

boundaries, was passed on the 15th of April. At the election on the 28th of April, the Whigs carried the city, electing Charles J. Brenham, Mayor, and the other Whig candidates generally. The city had previously gone Democratic. On the 1st of May the Legislature passed an act to fund the debt of the city. The expenditures had for a year and a half exceeded one hundred thousand dollars per month, and scrip had depreciated to a ruinous rate. The fact was apparent that the city had been swindled, her property sold, the proceeds squandered, her debts alarmingly increased, her credit nearly ruined, and the corporation reduced almost to bankruptcy. She was in debt more than a million of dollars, and she had little besides taxes and licenses to look to for paying it. These had been found inadequate to meet her current expenses, as her government was managed. To save her credit from ruin, the Legislature passed the funding act.

The fifth great fire occurred on the 4th of May, the anniversary of the second. It commenced on the south side of the Plaza, in a paint shop, between eleven and twelve o'clock of the 3d of May, and in a few moments the building was in a blaze. It spread in all directions. Nothing could arrest its course. All night long it raged, and when the sun arose next morning, eighteen squares, some two thousand buildings, were in ashes. Not only wooden tenements were destroyed. So great was the heat, and rapid the progress, that nearly every brick building, previously considered fire-proof, shared the same fate. Many estimated the loss by this terrible conflagration at more than ten millions of dollars. But sadder than even this immense loss of property, was the destruction of human life, several persons having been burned to death. Before the fury of that fiery tornado, wood changed to flames and cinders in a flash, brick stores became furnaces, and buildings of iron rolled up like leather and crushed into ruins. It was a night of terror, a morning of desolation succeeding.

One of the greatest inconveniences which the inhabitants had felt was, the inadequate supply of good fresh water. To obviate it, a plan was formed to introduce water from the Mountain Lake, a body of water located among the hills, between the Presidio and the Pacific Ocean, at about four and a half miles from the Plaza. An ordinance granting the privilege to the company formed for the object named, was passed by the Council on the 3d of June, which has since been confirmed by the Legislature, amended by subsequent ordinances, and the time for completing the work extended. Difficulties have arisen to retard the work, but it is now in a fair way for being completed within the time specified by the last ordinance which allowed eighteen months from the nineteenth of March, 1856, for its completion. There had been several hundred thousand dollars expended before the suspension of the work, which is now soon to be resumed. When completed, it will prove a great blessing to the city, and will doubtless be a paying investment for the capital expended in its construction. The great fires of the city, as well as the daily wants of its people, have taught the necessity of a work which shall be to San Francisco what the Cochituate works are to Boston, the Croton to New York.

Disorders and brutalities of all kinds continuing to increase, early in June a large portion of the active citizens formed themselves into a "Committee of Vigilance," and on the morning of the eleventh, executed John Jenkins, by hanging him to a cross-beam of the old adobe building then standing on the north-west corner of the Plaza. He had been taken in the act of conveying away a small safe of which he