ces begin to exert themselves, and there are now seven avowed candidates, whose chances of success, although not equal one with the other, yet are such as to encourage them to persevere in the contest. On the Whig side there are Edwin Bryant and John Wethered; and among the Democrats are John B. Weller, H. W. Halleck, Solomon Heydenfeldt, John W. Geary, and John C. Fremont. The rest have quietly dropped off, and it is probable two of those above named will withdraw before the election. It is impossible to even approximately surmise the result of the contest; should the Legislature decide that the plurality rule shall govern, as is not impossible, a Whig must be elected. Should they decide in favor of the majority rule, there will be many ballotings before there can be a choice. One thing appears as certain as anything concerning elections can be—that Mr. Fremont must be defeated. The strength he mainly relied on is melting away day by day. The vote of the old Californians will doubtless be divided between Bryant and Halleck, and the members of the mining districts will go into convention almost instructed to vote against the present incumbent.

The Legislature will meet on the 6th proximo, at San José, but there is a strong feeling in favor of removing the seat of government temporarily to this city. The session commences under very embarrassing circumstances, as there is no money in the treasury, and very little prospect of obtaining any.

Should Congress neglect at its present session to vote the civil fund to the State, it is impossible the government can get on without a loan, and a proposition of that nature must go to the people for ratification before the Legislature can vote it. The constitution provides that no money shall be borrowed except by the first Legislature, without consulting the popular will.

The result of the mining operations up to this time will be found in another column. The mines are at present yielding less profitably than during the past season; but it is a matter of doubt whether the yield of the next year will not equal that of the past. The quartz gold will be mined with a great deal of energy during the coming spring and summer; and with the aid of machinery and steam the profits will undoubtedly be very large.

The Indians in the Mariposa country have commenced depredations, and all efforts to pacify them have proved unavailing. There is in town and country a much greater amount of crime against property and life than heretofore; and no doubt is entertained that there exists an organized band, mostly composed, probably, of convicts from the British colonies, whose trade is pillage and murder.

[From the Alta California, Jan. 1.]

Since our last monthly summary we have no stirring events to notice. We have, however, one item as pleasant to send to our friends in the States, as gratifying to us to be enabled to record. It is the entire cessation of the cholera. At one time it threatened us amazingly; but it has passed away, not only from San Francisco, but also from Sacramento City, where it raged most severely for a while. We do not hear of its ravages to any extent elsewhere in the country. The health of our State is excellent, not exceeded, we venture to assert, by any land on earth.

There have been a number of society celebrations, which have helped bind together still stronger the ties of friendship and memory which conduce so much to individual happiness and social enjoyment. Another newspaper has also been added to our corps in this city, one more in Sacramento, one in San Jose, and another about coming out. The question of "who shall be our next U. S. Senator?" has been considerably discussed; but we are decidedly of opinion that the safest time for answering will be after the Legislature have balloted. The good old custom of Thanksgiving has been duly observed, and many a happy association awakened thereby. "Pilgrims' Day" was also celebrated by the Sons of New England and their guests, in honor of the band who stood upon the shore of Plymouth two hundred and thirty years ago. This is well. We should cherish their memories and their virtues, and avoid their faults.

Much anxiety is felt about the Panama steamer, over due here now for more than a week. But we hope her detention is nothing more than what may have resulted from injury to her machinery, and that we shall ere long have the extreme pleasure of announcing her arrival.

A number of our most prominent men have died during the month. Very suddenly were some of them called away, and at one time our city appeared really gloomy in consequence. But a different feeling exists at present. There has been no small degree of dissatisfaction expressed on account of an opinion from the Supreme Court, which goes to vitiate almost all the land titles in this city. A number of steamers have arrived from around the Horn—among others the Gen. Warren, Constitution, &c. Our steam marine is increasing rapidly. The Roman Catholic Bishop of California, Dr. Alemani, has arrived, and received a most cheering welcome.

Our business men have awakened to the importance of the fine field opened for whaling from this port, as the emporium. Unfortunately, the first vessel fitted out for that business, the Popmunnet, has been lost, with a part of her crew. Another vessel has also been lost, but happily no lives lost. Reports from the mines have been rather scarce, most of those engaged on the rivers during the summer, having gone into the dry diggings, from whom a good account is anticipated next spring. Another large fire has visited us, but its ravages are so little, compared with previous ones—only about $60,000—that it has scarcely been noticed, except by the unfortunate sufferers.

