

Gate, however, from the best information, was first entered on the 18th day of August, 1776, by an expedition led by Francisco Palou and Benito Cambon, two monks of the order of St. Francis de Assissi, who founded the Mission on the site previously selected by Portala. On the following day a party of soldiers under command of Don Jose Moraga established themselves at the Presidio, and this was the beginning of permanent residence by civilized people on the peninsula now occupied by the great City of San Francisco. The old Mission Church, erected shortly after the occupation, still stands a revered monument of the past, and proof against the destructive elements of time and of the earthquakes to which the country is subject, and which have so unnecessarily frightened away many timid people. After the secularization of the Missions in 1833 the Pueblo of Yerba Buena was created, and in 1835 the first business house was established by William A. Richardson, an Englishman, who had previously been located at Sancelito, and in whose honor Richardson's Bay is so called. The first mercantile house was erected on what is now called Dupont Street, between Clay and Washington. In 1839 Captain John Vioget, by order of Governor Alvarado, surveyed the town into streets and squares, though without giving them names. This was the nucleus of the present city. Then its boundaries were the bay, flowing to Montgomery street on the east, the base of Telegraph Hill, or Broadway, on the north, California street on the south, and Powell street on the west. The surroundings were rugged hills and sand dunes covered with dense chapparal of live oak shrubs, holly and lupin, and so it continued until the occupation by the Americans in 1846. On the 8th of July, 1846, Commander Montgomery of the sloop of war Portsmouth, then lying in the harbor, took possession of the place in the name of the United States, and raised the flag of his country upon the Plaza, since called Portsmouth Square, in honor of the ship he commanded. In January following, 1847, under the direction of the same officer, the site was resurveyed, a large city was laid out, the names of prominent actors upon the scene, officers of the army and navy, and citizens of the little village, were given to its streets, and the name changed to SAN FRANCISCO.

On the 31st of July, shortly after the raising of the flag, the ship Brooklyn, from New York, arrived in the harbor, having on board 238 immigrants, of whom all but twelve were Mormons, under the leadership of Samuel Brannan, coming to found a new colony on the wild western shore of the continent. Great was their surprise, not to say dismay, when they beheld the Stars and Stripes waving over the town, and the Americans in possession, where they had expected to find a strange people, and where they had hoped to found their colony and church undisturbed and untrammelled by the customs and laws of the country they had left. This was an important and opportune accession to the English speaking population, and assisted materially in establishing institutions of law, order and progress in the new community. Mr. Brannan being a printer, and having brought with him the material for an office, set it up, and on the 9th of January, 1847, published the first number of the *California Weekly Star*, the pioneer paper of the new city. The name was afterwards changed to *Alta California*.

The next important arrival was on the 6th of March, when the bark Thomas H. Perkins came in with the first detachment of a regiment of volunteers from New York, under command of Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson. The other detachments on the barks Susan Drew and Loo Choo soon after arrived, and the young men of whom the regiment was composed were distributed throughout the country. With these the new city assumed a full American aspect, and looked hopefully forward when the whaling fleets of the "Northwest Coast" should rendezvous in its harbor, and the sturdy American farmer succeeding the unenterprising ranchero should make it the center of trade. But a fate was in store far brighter than the most vivid imagination had dared to picture. The treaty of Guadalupe Hildago, whereby Mexico conceded to the United States the right of possession to California, had hardly been agreed upon when, on the 19th of January, 1848, James W. Marshall made the discovery of gold at Coloma, the news of which soon spread over the world, opening a new era in commerce, and attracting all eyes to the young metropolis of the Pacific. A few months previously a census had been taken by Lieutenant Edward Gilbert, of Stevenson's regiment, showing a population of four hundred and fifty-nine, and one hundred and fifty-seven houses, of which one-fourth were adobes, the remainder being mere shanties. From this date San Francisco may be regarded as having its start. An alcalde, Mr. Washington A. Bartlett, had been elected, and the government was organized in a mixed Spanish and American fashion.

With the acquisition of the country it became necessary to establish mail communication with the Atlantic States and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company was organized, aided by a liberal contract from Congress. The route was from New York to Portland, Oregon, via Panama, with San Francisco as a wayport, but the gold discoveries following changed the plan, and this became the principal Pacific port of the line. In March, 1849, the California, the first steamer of the line, arrived, and since then the commerce of the city has advanced with gigantic strides. A State government was organized by the adoption of a Constitution and the election of officers under it. These assembled at San Jose in December, 1849. The State was divided into counties, that of San Francisco comprising the peninsula south of the Golden Gate, extending to Santa Clara County. A charter was granted the City, and in May, 1850,