

In one year from that time and prior to the discovery of gold, so rapid was the growth of the town that two hundred new houses had sprung up. Quite a number of these primitive edifices are still standing, though most of them have been destroyed by the various conflagrations that have swept over the city. After every extensive fire the walls of these buildings were to be seen, standing in melancholy loneliness in the midst of the desolation.

In 1847, Broadway wharf was barely visible as a landing place, and some enterprising citizens undertook to extend it a few yards for the better accommodation of vessels. But the disastrous effects of the improvement on certain property in the neighborhood induced a petition to the authorities to prohibit its extension. Those worthy conservatives would have taken no notice of a scheme to extend it to half its present dimensions, regarding such a project as extravagant and ridiculous.

It appears that the early settlers were bent on reducing the town to the order and decorum of some Atlantic cities. Ordinances were passed in 1847, imposing a fine of five dollars on any person allowing hogs to run at large, and a fine of twenty dollars on any person discharging fire-arms within a mile of the public square. Complaints were even made in the newspapers against the practice of smoking cigars in the Magistrate's office and other public places. Since that remote era of primitive simplicity, the inhabitants of San Francisco have become perfectly inured to hogs, fire-arms and tobacco, in all their uses and applications.

In January, 1847, an ordinance was published by Washington A. Bartlett, Chief Magistrate, directing that the name of "Yerba Buena," as applied to the town, be changed to "San Francisco," in all official communications and public documents, or records appertaining to the town. This was done to prevent confusion and mistakes in public documents, and that the town may have the advantage of the name given on the published maps.

On the 13th of September, 1847, the first election was held for six members of Council. The number of votes polled was two hundred, which exceeded all previous calculations. The following gentlemen had the honor of being the successful candidates: Wm. A. Liedsdorff, Edward P. Jones, Robert Parker, W. D. M. Howard, William Glover, and William S. Clark. They held their first meeting and entered on the duties of office on the 16th of the same month.

"The Steamboat" made its experimental trip on the 15th of November in that year, performing a successful expedition around "Wood Island." This pioneer in steam navigation was a diminutive vessel whose name is not given. It attracted much attention by its novelty, and two days afterwards proceeded to Santa Clara.

In April, 1847, a semi-monthly mail was established to San Diego and other southward points. On the 1st of April in the following year the "California Star Express" left by the overland route, after several months' trumpeting. This formidable enterprise, the first regular conveyance to the States, was announced to go through as far as Independence, Mo. in sixty days. The postage on a letter was fifty cents.

Early in 1848 a feverish excitement appears to have taken hold of the public mind, in regard to the supposed mineral treasures of the country. But it is wor-