

SAN JOSE DIRECTORY.

THE CITY OF SAN JOSE.

History informs us that the site upon which the City of San José is built was first occupied in 1777 as an outlying post, the headquarters of Spanish military authority in Upper California being at the Presidio of San Francisco. The surpassing fertility of the soil, and especially its adaptability to the culture of the cereals, led to this early occupation and settlement. Thus while the war of the Revolution was being fought upon the soil of the Atlantic Colonies, Spain was extending her peculiar civilization on the Pacific, and her pioneers almost invariably selected the most favored spots. If their settlements did not have a rapid growth, if they languished in primitive rudeness and poverty, it was not owing to lack of natural resources, but to the peculiar circumstances of their isolation and to the habits, ideas and temperaments of the people. The strong and redeeming fact remains, that the early Spanish settlements indicated to their more enterprising followers the proper and natural sites for large cities and prosperous towns. San José is a noteworthy example of the shrewdness of the first settlers in determining the ground of occupation for a center of trade that should control the exchanges of rich and extensive valleys, and of the vast scope of surrounding hill and mountain lands, the productive capacity of which has been