

lished themselves in trade, or sought labor in the city. Life in the mining-camps has been depicted vividly, if not always with strict fidelity, by Bret Harte, and has been described a thousand times in public prints and in discourses before Pioneer societies. Vice and crime flourished so rankly in the city as to make the swift judgment of the Vigilantes a blessing. The American women first seen in San Francisco were wives of soldiers. A few merchants' wives came in 1850, and a few more in 1851. Places to shelter them were not numerous. One of the first houses suitable for feminine entertainment was the hotel at the corner of Kearny and Commercial streets, kept by Messrs. Hart, Joyce & Sullivan, which was burned in the fire of 1851. In 1850, vessels landed at the wharf at the corner of Clay and Sansome, from which point the settlement extended westward up Clay, Washington and Sacramento streets. One of the first hotels which could pretend to be fashionable was the St. Francis, at the corner of Clay and Dupont, which furnished good entertainment and made extravagant charges therefor. It was not much patronized after 1852. At the corner of Pike and Clay was a hotel kept by Henry Gordon Walton, whose intellectual wife was the author of the poem read at the celebration of California's admission as a State, on the nineteenth of October, 1850. On the opposite corner was the Garrett House, kept by Zeke Wilson, afterwards landlord of the Portsmouth, on Portsmouth Square. These hotels entertained most of the male representatives of our aristocracy in the first two or three years of the city's history. The Oriental Hotel, a large and convenient place of public entertainment for those primitive days, was built in 1851 at the intersection of Bush, Battery and Market streets. For six or seven years it was the center of fashion and sociability. Among the ladies who were its permanent guests were Mrs. Ira P. Rankin, Mrs. R. J. Vande-