A part of Capt. French's company has arrived here. This will be pleasing news to their friends in the States. One of the heaviest gales that has been known for years, has raged on our coast and over the country. But the damage has not been very great—the most unfortunate effects of it yet known, being the loss of the British ship Mersey, at the mouth of this bay. Our chief subject of discussion here in the city recently, in addition to the bells, has been the medals ordered by somebody who seems not yet anxious to own up to the paternity, as a testimony of respect from everybody who knew nothing of the matter, to everybody else, including the Aldermen. These medals will likely be to them what those conferred upon the French soldiers at Rome were considered by those troops—a mark of disgrace. And so they are.

Arrival of Captain French's Company.

[From the Alta California, Dec. 17.]

We have received from one of the members of the above company, Mr. William Miles, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, an account of their journey, to some extent, the treatment they received from Captain French, &c.

The company was called the "Overland Express Train." It left New York city on the 13th of May last, for San Francisco, by way of New Orleans, Lavacca, Texas, thence to El Paso by spring wagons. It seems that French had induced some two hundred and thirty men to pay him $250 apiece, contracting to take them through in sixty travelling days. They were four months in reaching El Paso. Considering that they had been completely deceived by French, and being nearly worn out with fatigue and disappointment, they resolved to hold a public meeting, and request French to send the passengers by pack mules to their point of destination. While they were consulting upon the subject the news arrived by express, from San Antonio, that French had used, without authority, Howland and Aspinwall's names, in a letter of unlimited credit, without their knowledge and signature.

Of course, the whole company was thrown into confusion. The idea of being abandoned in a strange land, without money or food, after having paid $250 for a through ticket, was not very grateful. Legal measures had been taken by French's creditors to seize all the outfit; to prevent which, the company resolved to place everything in the hands of officers chosen to receive them, and to sell and distribute the proceeds, *pro rata*, according to the claims of the passengers. French, while at Lavacca, had selected thirty men to act as jurors for the arbitrament of differences and for the punishment of crimes and offences, himself signing his pledge to abide by their decisions. In accordance with such organization, the chattels were sold, a final settlement made, and 20 per cent on all the claims was paid over to the members of the company, or passengers. With this amount, they had to purchase their mules, provisions, and pay whatever necessary expenses might accrue on their journey. French appealed to the American Military Commander, the Sheriff, the Mexican and American consuls, to interfere in his behalf and strip his dupes of everything. But in vain.

Finally, a part of the passengers, badly fitted out, left El Paso, on a journey of a thousand or fifteen hundred miles, for San Diego. Soon after leaving, they learned that French had employed some twenty men, armed to the teeth, for the purpose of robbing them. This he effected, the passengers being scattered. Each man, as he came up, was commanded, with a pistol at his breast, to give up his weapons, and then was stripped of whatever he possessed—blankets, clothing, mules, money, &c. Many were thus left entirely destitute. Finally, a little party of half a dozen Vermonters, who happened to be together, determined to, and did, resist. A battle was the consequence, in which two, a Mr. Wright and Mr. Nelson, were killed; Mr. Cooper had a thigh broken, and Mr. Holmes both arms broken. French had his right arm shattered, and was supposed mortally wounded, being shot also in the side. This occurred at Corolitas, in Mexico. When French was shot, his banditti scattered, and the rest of the company were allowed to pass on.

They suffered terribly by hunger, thirst and toil, but bore all with fortitude, working their way along with worn down bodies and swollen feet, until they reached the Colorado. There the gardens of the Houmas Indians, which had been deserted by them after their battle with the California troops, furnished the poor worn out travellers for a week or ten days with beans. After a journey of several months, some forty reached San Diego, thirty-five took passage in a brig for this place, and were twenty-one days in reaching here, having divided out the last provisions and water on board ere there arrival.

Here is suffering and misfortune and horror enough for one narration. If it be all true, and French comes to this country, as it is reported he will do, being on his way here minus an arm, if the men he has thus injured are men unworthy of such outrage, we think he will be likely to have a "happy time of it." We give our authority, knowing nothing further of the matter.

