

by an illuminating apparatus of the first order, of the system of Fresnel. It is  $23\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from the Golden Gate. A fog whistle has been placed upon the southeastern end of the island, about 275 feet from the water's edge, and 20 feet above the sea level. It is erected over a hole in the roof of a subterranean passage, which connects with and is open to the ocean, and is blown by the rush of air caused by the sea breaking into its mouth. The sound is heard in the vicinity at all times, except about an hour and a half before and after low water. At other times it may be heard a distance of seven or eight miles. It is really difficult to imagine a more desolate place than these rocky islets present to view. Being a mass of jagged rock, neither a tree nor a shrub relieves the eye by contrast, or gives change to the exceeding barrenness of the landscape. Collectively, these islets may be considered as the most extensive poultry-yard in the world; for here may be found, in myriads, the birds described by Buffon as the *Guillamot*—the *Uria Troile* of Linnæus—which lays its eggs upon the bare rocks. The appellation of the Foolish Guillamot has been given to this species by Latham, from the fact of its being with difficulty roused to flight, and often suffering itself to be caught by the hand, particularly during incubation. Audubon, in his great national work, gives a charming account of the habits of this interesting species (*Murre*), which is well known to the eggers and fishermen of the North Atlantic. Some idea may be formed of their numbers, when it is stated that each bird, during the season, lays but a single egg, and that since 1851, millions of the eggs have been sold in the San Francisco market. They are mostly of a pale green color, blotched with umber. The egg season lasts about six weeks—from the middle of May to the end of June. The bird of the most varied and brilliant plumage to be found here is the *Tufted Puffin*. Though rather numerous on this coast, it is elsewhere very rare, as is the *Horned-bill Guillamot*, which has also been seen and caught here. Of neither of these had Audubon ever met with a living specimen. Here also may be seen the huge seals called sea-lions (*Phoca Otaria Jubata*). This species attains a weight of 3,000 pounds. Occasionally they are very savage, particularly during the nuptial season, when the fierce and bloody battles of the males render these islets of the ocean a very pandemonium. The Farallones are within the legislative limits of San Francisco.

### The Pueblo Lands.

By the colonization laws, usages, and customs of the Government of Mexico, and by virtue of an act of the Departmental Legislature of California, passed on the 9th day of November, 1833, a new town, containing at least thirty inhabitants and other requisites for a municipal organization, was entitled to four leagues of land. It follows that when, on the 7th of December, 1834, an election was held at the Presidio, and the Ayuntamiento installed, that San Francisco was duly recognized as a Pueblo, and became vested with the title to the land. On the 21st of December, 1854, the Land Commissioners rendered a decree confirming to the City an amount of