

ers on their way to the numerous points on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. Turning to the south you look down on the busy city, whose tumultuous din rings steadily in your ear—the Mission Dolores in a charming little valley beyond, backed by graceful hills—the southern arm of the bay lost in the horizon, and the dim and distant coast range of mountains running parallel on the east. Facing the west you look upon the narrow strait through which the restless ocean ebbs and flows, and into which the sea breeze sweeps daily with its chilling but purifying mists—the Golden-Gate—the Presidio—the Fort—the great ocean beyond.

Prior to the construction of wharves the principal landing was near the foot of Broadway and towards Clark's Point, where there was a bold shore with deep water. Boats also landed at North Beach, which obtained the name of Washer-woman's Bay; its clean, sandy shore affording facilities for washing. The only wharf in 1846 was at the foot of Clay street.

The war with Mexico, which broke out in 1846, gave an impulse to the commerce of the port, by requiring the shipment of supplies for military purposes. On the 13th of March, 1847, there were in the harbor the extraordinary number of six vessels, viz: U. S. ship Cyane, ship Moscow, ship Vandalia, ship Barnstable, ship Thomas H. Perkins, and brig Euphemia. On the 18th of December of that year there were four vessels in port, and no arrivals had occurred for a week. The imports for the last quarter of 1847 amounted to \$49,600, and the exports to \$53,600. In the first quarter of 1848 there were nine arrivals of vessels, four of which were from Monterey and San Pedro.

In April, 1847, the number of inhabitants exclusive of Indians, was 375. Eight months afterwards, when a census was taken by the Board of School Trustees, the number exceeded 800. Of these there were adult males, 473; adult females, 177; children of age proper to attend school, 60. This increase of more than an hundred per cent. in eight months, took place some months before the discovery of gold, and when California was sought merely for agricultural and commercial purposes.

As early as January, 1847, a complaint was published in the California Star that there was no school for children, the writer stating that he had counted forty children playing in the street. A public meeting was then called, to adopt measures to found a school. But the project failed. Some months later it was revived, with better success. A school house was built, and completed by the 1st of December. On the 21st of February, 1847, an election was held for School Trustees, and the following gentlemen were chosen: Dr. F. Fourgeaud, C. L. Ross, Esq., Dr. J. Townsend, J. Serrine, Esq., and W. H. Davis, Esq. The Town Council passed a resolution that "not exceeding four hundred dollars be appropriated to the payment of the teacher of the public school of this place; two hundred to be paid at the expiration of the first six months, and two hundred at the expiration of twelve months from the commencement of the school." That was the day of small things. Gold was a scarce article in California, except as a hidden treasure. But the enterprise and energy of the American people were nevertheless directing themselves in a channel which would have made the country great and prosperous, even if there had not been a grain of the precious metal hidden in