THE SLEEPING PRINCESS, CALIFORNIA

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The Sleeping Princess, California by Alice Edwards Pratt

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BY

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CALIFORNIA.

BUT half a century ago she lay
All mutely beautiful, in rich attire,
The sleeping Princess, California.
Not yet had come the voice, not yet the touch,
That was to thrill her waking soul with joy;
Not yet her virgin lips had felt the kiss
That was to bring her full, ecstatic life.
We see her now, as white man first beheld
Her lavish splendor, prophecy of wealth
Untold to come in her inheritance.

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Through sunny leagues her empire stretched away,
Domain as fair as king e'er looked upon:
Its valleys filled with tremulous oaten seas
Broken by rainbow crests of flower foam;
Its foot-hill slopes, soft-rounded, overgrown
With dimpled pastures such as wild bees love;
Its rugged mountain monarchs, range on range,

Here wooded to the peak, there crowned with snow;

Its placid sapphire lakes,
and living streams;