

Europe—it would seem as if no city on the globe combined so many material advantages. Already, vessels freighted to and from her harbor may be seen in every sea, and in almost every port of the civilized world.

### Yerba Buena Island.

Yerba Buena Island is situated in the Bay and within the legislative limits of the City and County of San Francisco. From Rincon Point and Market Street Wharf it is distant about one mile and a half, from Contra Costa nearly three miles, and the western point is one and three quarters miles from Telegraph Hill. The northern end is distant from the Golden Gate five miles and a half. This island contains 198 acres, of which 75 consist of rich soil, well adapted for garden purposes; 15 acres are heavily timbered 23 acres jungle and brushwood; 85 acres hilly, rocky and sandy, being thickly covered with the herb or mint plant, from which the island takes its name. Springs of excellent water abound on the eastern and western sides, in the midst of a fertile valley. The apex of this island is 343 feet above high water; the sides are steep and irregular—rising to a ridge running nearly east and west. In early times it was densely covered with wood, and was known to ancient mariners and whalers as Wood Island; but, in 1839, one Nathan Spear placed a number of goats thereon, and hence the still popular name of Goat Island. On the easterly side is a wide, shoal bay, dry at low water, which, with the present material on the island, could be filled up, so as to be more than double its size. This island is formed of compact beds of sandstone, from a few inches to six and eight feet in thickness. Its texture varies but little in the different beds, and the grain is close and even, and generally very fine. The strata are laid bare by the action of the water around the base of the island, and form a bold, rocky shore, which, in many places, appears to offer great resistance to the persistent denuding action of the waves and strong currents. On approaching the island from the west, the evidence of stratification becomes visible, and the beds are seen to dip westwardly towards the observer. The position of these beds of sandstone is highly favorable for working, readily loaded at the wharf, and ferried over the channel to the city. Several quarries have been opened on the island, and the supply of building stone appears inexhaustible. The United States 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. *Angel Island*, lying to the northwest of Yerba Buena, rises to a height of 771 feet, with a shore-line of five miles and an area of one square mile. Being in Marin County, it does not call for a more extended notice in this place.

### Alcatrazes Island.

Alcatrazes, or Bird Island, is also within the Bay, and within the limits of the city and county, lying to the westward of the Island of Yerba Buena. It is composed of a fine-grained and very compact sandstone, of a dark, bluish green color. This island takes its name from the immense number