

Though far away from the East, the people of San Francisco were still close to their patriotism, and their admiration of genius, eloquence and statesmanship had not diminished. This was evident upon the 10th of August, which was solemnized by an immense procession and other marks of homage and affection for the great man, Henry Clay, news of whose death had recently reached the city. All parties, sects and callings forgot, for the time, their rivalries and contentions, and united to pay the last sad, grateful honors to one of the greatest and best of orators, citizens and statesmen. The city was draped in mourning. Over the tomb of greatness and worth, the dissensions of politicians grew silent; the soul was dumb; the heart was sad. Nationalities were forgotten in honor to him whose broad humanity had embraced all the earth. The great man was no more. The great Whig Party lay in his honored grave!

The sad news of the death of Clay, and the solemnities which followed, were succeeded, on the 21st of November, by the news of the death of that other great man of the Whig party, of the nation and the world, Daniel Webster. All suitable and possible honors were paid to his memory. In all which constitutes a great man, a great statesman, a great orator, Daniel Webster possessed as much, if not more, united in the same individual, than any other man whose mental glory has illuminated the continent and shed undying luster on his name. These notices of those two statesmen are not strictly of the current history of San Francisco, but the influences of their death upon its people, are. And, besides, it may be said that notices of such men are seldom out of place. Whatever illustrates the tone of society, may aptly be considered an historical event.

The progress of the city was somewhat illustrated, during December, by the publication of a Directory, by Mr. James A. Parker, of nearly one hundred and fifty octavo pages, containing some nine thousand names. It was a creditable work, and was the third or fourth, in point of time, published in the city. On the 10th of the month the first legal execution within the city took place, upon the body of José Forni, who was hung upon Russian Hill, for the murder of José Rodriguez. He persisted to the last that the homicide was committed in self-defense. Many thousand persons were present to witness the sad affair. In all countries, communities and ages, a great portion of the people are possessed of a large amount of morbid curiosity, which, as in this instance, can extract pleasure even from death itself. Hazlitt enumerates a funeral among his subjects for laughter.

Nearly seventy thousand persons arrived by sea, in San Francisco, during 1852, and but little more than one-third of that number departed seaward. This left a large margin of increase for the city, after making due allowance for those departing for the mines and other parts of the State. They embraced representatives of nearly all the nations of earth. Of the number, a large portion—twenty thousand, at least—were Chinese. People differ upon the question whether their influx is to be a blessing or a curse. The census of the city and county returned over thirty-six thousand as the population, or nearly one-seventh of the whole State. The entire population, as reported, of both city and State, was undoubtedly too low. The city was steadily improving as the last months of the year passed away.

The arrivals in the port during this year amounted to eleven hundred and forty-seven, with a tonnage of over half a million, against eight hundred and forty-seven