

HISTORICAL REVIEW

OF

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Topography of the City and County.*



THE City and County of San Francisco are co-extensive, being bounded on the north and east by the Bay, 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 information of readers at a distance, it may be well to describe the location of "the City we live in." San Francisco stands upon the rocky ridge, which forms the barrier that separates the Pacific from the bay, having the ocean five miles on the west. The bay is formed by the confluence of the blended waters of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin rivers. The former draining the rich agricultural valleys and the auriferous slopes of the Sierra Nevada from the north as the latter does from the south. The bay affords the finest and most commodious harbor on the Pacific coast of the United States, extending in a southerly direction about 36 miles, parallel with the ocean, from which it is separated by the peninsula forming the counties of San Francisco and San Mateo, varying from five to twenty miles in width. The City is on the extreme northerly point of this promontory—a series of lofty hills and sandy valleys originally marked its site; the march of improvement has, however, in a great measure, leveled the one and filled in the other, to conform with the established and the modified grades. The ancient Cove of Yerba Buena was located between Clark's Point on the north, and Rincon Point on the south, projecting into the bay and forming a crescent, which is the eastern water-front of the city. It has been filled in and covered with warehouses and stores, to an extent considered marvelous. One of the most prominent elevations in the city has received the name of Telegraph Hill, which rises to a height of 289 feet. From it, the landscape extends over a great

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