

extraordinary, exhibiting a degree of energy and courage rarely met with in the history of municipal governments.

In the spring of 1850, there were three daily newspapers published in the city, the "Alta California," the "Pacific News," and the "Journal of Commerce," all dailies. To these were added, during the year, the "Evening Picayune," the "Herald," and the "Courier."

As the increase and prosperity of San Francisco are closely associated with the progress of improvement in the entire Pacific region, it may be well to add the list of papers published at the same date in other parts. They were as follows:

California—"The Placer Times," published weekly, at Sacramento.

Oregon—"The Oregon Spectator," semi-monthly.

New Grenada—"The Panama Echo," weekly; and "The Panama Star," occasionally.

Valparaiso—"The Neighbor," and "The Mercantile Reporter," both monthly.

Sandwich Islands—"The Honolulu Times," weekly; "The Friend," monthly; and "The Polynesian," monthly.

Navigators' Islands—"The Samoan Reporter," twice a year.

In less than a year afterwards, there were eight daily papers existing in San Francisco, and a number of others, at Sacramento, and other settlements in California.

In the spring and summer of 1850, the citizens found considerable entertainment in holding public meetings on the Plaza, to protest against various proceedings of the city authorities. Speeches were delivered, committees appointed, and every conceivable effort made short of actual violence, and even that was threatened by some. But though the population appeared almost unanimous in these movements, it would seem that those in authority pressed onward to the accomplishment of their purposes, with a degree of energy and determination characteristic of the people of California.

The first election under the City Charter was in April, 1850, when upwards of four thousand votes were given. John W. Geary was chosen Mayor, and Frank Tilford, Recorder.

The second great fire was on Saturday, the 4th of May, 1850. It commenced at four o'clock in the morning, in the United States Exchange, a drinking and gambling house, on the east side of the Plaza—almost the identical spot where the first fire originated. The entire block between Kearny, Clay, Montgomery and Washington streets was destroyed, with the exception of Dubois' Banking House and Burgoyne & Co.'s. North of Washington street, the fire extended from Montgomery to Dupont, destroying both the adjoining blocks, except a row of buildings on Jackson above Montgomery. Three hundred houses were destroyed, and property valued at from three to four millions of dollars. It was only by blowing up a number of buildings that the destruction was confined to those limits. One life was lost, and several persons were injured by fire-arms which exploded in the burning houses. This fire was generally believed to have been caused by incendiaries, and large rewards were offered for their apprehension, but as usual, without success. On the day after the conflagration, a party of laborers