

little isle, being one of the national fortifications, is exempt from taxation. Already 50 guns of heavy caliber have been mounted, and the foundations laid for 41 more. With two exceptions, its sides are so precipitous, that a landing could with difficulty, be effected. There are three principal batteries. The one facing the city and commanding the bay, in the direction of the Presidio, mounting 35 guns; the one facing the Golden Gate, mounting 16 guns; and the one on the northern side of the island, facing Saucelito and Angel Island, mounting 40 guns. The first structure after landing at the wharf is a shot-proof guard-house, provided with a drawbridge and a heavy gate. On the crest of the island is a massive barrack or citadel, arranged so that every point can be brought under the effective fire of musketry. There are also three bomb-proof magazines, an extensive furnace for heating shot and cannon balls, a fog-bell and a light-house—the latter being provided with one of Fresnel's lanterns of the third order; it is a beautiful piece of mechanism, affording a light of intense brightness.

*Angel Island*—is also within the bay, lying nearly three miles north-west of Yerba Buena, and about one mile from Marin County. It contains an area of 750 acres, and its apex is 600 feet above the level of the water. Excavations for building-stone have been made on the south-east end of the island. It is composed of sand-stone similar to that on Yerba Buena, but it is not so dark in color nor so hard. Specimens that have been examined, contain a notable quantity of carbonate of lime. The strata dip westwardly, and the quarry is opened on their upturned edges, and not at the ends of the beds, as at Yerba Buena. The weathered surfaces present the usual rusty color, and the divisional places or clearages are numerous. This island has heretofore been included within the boundaries of Marin, but subsequent legislation has (in the opinion of some) assigned it to San Francisco, the northern boundary of which extends to the low water mark of Marin, commencing on the coast "opposite Fort Point, thence following said low water mark to a point due north-west of Golden-rock." (See Statutes of 1857, p. 209.) In a recent criminal case it was decided that this island was still within the limits of Marin County; the only reason for including it here, being, that it is assessed in both counties.

*The Farallon Rocks or Islands*—in the Pacific Ocean, embrace the northerly, the middle and the southerly groups, the latter being distant from the former about seven miles. The northerly cluster is made up of five rocks; the middle is a single rock; and the southerly is the larger, (being two miles in circumference,) upon which the light-house stands, the top of the tower being 330 feet above the level of the sea, and about 29 miles westward from the Golden Gate. It is really difficult to imagine a more desolate and barren place than these "rocky islets" present to view; yet collectively they may be considered as the most extensive poultry yard in the world, for here may be found in myriads the bird described by Buffon as the Guillamot, (the *Uria Troile* of Linnæus,) which lay their eggs upon the bare rocks. The appellation of the Foolish Guillamot has been given to this species by Latham, from the fact of its being with difficulty roused to flight, and often suffering itself to be caught with the hand, particularly during incubation. Some idea may be formed of their numbers, when we state that each bird, during the season, lays but a single egg, and that since 1851, upwards of 4,000,000 of their eggs have been sold in the San Francisco market. They are of a pale green color, blotched with umber, and are much in demand in res-