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF CAPT. FRENCH'S COMPANY.

Gen. A. N. Corss, N. Y.; Dr. Thomas Foster, Texas; Seth E. White, Va.; Rufus Tillow, N. Y.; Jas. Fitton, San Francisco; Roswell Hewitt, N. Y.; Samuel Maxson, N. Y.; A. Makenzie, Texas; Westley Phillips, do.; J. M. Strain, do.; Wm Freeman, do.; Samuel Haslett and three boys, do.; A. J. Baker, do.; Pleasant J. Slaughter, do.; Wm. H. Johnson, do.; Thos Huring, do.; Russell Johnson, Michigan; Oscar Thayer, do.; Joseph B. Fortiner, Pa.; H. Clagett, Ky.; John Mettler, N. Y.

DIED.—Edward H. Rooker, of Hamilton, Canada West, died on board, on the 6th day of December, of congestion of the brain, aged about 28.

The Legislature of California.

[From the California Courier, Jan. 1.]

We have permitted all kinds of classifications of the members of both branches of the Legislature, by our cotemporaries, to pass uncontradicted. We now, however, intend to put the matter to rest, and leave them to draw all the comfort they can from the statement. We class them as follows:—

SENATE.

1st District	Warner, dem.
2d do.	Hope, whig.
3d do.	De La Guerra, whig.
4th do.	Woodworth, whig.
5th do.	Tingley, whig
6th do.	{ Heydenfeldt, whig. / Broderick, dem.
7th do.	*Fair, whig.
8th do.	Douglass, whig.
9th do.	Lippincott, whig.
10th do.	Miller, dem.
11th do.	Cook, dem.
12th do.	Crosby, dem.
13th do.	†Green, doubtful.
14th do.	Crosby, dem.
15th do.	Adams, dem.

ASSEMBLY.

San Diego	Cook, whig.
Los Angeles	{ Stearns, whig. / Pico, whig.
Santa Barbara	{ ‡Covarrubias, doubtful. / Karnes, whig.
San Luis Obispo	——, whig
Monterey	Randall, whig.
Santa Cruz	Kellegg independent.
San José	{ Campbell, whig. / Bodley, whig.
Contra Costa	{ Brown, whig. / Carr, whig.
San Francisco	{ Wethered, whig. / Bennett, whig. / Thorn, whig. / Hoff, dem. / McDougall, whig
San Joaquin	{ Yelser, dem / Lynn, doubtful.
Calaveras	{ Murphy, dem. / Moore, whig.
Tuolumme	{ Baldwin, whig. / Wilkins, whig.
Mariposa	{ Merritt, dem. / Richardson, dem.
Sacramento	{ Bigler, dem. / Little, whig. / Robinson, whig / Hall, dem.
El Dorado	{ Kendrick, dem.
Marin	
Sonoma	
Napa	Bradford, dem.
Solano	
Mendocino	
Yolo	
Colusi	Crane, whig.
Trinity	
Sutter	M'Corkle, dem
Yuba	Field, dem.
Butte	Saunders, dem.
Shasta	M'Candless, whig.

RECAPITULATION.

Whigs in the Senate	8
Whigs in the Assembly	21
Whigs in both houses	29
Democrats in the Senate	6
Democrats in the Assembly	12
In both houses	18
Whig plurality	11
Doubtful in the Senate	2
Doubtful in the Assembly	4 6
Whig majority over democrats, doubtful and independents	5

* We insert Capt. Fair's name in the place of Van Buren, because all agree that he will get his seat.

† We insert Gen. Green as doubtful, because he voted for Gen. Taylor, and has never acted with the democrats in California, and will not, as a party man.

‡ Covarrubias is a Californian, and has as yet formed no alliance with the democrats, although he appeared to—but he does not call himself one.

‖ Mr. Lynn has always acted with the whigs, but differs with them on the tariff. In fact, he is a whig by nature.

From this statement it will be seen that even if we give the democrats all the doubtful members and the one elected as an Independent, we beat them five votes on joint ballot. If we give them Mr. Van Buren, we beat them three votes. Mr. Karnes has always been put down as a locofoco, but there is not a more ultra whig in California. The State is now unquestionably whig, and as the whigs have the power they will, no doubt, legislate and so act as to secure the supremacy of the whig party in the commonwealth for all time to come.

