

better decided some years hence. But as certainly as the mingling of the Crusaders with the people of other than their own countrymen, was the means of advancing the civilization of Europe, and changing, eventually, its "Dark Ages" into the clearer light of modern civilization, art, science, literature and liberty, so surely may we anticipate that the knowledge gained from the opportunities here enjoyed, of studying the characteristics of other nations without travelling abroad, and appropriating to our own use whatever of intellectual or mechanical superiority they may exhibit among us, will tend still further to advance our own knowledge, and more rapidly develop the resources of city, state and people.

The public business of the town having much increased, Governor Mason ordered the Alcalde, Mr. George Hyde, to hold a meeting for the election of six persons to assist him in the government of the town. These persons were to constitute the *ayuntamiento*. The Alcalde had previously appointed six to hold office until superseded by those elected by the people. The election took place on the 13th of September. Much blame has been heaped upon the government thus formed. They doubtless did some unwise acts; it may be, some deserving a harsher term, for they were men. But when it is recollected that they had to bring order out of chaos, perhaps a milder and more just estimate of what they did will prevail. At least, a portion of the council were men of honesty of purpose, unimpeached and unimpeachable.

Steam, like the press, goes with the Americans as one of their institutions. In November the first steamboat which honored the bay, made an experimental trip. The exports during the last three months of this year amounted to within a fraction of fifty thousand dollars, and the imports to something more than that sum. Early in January, 1848, an attempt was made by the *ayuntamiento* to suppress gambling, by resolutions authorizing fines and confiscation. But the next meeting of the council repealed these resolutions—through what influences they were actuated, is not quite clear. Gradually the town assumed a more and more commercial character. A wholesale prices current was published on the 15th of March. Gradually, too, the population increased, and now amounted to more than eight hundred persons, sixty of whom were children of an age capable of attending the school which was opened soon afterwards, viz., on the 3d of April, under the charge of Mr. Thomas Douglas. On the same day, Dr. J. Townsend became Alcalde, Mr. Hyde having resigned. The town was slowly rising to the dignity of "a place." It already had several mercantile firms, places of amusement, public houses, and, according to appearances, promised, in the course of one or two decades, to become perhaps a city with half a score of thousands of inhabitants. Suddenly into this quietly-progressing community, as into the conclave of the gods, came the same tempter, gold. In January it had been discovered at Coloma, on the American River. Rumors of the discovery and particles of the dust occasionally reached San Francisco. Soon miners, with suddenly-acquired "piles," arrived, and then the race for wealth commenced. All other occupations at once lost their charm. Gold dazzled the eyes and the imagination, and the three beauties of heathen mythology were eclipsed in speed and fervor by the new pursuers of the tempting fruit. In this modern contest, however, the golden apple was not dedicated to "the most beautiful." Strong hearts and willing hands, industry, perseverance, energy, hope, and, as some believe, luck, decided who should be successful.