

from the gold-placers of Yreka to the orange-groves of Los Angeles; and during the past year we have been placed in telegraphic communication with the cities of the Atlantic. Fleets of ships from all quarters of the globe supply us with the richest wares of foreign climes, returning freighted with the surplus products of our fertile soil. All these cheering indications, together with an increasing population—the successful inauguration of railroads, with the constant pouring into the lap of San Francisco of the treasures of our mountains—the establishment of the Daily Overland Mail and of the Pony Express—all these have imparted additional value to the numberless interests of the State—and more particularly of our city.

The Mission and the Presidio.

During the unnumbered centuries, the peninsula bounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of San Francisco, continued an unchanging wilderness, until “men, foreign to the soil, but imbued with a sublime faith, left home and kindred to teach civilization to barbarism, and to preach salvation to the heathen.” The very year which gave birth to the great Western Republic on the Atlantic shore of North America, witnessed the first permanent settlement on the coast of Upper California. In 1776, two Missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church reached the bay of San Francisco, and proceeded to establish a central point for their operations. Their names were Francisco Palou and Benito Cambon. They were natives of Spain, but came to this place from Mexico. Finding a fertile tract of land, capable of irrigation, nearly two miles south of the present city of San Francisco, they selected it for their home, and with much pious pomp, they founded the *Mission of our Father St. Francis*; but in the course of years, the name was changed to that of the *Mission Dolores*, in commemoration of the sufferings of the Virgin. The Fathers evinced much good sense in selecting the site for their buildings, which was a small, fertile plain, embosomed among green-clad hills. Several tiny rivulets of clear, sweet water met about the spot, whose united streams were conducted to the bay by one of larger size, now well known as Mission Creek. Among the first buildings erected was the Church, which is still devoted to religious uses, while the adjoining adobe buildings are now used for secular purposes. The Missions were established with the view, not only of propagating the doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion, but by so blending agriculture and trade, under the tutelage of the Church, as to render the Natives amenable subjects of the Spanish Crown. The Friars succeeded in reducing a large number to a partial degree of civilization; and to the self-denial of the good Fathers, La Perouse, Vancouver, Beechey, and other enlightened travelers, afford unqualified testimony. “During this primitive period, from which we are removed by so brief an interval, it would seem that kindness in their intercourse with one another, and hospitality to the stranger, were the characteristics of the Friars and their converts.” Three miles west of the city, and two and a half miles north of the Mission is the *Presidio*, established to give military