The election of a United States Senator, this winter, by the Legislature, and the election, by the people, next fall, of two members of Congress, a Governor, Lieut. Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, and members of both houses of the Legislature, will make the present session one of grave consideration. Important modifications of laws passed at the last session of the Legislature must take place, such as time and investigation may suggest. The party cannot be too careful. We believe all the members of the Legislature, without reference to party, consider the responsibilities entrusted to their care are important to every interest of the commonwealth. We have great hopes of securing correct and prudent legislation from the wisdom, good sense, and patriotism of the ensuing Legislature.

Intelligence from the Mines.

[From the Stockton Journal.]

THE SILVER MINE EXPLORERS.

A painful rumor was in circulation here, some time since, in regard to the party which started by the valley route to Los Angeles, and among whom was our fellow citizen, Mr. Wallis. It was stated that Indians attacked them while hunting their mules, and killed several of the party. Intelligence received from them, since this occurrence was said to have taken place, reports the whole party safe, and that they have discovered the extensive silver mine which they were searching for.

[From the same paper.]

SPECIMENS OF GOLD QUARTZ.

Dr. Shepherd, who arrived in our city from Sonora, has brought with him a number of specimens of gold, combined with quartz and other minerals—among them he showed us a very curious piece of square quartz, having a small golden fringe, about half an inch high, rising out of the centre like a monument—and imagination can very easily shape it into Minerva, the ruling divinity of our State. The quartz has no gold in it except this beautiful sprig. The doctor also showed us several specimens taken from the golden streets of the town of Sonora; and pieces of gold in quartz taken from the new discovery recently made within a few hundred yards of the town. Among the collection was a piece of gold combined with the crystalized quartz, a rare union of the two. A piece of flat rock, apparently limestone, in the doctor's possession, has the impress upon its face of a miniature tree; and in another place the outline of a ridge with the formation of trees crossing it. Scientific men, skilled in geology, have a vast field for interesting study in California.

NEVADA DIGGINGS.

The miners who have remained in the vicinity of Nevada, are said to be doing very well in digging.

LOGTOWN.

The miners here are doing a good business. It is estimated that in this valley—about three miles in length—there is already dirt thrown up, which will yield from $300,000 to $500,000. I should judge there were about 1,000 men engaged, and to whom this amount will fall. Almost all are now engaged working. Logtown is quite a village; I suppose there are not less than twenty stores, two blacksmith shops, two taverns, shoemakers, bakers, carpenters, and one gambling house—this last house, however, does but a limited business, there being but comparatively few miners green enough to "buck up" to monte or other games. Eucre, ten-pins, and old-sledge constitute the principal games in this Burg. We have preaching here nearly every Sabbath, and always a good attendance.

GOOD YIELD.

The Sonora *Herald*, of Dec. 21st, says rain has fallen abundantly, and that miners in the immediate vicinity of that place, are washing out not less than $10,000 per day.

NEW DIGGINGS.

[From the Sacramento Transcript.]

We learn that new discoveries of gold diggings have recently been made on the North Fork of Feather river, which are represented as of a very rich character.

MORE METALLIFEROUS QUARTZ.

[From the Stockton Times.]

Our friend, Mr. Jeffreys, informs us that a vein of metalliferous quartz was discovered a few days since and in the immediate vicinity of the town of Sonora. It is represented to be very rich, and there is no doubt that this discovery will exercise the most important influence on the destinies of the little town in the mountains. We are inclined to think this vein is the same as the one discovered by a Mexican, some months ago, but who refused to reveal the secret, assigning as a reason the cruelty of the government towards his countrymen, in the matter of the foreign miners' tax.

Agriculture begins to take form and order, and good results are reported as attending the labors of those cultivating the soil. The election in Sacramento resulted favorably for the whigs. Both parties claim the Legislature. That body, it is asserted by some of its members, will be adjourned to this city. Two or three Marine Insurance Companies have been formed here—a pretty sure sign of confidence in commercial transactions. Some ill feeling has arisen in consequence of the abduction of the Marquesas girls by Captain Snow. He awaits his trial for the crime. We have three theatres in full blast. Balls in abundance. And so ends our summary, amidst the sounds of a kind of "wake," which the boys are having around the dying year.

