

one feeling of patriotism, and hearts, hands and voices united in a most joyous welcome. Flags of all nations were hoisted, and little else than rejoicing was done during the remainder of that day. The 29th of the month was fixed upon as the one when the people unitedly in a public manner should express their satisfaction and joy at the result. On that occasion a very large procession was formed, and proceeded through the streets, Judge Bennett delivered an eloquent oration, bonfires and fireworks illumined the night, and more than five hundred persons attended a grand ball at the California Exchange. This day, too, chronicled the first steamboat explosion in California. The boiler of the Sagamore burst just as she was about leaving the wharf and some thirty persons lost their lives. Thus mingled are the scenes of life and death, joy and sorrow.

The proposition of Col. Wilson to construct a plank road to the Mission Dolores through the sand hills, was acted upon by the Council on the 18th day of November, and an ordinance granting the privilege, was passed. The road was commenced, and completed within five months, and has added much to the progress and convenience of the city, as well as to the value of its real estate. Generally the streets of the city had been much improved, graded, planked, and were in a very different condition for meeting the demand upon them during the rainy season, from what they had presented one year before. More than six hundred and fifty vessels had arrived in the port during the year, and the population had greatly increased. The influx of strangers and gold, had more than counterbalanced the effects of the great fires which had occurred. Thus ended 1850. There had been reverses, but still the city's course had been onward. The place had proved eminently healthy—even the cholera lost its terrors here for nearly all, except a few dissipated persons. Politically and financially, it cannot be said that much progress except backwards, had been made. The city was getting deeply in debt, and her credit growing worse. The courts were inefficient in most cases, and violations of law and order were frequently committed.

The year 1851 was inaugurated during all the month of January by the *Gold Bluff* excitement. That "old sea loafer" the propeller Chesapeake, which had expended twelve or fourteen months in floating sidewise, stern foremost and otherwise, in reaching California from somewhere on the Atlantic coast, had taken a company of "prospectors" up the coast to a place where, near the point afterwards dubbed "Gold Bluffs," on the Pacific shore, the magnifying eyes, fancies and tongues of the party located in their reports, unheard of, incalculable amounts of gold dust in the sands of the sea beach. The reports run some people almost wild. The share holders in the expedition and discovery were assured that their claim would yield them at least fifty millions of dollars each. The old catch of "white sand gray sand," took a new form. It was now "black sand and gold sand." The writer saw one of these happy gentlemen, when the announcement was made to him, place his feet upon the mantel, and heard him exclaim, "Now I'll buy Rhode Island for my summer villa, and Cuba for my winter's residence." Extravagant as were these reports, many believed them, and invested all they had in expeditions got up for securing the immense treasure. The whole affair was a humbug, the stories lies, with the poor foundation of a little gold dust mingled with any quantity of sand washed from the "Bluffs" by the lashing waves of the ocean, and to gather which required risk of life for a very poor daily recompense. This was the last flickering blaze of glory in