the condition that it be restored to its former condition, and the fund now being raised is for the purpose of complying with that stipulation.

Astoria is preparing to accommodate the thousands of visitors expected to come next year and every year thereafter. Since work began on the Astoria & South Coast railroad, and the railroad projects from Salem and Albany have been put in shape for securing financial aid, wonderful interest has been created in the city at the mouth of the Columbia, and real estate has advanced rapidly in value. One of the great needs of the city is a good hotel, and this is recognized by everyone. The new conditions will bring thousands to the city, for whose accommodation there is now no adequate provision. To overcome this difficulty the citizens have subscribed \$100,000 for the erection of a large, first class hotel. The building will be pushed with all possible speed, and will be opened for the reception of guests by the first of July if possible.

If Dr. Talmage's wealth already reaches \$200,000, he will have to do some pretty slick squeezing to get through the needle's eye when he honors St. Peter with a call.