RINGGOLD.

[From the Placer Times.]

We have seen a gentleman from Ringgold, who informs us that he left that place since the recent heavy rains fell. Miners have commenced washing the earth which has been thrown up during the fall, but not enough has been done to tell much what will be their success. Previous to the last rains, miners about Ringgold were nearly discouraged. They were making but little, and the prospects were bad. Merchants have been compelled, from the large quantities of provisions on hand, to sell at exceedingly low prices.

AUBURN.

Miners at Auburn are now said to be doing well. This location was one of the very best in California during last winter, and, from what we have heard, we see no reason why it will not be the present winter.

ANOTHER LUMP.

[From the Stockton Times.]

We had the pleasure of seeing, on Thursday last, in this city, a lump of pure gold, weighing 10 lbs. 3 oz. It belonged to a Frenchman who dug it out, a few days ago, below the Rich Gulch, near Moquelumne Hill.

The Rain—The Mines—Society.

[From the Sacramento Tribune, Dec. 19.]

The rain is upon us in all its force. The miners can wash now if they will, and we expect them to turnout the shining dust through their long rockers, as speedily and as merrily as ever. The general carelessness which for some time might be seen in the mining district, vanished before the first few days rain, and bustle and retivity will henceforth reign supreme until the end of the wet season. The roads to the mines are nearly impassable for the wagons, and may soon be for heavily packed mules; so that it will be difficult to transport supplies thither. Unless the principal mining districts are well supplied with provisions, clothing and utensils, these articles will bring prices. We believe, however, that many of them have a good supply on hand, so that they will not be obliged to purchase much from the river towns until the dry weather again returns. We look for a good winter's work in the mines, even though the rain was long coming; but we do not expect so rich a yield as many do with whom we have conversed. We are satisfied that most miners have heretofore been sadly disappointed in their calculations regarding the richness of their claims and the dirt which they had taken from them. So it will be, and must continue, until the richer deposits are almost gone, and the regular unprospecting takes the place of the irregular, unmethodical labor which has been, and now is, prevalent in the mining region. In another year or two we will have system in culling from the auriferous soil its golden treasure, and though some men may not then make their "pile" as speedily as before, yet all on an average will be better paid. If the gold cannot be extracted without the use of water, railroads will be built to carry it to the streams, and sheds erected, not only to save the workmen from the summer's sun, but also from the winter's rain.

There is sufficient wood for fire, houses, roads, &c., in all parts of the mines for many years to come, and in most places railroads could be erected round the mountains, with, in many places, a gradual descent from the mine to the river. In other places horses or mules would be necessary.

We look for great improvements in mining operations during the coming year, both as regards the machinery and the ease and comfort with which it will be worked. More gold will be turned out with less labor and danger to health and life in the coming than in the past time. Men will feel more at ease as the comforts of home begin to surround them, and daily additions to our female population will wipe from their brows that sullen gloom which is the general companion of the new delver after gold. Families, like angels' visits, are now and then met with in the mines, and the very sight of happy mothers and smiling children is enough to cheer the brow of labor, and raise high above the freezing point the drooping heart of the social wanderer. Men have hated California, but this will not always be.

Used to society in the States, they have come here and found it not. Accustomed to the sweet influences of home and friends they have deserted, in high hopes of glittering treasure, which have vanished like

"The baseless fabric of a vision,
Leaving not a wreck behind."

—when these social wants are no longer felt—when families shall dot the bosom of this valley like that of the Mississippi, and churches and school houses and libraries be erected, they will find themselves as much at home as they were on the other side of the Rocky Mountains.

Many of our citizens are now returning to the States for their families to reside permanently among us, and many others are sending for theirs, not being able to leave their business operations here. In a year or two we will find ourselves as comfortable here as most of our friends are anywhere.

San Francisco at the Close of Eighteen Hundred and Fifty.

[From the Pacific News, Jan. 1.]

