

April 13th 1854

Have enjoyed the pleasant ride I anticipated and have seen some of the finest and ^{most} romantic scenery my eyes ever feasted on. I have found one half was never told me. Got on shore this morning at 8 o'clock and found the Capt. and Mate of the Vinados who were going out with us standing by their horses which were saddled and ready for a start. Had some doubts about readily procuring a horse for my self - the Mate had engaged his previously - being told that there would be no difficulty and having been directed where to apply I was soon fortunate enough to find one which I judged from external appearance would answer my purpose very well and ascertained the fee would be \$2.00 for the day. So in a short time we were all ready for a start. The Capt. the two Mates and myself - a small company but one that was resolved not to let such a chance for recreation and a pleasant time slip by without an attempt to improve it according to the best of our several abilities and we rightly concluded there was a large field for adventure before us though not exactly a level one.

Our course lay up the zig zag road which leads to the summit of Ladder Hill and to the left from thence by a crooked but pleasant road into the country. The rode slowly the better to enjoy it and our first half hour's journey had nothing peculiarly interesting in it

besides the ride itself, but gradually as we advanced the scenery began to improve and instead of barren hills and almost lifeless shrubbery we suddenly found ourselves in the very midst of some of nature's most beautiful works.

One who has never witnessed it can ^{scarcely} imagine the picturesque beauty and variety of the landscapes which lay all around us as we rode slowly along sometimes talking and sometimes wrapt in meditation and wonder at each new scene.

Now we pass through a rich valley teeming with delight in its verdant aspect with a "cottage snug by the road side" nearly surround with trees of various kinds among which are peach pear and plum in abundance. And now we find ourselves ascending the side of the steep hills which shelter these lovely vales and as we move along under some of the shady trees that overhang the road we are tempted to stop and enjoy for a short time their cool refreshing shade but press on for we have a journey to make at the end of which we look for pleasure and rest.

On we go and after many intricate windings along the sides of the green hills find ourselves emerging on their very summits with the hot sun pouring down upon us. Here we have a more extensive view of the surrounding country which though broken is indescribably pleasing to the eye again we find our way to a more level spot and our course now