

applied to the Mayor for compensation for services, which he declined paying, as they had not been employed by him or by the authorities. This so incensed them that a riot well nigh ensued. Such villainous rapacity deserves the severest reprehension. Men who will not assist their fellow citizens without compensation, on an occasion of public calamity, are scarcely one degree superior to the wretches who would cause the calamity.

The work of rebuilding was carried on with great activity, and in a few weeks the burnt district had given place to a new city. On Friday, the 14th of June, came the third great fire. It began in the Sacramento House, on the east side of Kearny street, between Clay and Sacramento streets, about eight o'clock in the forenoon. The wind being high, the flames spread rapidly towards the bay, sweeping the entire space, two full blocks in width, between Clay and California streets, to the water's edge, which was then part of a block below Montgomery street. Three hundred houses, and three millions of property were destroyed. This fire was acknowledged to be the result of accident or carelessness, connected with a stove pipe.

Hitherto nothing effectual had been accomplished to secure the city against the ravages of fire. But now the most vigorous efforts were set on foot, consisting of the organization of fire companies, and the construction of wells and reservoirs. Many brick buildings were erected, and Montgomery street, from Washington to Sacramento, on the west side, was built up almost entirely with substantial brick structures, intended to be fire-proof.

During this summer the city began to stretch out into the bay. The houses were built on piles, and no attention was paid to filling in. As late as September, goods from ship board were landed at high water, by lighters, in the storehouses on the east side of Montgomery street, near Jackson. When the tide favored their operations, the sounds of labor and the voices of the workmen were heard all night along the margin of the bay.

Vessels from all parts of the world continued to crowd into the harbor freighted with passengers and merchandise. The bay was filled with noble ships of all nations, and the storehouses were crammed to their utmost capacity. Once arriving in port, it was next to impossible to get away; for the crews almost invariably deserted the first chance, and rushed to the mines. Many of the vessels were dragged at high water into favorable situations and grounded, to be converted into storehouses. One of these, the Niantic, was converted into a large hotel, which took the name of the ship. It was burnt, together with many others, in the fire of May following.

In July, 1850, there were seven churches in the city, viz:

The First Baptist Church, Washington street, near Stockton; The First Congregational Church, corner of Jackson and Virginia streets; The First Presbyterian Church, occupying the superior court room, city hall; Trinity Episcopal Church, corner Jackson and Powell streets; Grace Church, corner Powell and Jackson streets; The Methodist Episcopal Church, Powell street, near Washington; and the Catholic Church, Vallejo street, near Dupont.

On the 29th of August, the death of President Taylor was commemorated by a funeral procession; one remarkable feature of which was the appearance in the