

ing stone appears inexhaustible. The U. S. Government having proposed to place some batteries upon the island, included it in the third line of fortifications, and it was reserved with the other points in 1852. It is claimed, however, under a Mexican grant, dated 8th November, 1838, and is said to be the first island granted by Governor Alvarado under the decree authorizing the granting of islands to Mexican citizens. This claim was rejected by the U. S. District Court in this city. *Angel Island*, lying to the north-west of Yerba Buena, with a shore line of five miles, and an area of one square mile, being in Marin County—does not call for a more extended notice in this place.

Alcatrazes or Bird Island—is also within the bay, lying to the westward of Yerba Buena. It takes its name from the immense number of these aquatic birds (pelicans) which, in early days, sought it as an abiding place. The apex of this rocky eminence is 135 feet above the level of the water, and its area is 35 acres. Its greatest length and its extreme breadth are 1,673 feet and 590 feet, respectively. The position of this little isle—suggesting at once extreme strength and impregnable defense—caused it to be reserved by the U. S. authorities, at the time of the cession of California by Mexico, and preparations were at once made to render it a formidable sentinel to watch over the safety of our city, even while its brilliantly lighted summit indicated, during night, the path of security to the fleet sailing in seaward from distant coasts—messengers of peaceful commerce. There are three Barbette 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 Sancelito and Angel Island, mounting 40 guns. The first structure, after landing at the pier, 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, which is 160 feet above the level of the sea. From Telegraph Hill it is distant one mile and two-thirds, and from Fort Point two miles and five-eighths. Deep water-marks exist all round the island; and with the exception of one or two places, the sides are so steep that a landing could only be effected with great difficulty.

The Farallones de los Frayles—were discovered in 1543 by Bartolome Ferrelo, who was a Portuguese by birth, but in the service of Spain. However, Sir Francis Drake, the English navigator, is the first who specially mentions them (in 1579) as "lying off the bay where he refitted his ships." The Russians founded a settlement here in 1812, for the purposes of obtaining oil and skins, and several places are yet visible, where the latter were stretched out and dried. The Farallones embrace the northerly, the middle and the southerly groups. The northerly cluster is made up of five rocks: the middle is a single rock; the southerly is the larger, being two miles in circumference. Upon it, the light-house stands, the top of the tower of which is 360 feet above the level of the sea. This island is about $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles westward from the Golden Gate. It is really difficult to imagine a more desolate place than these rocky islets present to view,—being a mass of jagged granite. Neither a tree nor a shrub relieves the eye by contrast, or gives change to the exceeding barrenness of