

HISTORICAL REVIEW.

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.*

Topography of the City and County.

The present city and county of San Francisco are co-extensive, being bounded on the north and east by the Bay, extending to low water mark on the shores of Marin County, and on the south by the county of San Mateo, and on the west by the Ocean. The southern boundary, in a direct line, is six and a half miles from the Plaza, being a few yards north of the old Abbey House, the *line* separating townships numbers two and three, and running due west from the bay to the Pacific. The city and county may be considered nearly square, averaging six and a half miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west, embracing an area of 42 square miles, or about 27,000 acres, of which 10,000 are capable of cultivation; 8,000 are rocks, drifting sand and water; 6,000 are adapted for pasture; 2,000 occupied by the city proper, and about 1,000 acres are used for market gardens. For the benefit of readers at a distance, it may be well, briefly to describe the location of "*the City we live in:*" San Francisco stands on a narrow neck of land between the bay and the ocean, fronting eastward on the bay and having the ocean five miles on the west. The bay extends southward some thirty-six miles, parallel with the sea, from which it is separated by a narrow strip of land, varying from five to twenty miles in width. The city is on the extreme point of this promontory. Its site is handsome and commanding, being on an inclined plane half a mile in extent, from the water's edge to the hills in the rear. Two points of land, Clark's Point on the north, and Rincon Point on the south, one mile apart, project into the bay, forming a crescent between them, which is the water front of the city, and which has already been filled in and covered with buildings to a very considerable extent. Those points and the lofty hills north and west, upon which the city is rapidly climbing, afford a most extensive and picturesque view of the surrounding country. There are scarcely to be found more charming and diversified prospects, than are presented from these heights. Taking your stand on Telegraph Hill, to the north of the city, and looking eastward, you see the spacious bay, six miles in width, crowded with ships from all quarters of the globe, and the fertile coasts of Alameda and Contra Costa beyond, with the city of Oakland, behind which rise hill on hill, to the redwood forests on the summits. Towering over these, is the conical peak of Mount Diabolo. To the north is the entrance from the ocean, almost beneath your feet, and Saucelito, six miles distant, at the foot of the opposite hills. The northern arm of the bay also stretches away till lost in the distance, studded with smoking steamers on their way to the numerous points on

* This important and valuable contribution to the History of San Francisco, by Clement Ferguson, Esq., is reprinted, with additions, from the *California State Register* for 1859. We acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. F. for his valuable assistance during the progress of the present volume through the press.—[COMPILER.]