We have hitherto published an article giving some interesting incidents connected with "San Francisco Fifty Years Ago," which has suggested a contrast with "San Francisco at the Close of Eighteen Hundred and Fifty." At the period to which the first article refers, the only evidences of human improvement, or of the fact that the hand of man had fashioned into shape any thing appertaining to this locality, was the Presidio at the northern extremity of the borders of San Francisco, and the Mission at the southern line. Between the two was almost a barren waste, the extremes being occupied by a community of perhaps a thousand rough, uncivilized men, untutored in the arts, unlearned in the sciences, and following in the way their fathers trod since first the footsteps of man were imprinted in the sands of a locality to which the eyes of the world are now turned in almost stupefied amazement.

Look at San Francisco now! Had a dweller hereabouts of "fifty years ago," taken a Rip Van Winkle sleep, and awaked at the close of "eighteen hundred and fifty," he would have fancied that the black art of magic had eclipsed itself in working a change scarcely less surprising than though the whole locality had been bodily transferred to another region. The mud hovel, the tiled adobe buildings, the hide houses, have given way to splendid piles of brick and mortar that rise towering to the skies—monuments of energy and ingenuity of a people that know no superiors, and acknowledge no equals,—while the people of that day have almost left the field of action, or become "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to the more enterprising and intelligent class whom the golden sands of California—to leave out of question the "manifest destiny" which seems to urge on the American nation—have attracted thither. Fancy may conjure up, and almost give life and shape to, a thousand impossibilities, absurd and visionary, but the utmost stretch of imagination would fail to present a picture so wonderful in all its aspects, as the past and present in the history of California.

We have neither time nor space to extend the contrast to the entire State, but must confine ourselves to the principal city, where the changes which have taken place are more marked than in any other locality; where, "fifty years ago," the extent of population did not exceed one thousand, but which number may be multiplied at the "close of eighteen hundred and fifty," by at least thirty-five.

As the mines of California and the shipments of gold dust are the principal features of attraction here and at home, we first enter upon that field, and annex the amounts which have been sent forward during each month for the past year, as taken from the manifests at the custom house, and which of course do not include that taken by private hands. All the statistics presented below are compiled from official sources, and for a great portion of them we are indebted to the courtesy of Col. Collier, the Collector of the port, and the gentlemanly clerks under him, who have charge of the books:—

AMOUNT OF GOLD DUST SHIPPED FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 30TH, 1850.

Month of January	$418,443
" February	734,551
" March	1,250,000
" April	2,201,009
" May	1,731,863
" June	2,649,045
" July	3,020,000
" August	3,282,880
" September	914,000
" October	4,598,461
" November	3,337,539
" December	1,250,400
Total amount for the year	$20,441,583

This statement is a sufficient answer to the too often expressed opinion that the mines were becoming exhausted, and that California must prove a failure by and by. For the past two seasons the summer months have produced the greatest amount of gold, the wet diggings being worked then to a greater extent than the dry. This accounts for the fact that the shipment in the month of August exceeded that of any other month in the year.

Fixing the amount of gold exported, and which was regularly shipped and entered, for the period named above, at $20,000,000, in round figures, and add to it an estimate of $12,000,000, as having gone forward in private hands, and $6,000,000 retained for circulation, and the aggregate shows the enormous sum of $48,000,000; an amount exceeding one-third the total of all the products of the United States exported during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1850, and nearly one-third the amount of imports; $12,000,000 more than the exports of the State of New York or Louisiana; $35,000,000 more than Alabama; $38,000,000 more than South Carolina; $40,000,000 more than Massachusetts or Maryland; $41,000,000 more than Georgia, and $43,000,000 more than Pennsylvania. And while viewing this statement, it will at the same time be borne in mind that the States which show the largest amount of exports, are those which possess the advantage of having ports situated on the seaboard, and which do the carrying trade of States more remotely located. The eight States above enumerated, in fact do the labor of transporting to foreign ports, not only their own products, but those of the remaining twenty-two.

From the same source of information—the custom house books—we have compiled the following monthly receipts of bullion at this port for the year:—

AMOUNT OF BULLION RECEIVED FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1850.

