

Gate was passed by Francisco Paulo and Benito Cambon and the Mission Dolores founded, and thence dates its opening and occupation.

About the great bay are numerous estuaries and tidal inlets, as well as bold landing places constituting harbors of every class. The most notable are Oakland, Benicia, Vallejo and Sausalito. Oakland being at the terminus of the transcontinental railroad, and directly opposite the great city of San Francisco, is most important. This city lies upon the broad estuary of San Antonio, upon which such improvements are making and ordered by Government as to make it one of the most convenient and best protected harbors in the world. Vallejo, although twenty-three miles distant from Golden Gate, is much used in freighting ships with wheat. Here is the Navy Yard of Mare Island, the chief naval station on the Pacific Coast. The other harbors and landings are so numerous that the whole Bay of San Francisco and its contiguous sheets of water, with their three or four hundred miles of shore line, may be regarded as one grand harbor. In this respect, with its central location, its contributory rivers, its surrounding country rich in agriculture and minerals, and the salubrity of its climate, render it the largest, best and most favored harbor of the globe.

A few miles north of the entrance to San Francisco is Drake's Bay, more interesting from its historical associations than important as a shelter of commerce. Here the renowned navigator, Sir Francis Drake, landed in the summer of 1578, near three hundred years ago, and took possession of the country in the name of Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen of England. While here a monument was erected commemorative of the event, and engraved plate and coin deposited, but they have never been recovered. The Portuguese navigator, Cabrillo, under the orders of Mendoza, Viceroy of Mexico, had sailed along the coast in 1542, but Drake's is the first landing recorded, and the little bay, formed by the projection of Point Reyes, where it occurred, now bears his name.

Tomales and Bodega Bays are parts of the same body of water, extending into the land immediately north of Point Reyes, and form one of the small class of harbors which are quite frequent along the northern coast. From Bodega Head the coast presents an even front to the ocean, without many rocks or points. Numerous small streams enter the sea, and at most of them are landings which are sometimes called harbors.

Fort Ross, Havens, Point Arena, Navarro River, Cuffee's Cove, Albion River, Little River, Mendocino Bay, Russian Gulch, Gasper Creek and Noyo River, are the principal of these indifferent harbors. They are used chiefly by staunch sea-going schooners in transporting lumber and the products of the ranches to San Francisco. Many of these little harbors, however, are beautiful sheets of water when once inside, and their commerce, of the products of the country, is large and increasing.

Under latitude 40° 23', longitude 124° 24' is Cape Mendocino, a prominently rocky headland, and the most western point of California. This was discovered by Cabrillo, in 1542, and named in honor of his patron, the Viceroy Mendoza, although the coast survey attribute the discovery to Ferrillo, the successor of Cabrillo, in 1543.

Humboldt Bay, in latitude 40° 43', longitude 124° 12', is the most capacious inland body of water in the north, and furnishes an excellent harbor. The bar at the mouth has a depth of twenty-one feet at low tide, but the sea at times breaks dangerously upon it. The entrance to the bay is between two low sand spits, and is but about three hundred yards in width. This lovely body of water has a length of sixteen miles, and a breadth varying from one to five miles, constituting a noble, safe and beautiful harbor.

Twenty-five miles north, Trinidad Point projects southwestwardly a short distance into the sea, and the small body of water contained in the curve is called Trinidad Bay. The point protects it from all but the south winds, and when these are not tempestuous the harbor is safe and good, it being claimed by some as the best harbor between San Francisco and Puget Sound. A short distance north, the great Klamath River pours its torrents into the ocean, but furnishes no harbor. Landings are effected during calms in the neighborhood, but the coast is not approachable in severe weather.

The harbor of Crescent City, in latitude 41° 44', longitude 124° 11', is in part protected by Point St. George, and is safe unless in very severe storms from the south. At the extreme northern limit of the State is Pelican Bay, but a slight indentation of the coast, and without protection to make it a harbor of importance.

MOUNTAINS.

The interior presents a surface of lofty mountains, deep valleys and broad plains. The first rise in grand serrated lines with majestic peaks towering above the region of eternal snows, and in gently rounded hills, while the valleys and plains enclosed by them are marked with the distinction of unsurpassed fertility of soil, of perfect loveliness of climate, or arid and sandy deserts.

In the vast area extending through ten degrees of latitude, and from three to four of longitude, are numerous ranges of mountains, appearing to the casual observer as only two systems—the Sierra Nevada on the east and the Coast Range on the west; but the State Geological Survey has established the fact that what appears as but two is composed of many. The ridge dividing the waters of the Pacific and those flowing easterly into the great basin, is usually denominated the Sierra Nevada throughout its whole course in the State, but south of the thirty-fifth parallel this becomes the Coast Range, and is generally low and broken. There is here apparently but a single chain, but on the eastern side are numerous detached and precipitous ranges irregularly filling the region thence to the Colorado. This broad section constitutes one of the most desolate portions of our country. Rocky and tempest-beaten as are its hills, and burning and sand-driven as are its valleys, it cannot be utterly condemned as valueless from its forbidding appearance. Minerals in great abundance have been found in different localities and thorough exploration may redeem the character of the whole. In the northern portion of this desert region are the Armagosa, Slate Range, Panamint, Telescope, Inyo and White Mountain Ranges, in all of which mines of value have been discovered, and some have developed enormous wealth.

The most southern snow-capped peak is Mount San Jacinto, near 8,000 feet high, standing on the dividing line between the coast and the waters flowing to the desert of the Colorado. This peak sends off a range to the south, having the burning desert of the Coahuilla—the bed of an ancient lake—on the east, and the pleasant valley of San Jacinto on the west. Thirty miles north is Mount San Bernardino, 8,750 feet high, the most elevated land of Southern California, giving the name to this part of the range, and connecting with the San Gabriel Mountains, which, running westerly, connect the chain with the wilderness of mountains running through the counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Monterey, the different coast ranges terminating on the ocean at the Golden Gate, or at Mount Diablo. At Los Angeles, the single high and precipitous mountain of San Gabriel, 6,500 feet high, sixty miles in length and twenty-five in breadth, stands between the fertile plains of the coast and the sterile region of the eastern basin. The principal ranges south, not before named, are the Santa Anna, Temescal and Cuyamaca. North are the Sierra Santa Monica, commencing at Los Angeles and running northwest thirty-six miles to the high headland of Point Mogu, on the Pacific. The San Fernando, San Francisco, Santa Susanna, Santa Inez, San Rafael, Santa Lucia, the Palo Verde Hills, the Gabilan, Santa Cruz, Contra Costa and Mount Diablo Ranges constitute the principal coast mountains between Los Angeles and the Bay of San Francisco, and between the ocean and the southern half of the great valley of California. The most elevated peaks are Mount Hamilton, 4,449 feet; San Carlos, 4,977; and Mount Diablo, 3,876 feet above the sea. Among these mountains and hill ranges are a great number of valleys, some of hundreds of square miles in extent, as the San Fernando, Santa Clara, Santa Maria and Salinas, and thousands of others of various sizes, from

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