

migrants began to arrive at the rate of five hundred a month. In the middle of September the harbor was described as crowded with shipping, the wharves lined with goods and merchandize, and the streets filled with a busy throng. Fifty persons, it was computed, spent the night without the cover of a roof.

In the first two months of the golden age, the amount of precious dust brought into San Francisco was estimated at \$250,000, and in the next two months, at \$600,000.

In September, 1848, an era took place in the history of the city and of the country. This was nothing less than the arrival of the first square-rigged vessel in the port—the brig *Belfast*, from New York, laden with a valuable cargo. She hauled up to Broadway wharf, the only wharf accessible to such a vessel, and there discharged. No sooner was she known to be landing her cargo than goods of all kinds fell twenty-five per cent., and real estate rose fifty per cent. A vacant lot on the corner of Washington and Montgomery streets, at that time bordering on the water, which had been offered for \$5,000 and refused, sold readily the very next day for \$10,000.

The first brick building was erected at the corner of Montgomery and Clay streets, by Mellus and Howard, in September, 1848. This was the second brick building in upper California, one having been previously erected at Monterey.

About this time a proposition was made to form a temperance society, and another to establish a lyceum. One of the newspapers, however, pronounced these schemes premature, and proposed to begin the work of bettering the condition of society by opening a theatre. There was nevertheless some philanthropic and religious feeling buried in the hearts of the people, and seeking an opportunity for exercise. At a public meeting to fix a standard of value for gold dust, a project was started to establish a hospital for sick miners, of whom it was publicly declared that not less than eight had died in San Francisco during the season. A public meeting for religious purposes was held in November, and it was resolved that something decisive ought to be done for the souls of the people. A proposition was made to elect a "Chaplain for the City," which was concurred in with great unanimity, and the Rev. T. D. Hunt was then duly elected to the responsible station of "Chaplain to the city of San Francisco," with a yearly salary of \$2,500.

At an election for Councilmen in October, 1848, 158 votes were polled; at an election in December, the number of votes was 347; and at an election held in August, the year following, the city was able to poll 1519 votes.

In October, 1848, the Town Council agreed to pay their clerk five dollars for every meeting at which he officiated. It had not been many months since the salary of the teacher of the public school was fixed at \$100 per annum, or a little over one dollar a day.

On the 1st of December the same year, flour was sold at twenty-seven dollars a barrel, beef at twenty, pork at sixty; butter at ninety cents a pound, and cheese at seventy cents. To show the fluctuating character of the market at that day, it may be added that on the 15th of the month, only two weeks later, flour sold at twelve to fifteen dollars a barrel, and other articles had fallen in proportion. The