Month of January	$227,331
February	19,600
March	100,000
April	400,000
May	267,000
June	116,669
July	157,000
August	295,000
September	45,000
October	none
November	95,000
December	none
Total for the year	$1,722,600

The largest proportion of this amount of bullion has been received from the Atlantic States, though a no inconsiderable amount has found its way from the old world—sent hither from both localities, for the reason that in no country in the world does an investment of money pay as well. Securities are ample, and the losses small, in comparison with the flood of disasters which sweep over other localities. Individuals may be ruined by fire in an hour, but the money loaned at from three to ten per cent per month interest, generally comes in but for a small proportion of the loss.

As connected with the subject of currency, we will here take occasion to say that in no other section of the globe are the generality of bankers more careful, judicious, and business-like, than in San Francisco. The rapid changes which are noted every day, necessarily compels them to watch the course of events with a careful regard for their own interests; and the exceptions to the general classification for integrity and business capacity, are but few. It is but a short time since most of them, in San Francisco particularly, passed through a panic that would have shaken the commercial circles of other cities to their centre; and all but one or two came out unscathed, meeting every demand upon them promptly, and to the last dollar.

The names of the principal bankers of San Francisco are as follows:—

Burgoyne & Co., Montgomery street.
F. Argenti & Co., Montgomery street.
Bolton, Barron & Co., do.
E. E. Dunbar, do.
T. J. Tallent & Co., corner of Clay and Montgomery.
W. F. Young, Washington street.

The following houses represent parties elsewhere:

B. Davidson, represents the Rothchilds, London.
Wells & Co., represent Willis & Co., Boston, and Drew, Robinson & Co., New York.
Page, Bacon & Co., represent Page & Bacon, St. Louis.
James King, of William, represents Corcoran & Riggs, Washington, D. C.
S. Beebee Ludlow, represents Beebee Ludlow & Co., New York.
Godeffroy, Sillem & Co., represent J. C. Godeffroy & Co., Hamburg.

In addition to the above, there are other smaller operators, whom it would not perhaps be proper to classify amongst the leading bankers of the city, their transactions being mainly confined to the purchase and sale of gold dust, and do not do a legitimate banking business.

For the time included in the period for which all our statistics have been made up, viz: the twelve months past, there has entered our harbor, from all foreign ports, 1,743 vessels. During the same period, the number of vessels which cleared was 1,461. The vessels arriving have landed upon our shores, 35,333 males, and 1,248 females. The number which have left by sail vessels and steamers, during the same time, was 26,593 males and 8 females.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury on commerce and navigation, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1849, shows the number of clearances from the port of New York to have been little more than twice that of San Francisco for the year ending Dec 31, 1850, and the number of arrivals at that port—the same periods compared—to have been 268 less than twice the amount. As compared with New Orleans, the difference in favor of San Francisco is, in clearances, 330, and in arrivals 645. When the comparison is made with Philadelphia, we find the difference still greater in favor of San Francisco, being in clearances 922, and in arrivals 1,137. The same would be the result were the comparison made with any of the sea ports in the United States.

The total value of merchandise received by foreign vessels, from Nov. 21, 1849, to Sept. 30, 1850, was $3,351,962 65. The tonnage of the vessels was 151,604.

The total value of merchandise received during the same period, in domestic vessels, was $797,275 10. The tonnage of the vessels, 82,949.

It has been frequently asserted by persons unacquainted with the facts, that California has imported more goods, and contracted a larger aggregate of debt elsewhere, than her shipments of gold dust would pay for. To show the error in this statement, a comparison of the figures above need only be made. The total value of all the merchandise received here, of every nature and description, from foreign and domestic ports, from Nov. 21, 1849, to Sept. 30, 1850, was $4,155,257 75. By reference to the table of gold shipments in this article, it will be seen that the aggregate sent forward during either of two months in the year, was more than enough to wipe out the entire debt incurred on account of California for merchandise.

In the month of March, 1849, the pioneer steamship, in the trade between this port and Panama, entered the "Golden Gate." With what demonstrations of rejoicings was the staunch old vessel, California, received, may well be imagined. In less than twenty-two months from that date, we find the following noble steamers traversing the waters of the Pacific, arriving and departing with the regularity of a train of cars upon a New England railroad:—

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY LINE.

California,	Unicorn,	Sarah Sands,
Panama,	Oregon,	Carolina.
Tennessee,	Northerner,	

LAW'S LINE OF PACIFIC STEAMERS.

Columbus,	Isthmus,	Antelope.

