

all important and indispensable article of brandy was eight dollars per gallon. Gold dust was \$10.50 per ounce.

In December, 1848, an important event transpired in the re-opening of the public school, under the charge of Wm. H. Christian. Though it was announced as a "public" school, yet the terms of tuition were advertised at \$8.00 a term.

In November, 1848, when the people returned from the mines for the winter, rich with the precious metal, the effects of the gold discovery on San Francisco were most sensibly felt. Lots that had been purchased in the spring for from one hundred to two thousand dollars, now ranged from one thousand to fifteen thousand. Buildings that had previously rented at from ten to twenty dollars per month were now taken with avidity at from twenty to one hundred dollars per month.

By February, 1849, the population had increased to two thousand. The duties collected at the Custom House for the four quarters of 1848, were as follows:—

First Quarter, \$11,931—Second Quarter, \$8,835—Third Quarter, \$74,827—Fourth Quarter, \$100,480.

The imports of merchandize during the year were about \$1,000,000, and the importation of coin about the same amount, while the exports of gold dust for the last six months was \$2,000,000, or something less than the quantity regularly exported every two weeks, four years afterwards.

The First fire was in January, 1849—the burning of the "Shades Hotel." In June, the ship Philadelphia was burnt in the harbor, as she was preparing to set sail for the Sandwich Islands. Both these conflagrations were the result of accident.

On the 1st Day of February, 1849, arrived the first steamship in the mail service—the California. This important event, which was looked for with extreme interest, excited the utmost enthusiasm. She was received with salutes of cannon, and cheer on cheer of the enraptured citizens.

The Public School appears to have passed through a series of vicissitudes in those days. We find that it was again revived in April, 1849, under the charge of Rev. Albert Williams.

On the 18th of May, arrived the ship Grey Eagle, of Philadelphia, having made the passage in the remarkably short time of 117 days, including four days' stoppage at Valparaiso. Thus far it was the quickest passage, and it was not surpassed for a long while.

It was computed that the number of immigrants in the country by the beginning of June that year was fifteen thousand, of whom the larger portion had disembarked at this port. Sixty-four vessels were in the harbor. In the month of July there arrived by sea 3614 souls. Some idea of the rapid march of the country in those times may be formed from the fact that on a single day, the 1st of July, there arrived 17 vessels, with 889 passengers.

In August, 1849, the prices of some articles ranged as follows: Flour twelve to thirteen dollars a barrel; pork eighteen dollars; cheese forty cents per lb; butter seventy-five cents; lard ten; oil one dollar per gallon. At this date the number of inhabitants was computed to be five thousand. The number of arrivals in the month was 3895, of whom 87 were females. In September the arrivals were