

igation and be of immense advantage both to the companies and the public.

Diamond Springs and Sacramento Rail Road.

WHILE the subject of a rail road from Sutter to Placerville is seriously contemplated, the citizens of our flourishing rival town, Diamond Springs, are wide awake to the importance of a similar connection of their place with Sacramento. Steps have already been taken, with a view of ascertaining the most feasible route for their road. That the agents of certain capitalists of San Francisco, and who represent a large New York interest, have been eager in their wanderings, in the vicinity of both Placerville and Diamond Springs, and along the entire distance between these points and the Sacramento river, is not even doubted, but for what purpose, it remains for their future acts to determine.

If, in any event, it should result in the location and construction of a line of railroad from either point to the valley, it becomes the citizens of Placerville to be on the alert, in securing its eastern terminus. There would be little or no difficulty in constructing a road along the American, following up its south fork and terminating at this place, but should it take a more southerly course from Sutter or Sacramento to Diamond Springs, the great depth of Weber creek valley, and height of the divide between it and Placerville, would effectually make Diamond Springs the eastern terminus of the road. This, with the removal of the county seat to that place, would impart to it an importance possessed by no other mountain or mining town in the State. It would be death to Coloma, and might seriously disturb the equilibrium of the muscular, nervous and circulatory systems of Placerville.

Street Improvement.

The attention of our resident citizens is called to

lump." I am glad on that account that it is so near Placerville. DDDO..

The Big Tree.

WE have in our possession, from the hand of our friend, G. Blake, Esq., a block of the great California tree, that has stood so long the glory even of ancient days. Mr. Blake had the curiosity to go and see the identical stump of this famous tree, and from him we learn, with more of accuracy than we had ever been able to before, something of its probable age.

We had heard of its three thousand concentric, annual rings, grains or growths, from its center outwards, carrying its infantile growth so far back into the vista of departed years, as to almost upset many of the favorite theories of geologists. But by a careful counting of these annual growths, they cannot be made to exceed about fifteen hundred, from the center or heart of the tree outward; and this is probably about the real age of the tree.— And as we claim to be a botanist of profound research, we have no hesitancy in pronouncing it, and all others of its kind, both by analogy and comparison, none other than the true *Almug* tree.

Practical Surgical Talent.

ON the 23d of September, there was a surgical operation performed in Diamond Spring village, upon the person of Alexander Burns, formerly of Van Buren county, Iowa. The patient had been afflicted for the last eight months with a white swelling, and amputation was deemed necessary. Chloroform was administered to the patient; and in a few moments, while utterly unconscious, the leg was amputated above the knee. The operation was performed, in a skilful and masterly manner, by Dr. Jacob Allen, assisted by Drs. S. F. Hamm and P. C. McLane. The patient is now recovering rapidly, so much so, that on the sixteenth day af-