

procession of a large body of Chinese, in national costume. It was probably the first procession ever witnessed in the limits of Christendom, of which that curious people formed a prominent portion. From that time to the present, they have taken the same interest in all such public proceedings—several hundred of them at one time, sharing in our national demonstrations, with the banners, music, and other arrangements peculiar to themselves. And they have invariably proved to be, as a people, docile, sober and orderly, thus exhibiting the proper traits of good citizenship. Since that time, however, they are becoming more civilized and refined, by constant intercourse with the white population, and many have added drinking and gambling to their accomplishments.

On the morning of Sept. 17th, 1850, occurred the fourth great fire. It originated before day, in the Philadelphia House, a drinking establishment on the north side of Jackson street, between Kearny and Dupont. Though the air was calm, it spread with amazing rapidity among a mass of wooden buildings, crowded together, and ended by sweeping over almost the entire space bounded by Pacific, Montgomery, Washington and Dupont streets. There were no brick buildings to arrest its progress. About 150 houses were destroyed, and nearly half a million of property. This fire was by some persons attributed to design, but it was most probably caused by the carelessness of a drunken lodger. So rapid was its outbreak, that several persons lodging in the adjoining house, were glad to escape with only a single garment.

On the 18th of October, 1850, the steamship Oregon arrived from Panama, bringing the glad tidings of the admission of California into the Union, which threw the citizens into a delirium of joy. The most extravagant exhibitions of delight were manifested through the evening and night, and public buildings, hotels, and many private houses were brilliantly illuminated. The admission was formally celebrated on the 30th of the month, by a grand procession, in which, as usual, Chinamen formed one of the most striking features—an oration on the Plaza, and a universal ball in the evening.

On the 29th of October, the steamboat Sagamore exploded, while leaving the wharf for Stockton, killing some thirty or forty persons.

Early on the morning of the 31st, a building adjoining the City Hospital, at the head of Clay street, was fired by an incendiary, and both those buildings destroyed. The hospital, then owned by Dr. Peter Smith, was filled with patients, many of whom were saved from the flames only by the most strenuous efforts of the firemen and citizens. Several of the patients were badly burnt before they could be rescued.

In October of this year, Malignant Cholera made its appearance, and reached its height in the latter part of November, the greatest number of deaths in one day not, at any time, exceeding ten or twelve. A Cholera Hospital was opened in Broadway above Dupont street, and the most vigorous measures were adopted by the Board of Health to cleanse and purify the city. After a very lenient visitation, the scourge disappeared from our midst about the end of the year.

On the evening of the 14th of December, a fire broke out in an iron building in Sacramento street, below Montgomery, and destroyed several large store-houses,