

probably the ground, with only a blanket between it and his body, a thin cloth tent above him, and neither wife, sister, doctor nor nurse, to soothe, to administer, to nourish. Strangers in a strange land, many a poor creature sickened and died in destitution, whose previous life had been passed amid the comforts, pleasures and luxuries of society. Ever thus is it in life. At the side of the palace totters the hut. The hovel leans against the gorgeous cathedral. The groans of the sick and dying penetrate the wall and windows of the ball-room; the beggar is jostled in the street by the millionaire. Rags and ribbons, poverty and wealth, sleek comfort and squalid misery, lamentation and laughter, mourning and rejoicing, bridal robes and weeds of sorrow, sickness and health, life and death, fill up the Pandora's box in which we dwell. San Francisco, in its best days, has not been free from the common lot. Yet, amid all its recklessness, many of its people were not unmindful of the obligations of a common humanity. They gave freely for the cause of the distressed when appealed to. But the trouble was that nearly all the well were too busy to think about the destitute—strangers and aliens to each other.

On the 3d of Jan'y, 1850 by order of the ayuntamiento, a sale of four hundred and thirty-four water lots brought nearly six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, averaging nearly one thousand five hundred dollars each, an evidence of prosperity truly astonishing, when those prices are compared with sales of similar property less than two and a half years before, being from fifteen to twenty times as great. On the eighth of January an election for State Senator, Member of Assembly, First Alcalde and other officers was held, which resulted in the choice of D. C. Broderick for Senator, Samuel J. Clarke for Assembly, and John W. Geary for Alcalde. About this time, viz: on the 22d of January, another evidence of the progress of the place was the issuing of the "Alta California" newspaper as a daily. The next day a new paper, the "Journal of Commerce," was published as a daily, in accordance with a prospectus previously issued by Mr. W. Bartlett. The proprietors of the "Alta" anticipated the issue of the "Journal" by a "snap judgment," bringing out their paper as a daily one day in advance of it without previous notice. The issuing of newspapers, and generally their demise, subsequent to this time were so frequent, that they may be passed over as unimportant facts. The first "squatter" difficulty occurred on the 28th of February, on Rincon Point. The United States Reserves at this point had been leased to Mr. Alexander Shillaber, who upon attempting to take possession, was resisted by the squatters who had settled upon the land. They were dispossessed by Capt. Keyes of the U. S. Army with a small force of troops. He was sustained by the Courts. During March the contest about the "Colton Grants" between the ayuntamiento and the prefect, Horace Hawes, came to a climax, by the former preferring charges against the latter who was restrained by the Governor, from exercising the duties of prefect. He had previously authorized Mr. G. Q. Colton, a Justice of the Peace, to sell the lands of the city and account to himself for the same. Many lots were under such authority, sold for a song, and the authorities of the city had not even the benefit of the music. On the 1st of April Col. "Jack Hays, the Texas Ranger," was elected Sheriff of the county at its first election for officers. There was much enthusiasm for "Jack" on this occasion, and there was no resisting his popularity.

The Legislature passed on the 15th of the month the first City Charter of San