

them were young, hopeful, and romantic. Their social intercourse had the polish of older communities, mingled with the dash and freedom of the frontier. Houses were well furnished, and balls, parties and receptions were stylish, without disagreeable formality. In 1854 and 1855, South Park and Rincon Hill became social centers. The change was partly the result of speculation. George P. Gordon, a wealthy Englishman, purchased of Squire P. Dewey several blocks of land, and created South Park. It was the original intention to lay it out in four sections, but only two were completed. The part finished was built up with substantial houses, and for a while there was little that was stylish or correct in the city except in its vicinity. Its principal residents were Captain A. A. Ritchie, George C. Johnson, Consul General of Sweden and Norway; Horace P. James, Judge Wallace, Lloyd Tevis, I. B. Haggin, James Otis, John F. Osgood, Martin Klinkofstrom, Russian Consul; George P. Gordon, Charles De Ro, Thomas J. Poulterer, John H. Reddington, William M. Gwin, Commodore J. T. Watkins and Captain Richard Whiting. On Bryant street, near by, lived Louis McLean and B. F. Washington, Collectors of the port of San Francisco. Rincon Hill was covered with residences a little later. Among the first, and still among the most conspicuous, was the house of General Halleck, at the corner of Second and Folsom streets, occupied at present by Colonel Granniss. William F. Babcock built, at a very early day, the dwelling which he still occupies, at the corner of Stanley Place and Essex. The boundaries of South Park and Rincon Hill were never well defined, the neighborhood including Second, Bryant, Harrison, and some adjacent streets and places. Within these limits lived Bishop Kip, P. Sather, Frank Randall, J. W. Tucker, John O. Earl, Benjamin Horne, Thomas H. Selby, H.