

San Joaquin County.

It is impracticable to present in a work of this character more than a general outline history of the rich and populous county of San Joaquin, and of the thriving and beautiful city of Stockton. The first attempt at a permanent settlement by white men in this section of the Pacific Coast was made by Captain C. M. Weber, in 1844. In January of that year he, in connection with Mr. Gulnac, obtained from the Governor of California a grant to a large body of land, which afterwards became famous as the "Weber Grant," and soon after planted a small colony on the present site of Stockton. About the same time a settlement was made by the Hudson Bay Company where the village of French Camp now is. Captain Weber's little colony prospered for a short time, but was disrupted in 1845 by the breaking out of the small pox and consequent trouble with the Indians. In 1846 Captain Weber planted another and stronger colony, under more favorable circumstances, but that was also soon broken up by the commencement of the war between the United States and Mexico. In March, 1848, after the war was over, he made a third settlement, which was thriving and prosperous, when the discovery of the gold mines at once changed the aspect not only of the little colony, but of the Pacific Coast, and, to a great degree, of the civilized world. But that discovery speedily changed the place from a small rural community of stock herders, trappers and primitive farmers to a populous, busy, enterprising city, to and from which flowed for many years, an unbroken stream of adventurous miners, merchants, speculators of every grade and character—and of incalculable treasure. Stockton at once became the entrepot and depot of the trade of the mining regions east and south, and has steadily, though sometimes less rapidly than she might have done, progressed in all of the elements and conditions of civilization and happiness. In the Spring of 1850 the first steps were taken to organize a form of municipal government, and in July following, the city was duly incorporated by an order of the County Court. This was followed by the election, on the first of August, 1850, of a Mayor and other municipal officers. The town continued to grow with great rapidity, until the 6th