

The Branch Mint of San Francisco commenced operations on the third of April. The building of Curtis, Perry & Ward, U. S. Assayers, had been partially rebuilt, and purchased by the U. S. Government, supplied with new machinery, and although altogether too contracted in dimensions for the vast amount of work required, has been of immense benefit to the city and State. Instead of three hundred thousand bars, Congress should have appropriated one million at least to build a Mint worthy of the city, of the country, and of the mines whose treasures it was to turn into coin. In the little building appropriated now to the purpose, more coin and bars have been prepared for the currency, than in all the other Mints in the country, the "Mother Mint" of Philadelphia included. But our distance from the Federal Government is so great that the voice of our necessities can scarcely reach it.

The trial of the Mexican Consul, Don Luis del Valle, before the U. S. District Court, for breach of the neutrality laws, in enlisting, or sending emigrants to Sonora, was terminated the twenty-eighth day of April by a verdict of "guilty." This trial with its attendant circumstances, excited much feeling and discussion. The real injury done by the Consul in sending away persons who preferred Sonora to California, could not have been much, except as a breach of international etiquette. Monsieur Dillon, Consul of France, was subsequently tried upon a similar charge, the jury disagreed, and on the twenty-ninth of May a *nolle prosequi* was entered by the District Attorney and he was discharged. With regard to the Mexican Consul, further proceedings were suspended. M. Dillon had claimed exemption from any obligation to appear in Court as a witness, in virtue of the Consular Treaty existing between France and the United States, refused to so appear when required by the Court, and was sustained eventually in that position by his own, and the American Governments. On the twenty-ninth day of this month, a Chinese newspaper, entitled something which meant Golden Hills, the Chinese name for San Francisco, and printed in Chinese characters, was issued. This made the fifth language which had a newspaper mouth-piece in San Francisco.

Healthful as the city had proved, many persons nevertheless traveled the dark road whence they return not. The old grave-yards within the city had given up their dead, the march of improvement had covered most of them with buildings, or cut streets through them. But one remained within the city limits—Yerba Buena Cemetery—and that already had gathered a multitude to its narrow cells, and the inhabitants of the living were fast approaching the silent chambers of those who lay there in slumbers which wake not. New and more spacious grounds suitable for a cemetery capable of answering the melancholy demands of a great city, became a necessity. Two or three persons selected and secured a tract of land toward the Pacific Ocean, and about three miles from the harbor, and set it apart for the sacred purpose. It is of quite uneven surface, hill and dale, very generally covered with evergreen oaks and other trees and shrubs, and from portions of it the city, and the Pacific are visible. This spot containing one hundred and sixty acres, was dedicated to the purposes of a Cemetery by name of the Lone Mountain, on the thirtieth of May, with appropriate ceremonies, addresses, an ode, poem, prayer and hymns. In allusion to the chemical decomposition and rearrangement of the particles of matter by which even the changed human organization may become portions of the shrubs and trees beneath which it is buried, the poem concluded thus: