

the city, and were re-elected by an immense majority. The opponents of the measure argued that the front line of the city had been fixed by the State as a permanent one by a previous legislative act; that rights had accrued under it, and that it would be an unjust violation of the implied contract to change that boundary, to the great injury of the city, nominally to raise revenue for the State, and particularly to enrich a few speculators who were the instigators of the measure. The bill came to a vote in the Senate on the 26th of April. The vote stood thirteen for, to thirteen against it, when Lieut. Gov. Purdy, as presiding officer, gave his casting vote against it, and thus strangled the monster. Subsequently, attempts to pass the bill, or similar ones, although urged by Gov. Bigler, ingloriously failed.

The corner stone of the United States Marine Hospital was laid on the seventh of April, on Rincon Point. It is a very fine building, nearly two hundred feet long, and almost one hundred feet wide, and is capable of accommodating from five to eight hundred patients. It cost nearly or quite a quarter of a million of dollars. Thus the first public building erected by the United States Government within the city is one of benevolence, for the benefit of that most useful, though improvident class, the mariners.

As said before, many of the foreigners who settled here, brought with them and instituted in their new home some of the customs of their father-land. Perhaps none of the Europeans more firmly adhere to the associations of their youth than do the Germans. On the 1st of May their society of *Turner Gesang Verein* celebrated the institution of their association, in great numbers, by a procession, athletic exercises, music and dancing, at Russ' Garden, with much spirit. The associations and pleasures of early life, by the Vistula, the Rhine, the Danube, the Oder and the Zuyder Zee, were renewed by the sports and enjoyments of the day, and the grand old harmonies which had sprung from the souls of Handel, Mozart and Beethoven, and had rung amid the palaces and castles of classic Germany, found voice and echo on the Pacific shore, in a new land, but with the original sound and accent. Music, in itself, is the universal language. All can understand the nightingale, whether she rise from the meadows of "merrie" England, or from Sweden's rugged land; and so the harmonies which delight a court in Berlin, or an Italian diet, are understood and felt in the cities of Washington and of Montezuma; by the dweller at Melbourne, or by the Bay of San Francisco. So the Germans thought of their father-land, listened to its grand symphonies, and were happy. On the next day—Monday—the school children celebrated May Day by a procession and various ceremonies, having and crowning their May Queen, and enjoying themselves greatly. There were about a thousand children, male and female, in the procession, dressed for a holiday, and probably a healthier collection of juveniles was never before seen. No spectacle in the city had ever given more pleasure to those who wished it prosperity.

The electric telegraph sent its first California flash along the wires on the 22d of September, between San Francisco and Point Lobos, on the Pacific Coast. It was built by Messrs. Sweeny & Baugh, proprietors of the Merchants' Exchange, to facilitate their business of ship reporting. This was the first link in those wire lungs which now enable the citizens of the principal cities and towns of the State to converse together, as if they sat side by side. In the month of October Judge Heydenfeldt, of the Supreme Court, gave a decision in favor of grants by Alcaldes—the