

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 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 United States 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 the night, the path of security to the fleet sailing in seaward from distant coasts—messengers of peaceful commerce. Three barbette batteries encircle this national stronghold. The one facing the city and commanding the Bay, in the direction of the Presidio, mounting 35 guns; another, facing the Golden Gate, mounting 16 guns; and one on the northern side of the island, facing Sausalito and Angel Island, mounting 40 guns. The ordnance is of the heaviest and most effective used in the service, some of them being of immense caliber—large Columbiads—which throw shot weighing 120 pounds. The first structure, after landing at the pier, is a shot-proof guard-house, provided with a draw-bridge and heavy gate. On the crest of the island is a massive three-story 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.

Los Farallones de los Frailes.

The Farallones were discovered by Ferrelo, in 1543, but Sir Francis Drake 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 purpose 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 four islets, within a space of half a mile square. Three of them are quite high and bold—the middle one attaining an elevation of 166 feet—the other being a mere rock, 100 feet in diameter and scarcely 20 feet above water; the latter is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the lighthouse. The *Middle Farrallone* is a single rock, 55 yards in diameter and 25 feet above water. From the light-house it is two and one quarter miles distant. The *South Farallone* is the largest and highest, extending nearly a mile east and west, attaining an altitude of 340 feet above the ocean. Upon it the lighthouse stands. The tower is built of brick, 17 feet in height, and is surmounted