

California Building Stone Resources (circa 1859)

Excerpts from

The State Register and Yearbook of Facts: For the Year 1859

Published annually, Second year of publication

San Francisco: Henry G. Langley and Samuel A. Morison, 1859, pp. 274-275

(This book is available on Google Books.)

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This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the
Stone Quarries and Beyond web site in the California state section.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

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Marble.

“There are numerous and extensive ranges of almost every variety of marble existing in this State. ‘That portion between Merced and American Rivers,’ says Dr. Trask, ‘is capable of producing varieties which are difficult of being excelled in any part of the world.’ The counties of El Dorado and Calaveras contain extensive quarries of this valuable material; that obtained from the vicinity of Ringgold (El Dorado County) is of great beauty and value. Considerable demand exists for it, both for artistic and building purposes. A valuable vein exists in Suisun Valley, Solano County, which has attracted considerable attention. The quality of the marble obtained therefrom is peculiarly adapted to the embellishment of household furniture, corresponding as it does perfectly with rich furniture material, such as rosewood and mahogany; and furthermore, it will not tarnish by ink, oil, or other substances, except acids. It is suitable for many ornamental household purposes, as well as those of utility, and deserves to be considered one of the most valuable, as it is certainly the most beautiful, product of our quarries or mines.”

Granite*

“Numerous beds of granite are now being worked in the counties of Marin, Monterey and Sacramento. The quality of the stone obtained from the vicinity of Folsom, Sacramento County, and Monterey is unsurpassed for building purposes, and large quantities from both of these places have been used in the construction of the fortifications of San Francisco Harbor.

(* During the summer of 1857, a mountain of glass, or what was supposed to be one, was discovered in Napa County; as no movement has been made to test its practical value, we are inclined to believe that its existence is of little importance to the State. – Ed.)

Alabaster.

“Considerable quantities of alabaster exist in the county of Monterey. Its quality is represented to be very superior, rivaling the finest Italian. This material is valuable for various purposes, and its discovery is a matter of considerable importance to our

merchants and to the State, as a large quantity is annually imported to supply the demand for home consumption.”

Buhr Stone.

““This rock abounds on the Pitt River in large quantities, and also on the north of Goose Lake. Its admirable adaptation to milling, requires no comment. The value of this rock cannot be too highly esteemed in this State, where the prospective is so flattering of its becoming a grain growing country, equaled by few on the Atlantic slope. The heavy expenses that are now incurred, and the future wants of the State in this particular, will be obviated, and our dependent condition on foreign imports destroyed. These rocks have as yet attracted little notice, but the rapidly increasing wants of the State will ere long bring them into requisition.’ – Dr. Trask, 1853.”

Lime.

“The manufacture of lime engages the attention of numerous persons in different parts of the State. The kilns of El Dorado and Santa Cruz manufacture a large quantity annually; number of barrels, estimated at sixty thousand.”