

# **SOME BY-WAYS OF CALIFORNIA**

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Some By-Ways of California by Charles Franklin Carter

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**CHARLES FRANKLIN CARTER**

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Preface .....	v
Pala .....	i
The Mojave Desert .....	24
Leaves from an Artist's Diary .....	41
The Home of Ramona .....	57
Lompoc and Purisima .....	77
Jolon .....	96
San Juan Bautista .....	118
Pescadero .....	139
The Charm of Southern California .....	152



## PREFACE.

A glance at the table of contents of this little collection might lead one to think an undue proportion of the titles pertained to missions, and the towns or villages growing out of them. That a large number relate to those religious establishments is true, five of the articles being descriptive of towns of which each one had an old Franciscan mission for a nucleus; but that the space given to the missions is unduly disproportionate may be questioned. When we recollect that the missions were the earliest settlements in California, and that of the twenty-one religious establishments, fully three-fourths of the number grew eventually into towns of more or less importance—some of them becoming cities among the largest in the state—the number taken for description may not, after all, be too great. Yet the writer has selected those smaller and less well known settlements—some hardly as-



#### PREFACE.

piring to the dignity of villages—as retaining more of the Spanish atmosphere of former days.

The places described in the following pages are but a few from among the many as interesting which might be selected. Should these little descriptions induce the traveler to visit some of the by-ways of this section of our country, the writer will have attained his object.

C. F. C.

Waterbury, Connecticut, October 25, 1902.

## Some By-Ways of California

### Pala

**S**OUTHERN CALIFORNIA, a country comparatively new to the traveling public, contains many places seldom or never heard of by the tourist, rarely, perhaps never, visited by the sojourner of years in the state. Railroads are still few, and the great stretches of country yet untouched by this adjunct of modern civilization, many; and as most tourists cannot tear themselves away from the beaten track of travel, these places are left in oblivion, to follow their own quiet life much as they have done for decades. This has been an unqualified blessing to the lover of the picturesque and to the seeker after bits of old time life and custom and architecture; for it is in just these spots, neglected by modern life and business, that the purest, least unchanged remains of former days are to be found. These spots--villages, or the merest settlements, as they may be--at the present time, are only remnants, small and insignificant; but they will be found to contain as

## Some By-Ways of California

much as, if not more than, all that remains of California's early life in the larger cities and towns; and that little will be in a far better state of preservation, if of the old architecture, or less contaminated by modern American life, if of the old customs; and each will be found set in its own proper and appropriate framework of environment.

Naturally, as in all places, east or west, left to one side when railroads are built, such settlements never become large—in fact, in the majority of cases, the result is that they are very apt to lose a good part of what little population they have. Southern California is no exception to this rule; although it is, perhaps, less marked; for nearly all the large towns were located on, or not far from, the coast, right on the path of the future lines of communication. But there are some places, historic and picturesque, not yet reached by the railroad, places that well repay the time and effort necessary to visit them. Pala is one of these, a place than which none more interesting can be found in the state.

To reach Pala from Oceanside, the easier and more usual, although the longer, way, requires a drive of twenty-four miles. A stage, so-called, carrying the mail, leaves Oceanside about mid-day three times a week, returning the alternate days. It is not the most comfortable vehicle in the world, and the tourist will find it far more agreeable to