

turtle, the play of which would have been a caution to a stay-at-home Britisher. Early of a morning the great wapiti-elks might have been seen by the water-edge, come down to feed and drink, with their legs and antlers showing like a newly-sprung grove through the fog: then there was the tree-game, from sloths to racoons, going under the general name of 'possum; the ground-venison, such as porcupines, armadilloes, and land-turtle; without mentioning the coyotés, burrowing-squirrels, and no end of skunks and gophers. Out of the whole of them we managed not only to enliven our spare time during the greater part of the summer, but to freshen the camp-fare not a little.

Ultimately, however, our quarters were shifted much further inland, to rougher ground beyond San Mateo, under the spurs of the hills; and what with the advance of the season, together with the change of locality to drier soil, almost everything in the way of free live-stock seemed to have gone, save where too shy to be got at. Plenty of Spanish cattle there were, to be sure, wild enough in all conscience to be looked upon as fair game, and bold enough too; but these we could not meddle with. The only other creatures likely to be seen, worth speaking of, were an occasional grey hill-wolf loping along and the bears, both brown and black, which left sufficient signs of their vicinity, though much too shrewd to come athwart a party of Uncle Sam's men if they knew it.

The waggon and tents were at last settled down in a handy spot by the head of a creek from the hills. The one side commanded a stretch of fine open savannah, by which we had to work back toward the Bay settlements; the other was more broken ground, leading up to the pine-barrens and redwood ranges. This latter district had to be finished off before we turned to the level, and that duty proved quite as hard as it looked. Most parts we drove across in most determined style, tearing over thorny chapparal, through poison-oak brush, and up streaks of rock. In parts it could not be cleared, even by the axemen's help, and had to be done by computation. Some again was slumped in liberally, upon the averaging system, whatever the future settlers might do with it.

One or two of the localities at hand were by no means inviting to look at, by way of neighbourhood, and they went by suitable names. There was Guzman's Gulche, as dreary a rift into the solid stone as one could wish to see, with a vein of quartz shining up at

the end, remarkably like gold-sign, but quite out of reach. What was more to the point, there was Grizzly Cañon, a dismal hollow of bush and scrub, running off the level into a belt of immense redwoods that shot against the sky. According to the Spanish vacqueroes we met with, it had been formerly noted as a spot where real grizzly bears used to breed, though none had been heard of for years so far down, and the likelihood was that the Survey would make no difference in that respect. However, the Spaniards were known to look upon us with small favour; and when the question came to be about interfering with a regular "Ephraim," as backwoodsmen called the grizzlies, it must be owned there were few among us who considered it in a sporting light. Judge Tracey, the Surveyor, and our compassman, Mr. Higley, were the only members of the party who had been at the mines besides myself; they knew well how the case stood; in fact, that we were much more likely to have to take to tree than a grizzly bear was, if we chanced to meet one. For my own part, I had never happened to see one, even when up the Yuba river. Still, I cannot say I fell short as to this caution on the point; much less could I enter into the hunting view of it that was taken by one or two of our number.

At the first occurrence that took place in connexion, it so chanced that I was principally concerned. My part of the surveying duty was simply to carry "fore-chain," or take the line along for the bearings given by the surveyors, sticking in the measuring-pins as I went; while the hinder end was taken by my friend Lettsom, a young man from the North of England, who had joined the party with me. Neither of us could be said to occupy a high post in the service as yet, but so far as our head-work went, from passing the orders to keeping tally of the marks, the responsibility was all on my companion's shoulders. Indeed, setting aside his advantage in years and height, he seemed to have a natural turn for the business to which I could not pretend. It was lucky for him, however, on this occasion, that I took it easy when possible. We were rounding one of the stiff corners, too hard to get over direct, and each made the best of his way for the next bearing-point. Having sighted it I found myself ahead of the rest, and sat down to light a pipe till they joined. I had just struck a lucifer, when a rustling caught my ear in the chapparal close by, and looking over my shoulder I saw the upper half of an immense bear, as he rose on end to eye me from below. Neither he nor I