In addition to these, belonging to the regular lines, are the steamers New Orleans, Ecuador, and Constitution, which have been engaged in the Panama trade, and also the Gold Hunter and the Sea Gull, which have recently been upon the route between this port and Oregon. The number of steamers running between this port and Panama is greater than the number employed in the trade between New York and Liverpool and New York and Havre, combined.

One year ago last October—fifteen months ago—the first steamer, the Senator, designed for the river trade, arrived in port. Previous to that time, the transit of the river to the ports above had been by means of small sail craft, occupying some days in a journey that is now made by many of the vessels named below, in from seven to ten hours. There are now employed in the river trade the following steamers:—

STEAMERS EMPLOYED IN THE RIVER TRADE.

Names.	Tons.	Names.	Tons.
Senator	754	Sutter	51
Star	22	El Dorado	153
Miner	75	Libertad	30
New World	525	Com. Jones	31
California	61	Fire Fly	19
Hartford	251	Lucy Long	18
Fashion	87	Linda	52
Missouri	27	Wm. Robinson	46
Ion	30	New England	28
West Point	239	Jack Hays	42
McKim	376	Kennebec	44
Chesapeake	392	Gen. Warren	300
G. W. Grinnell	10	Victor Constant	57
P. B. Redding	8	H. T. Clay	154
Georgiana	30	New Star	48
Elna	30	San Joaquin	39
Gov. Dana	67	Jenny Lind	61
Maunsel White	36	Erastus Corning	86
Bute	29	Union	87
Tehama	83	NOT YET REGISTERED.	
Maj. Tompkins	151	Confidence, about	450
Mariposa	60	New Orleans, about	850
Yuba	19	Benicia, about	100
Martha Jane	15		
Sacramento	38	Total	6632

In addition to this list of steamers, there are also engaged in navigating the rivers and the bay, 270 craft of various kinds. There are also now lying in port, many of them abandoned and others used as store-ships, between five and six hundred vessels, not a few of them of the largest class that can be found in any of the waters of the globe.

The auction business of San Francisco bears no unimportant relation to the trade of the city and the State. The number which we propose to name as the principal individuals and firms legitimately engaged in this branch is seventeen, without including the score or two whose "going, going" disposes of goods in smaller quantities. The names of the more extensive houses are as follows:—

Middleton & Hood, Washington street.
Kendig, Wainwright & Co., Montgomery street.
H. B. Lafitte & Co., Montgomery street.
Theodore Payne & Co., Montgomery street.
James B. Hule, Montgomery street.
Jones, Carter & Co., Montgomery street.
J. B. Riddle & Co., Montgomery street.
Backus, Davis & Co., Washington street.
Starr, Minturn & Co., Washington street.
Caldwell & Emerson, Montgomery street.
W. J. Sherwood & Co., Washington street.
Garniss & Co., Washington street.
Frederick Dunbar, Washington street.
Kettelle, Mahony & Co., Washington street.
Moore & Folger, Montgomery street.
Gower & Co., Montgomery street.
Backus & Harrison, Montgomery street.

These comprise the principal auction houses in the city, and for correct business habits, liberality and integrity, will not suffer in comparison with those of any other city. Many of them occupy rooms far more spacious than those required for the business of the long established and most extensive houses of the Atlantic cities.

Neither time nor space will permit us to enumerate in detail many kinds of trade which are followed with satisfactory success in our midst, and which form no small item in the trade of California. In addition to what has already been mentioned, we will add that San Francisco, with a population of over 35,000, sustains seven daily papers; while New York, numbering half a million, can boast of only double that number. We have eight express companies, the principal oaes being Adams & Co., and J. W. Gregory; over sixty brick buildings where, six months ago, there was not one; eight or ten first class hotels, at the head of which stands the Union, (just erected by Selover & Co., and under the management of Isaac M. Hall,) the St. Francis, Delmonico's, the Revere, and the National.

But a few months since, the boundaries even of San Francisco were hardly defined with sufficient definiteness to guide the inquirer in his search. Now we have one hundred and seven miles of street laid out, one quarter of which is built upon and occupied, and over seven miles of it substantially planked, and most of that distance properly sewered. We have now a semi-monthly mail, where a year ago it was only an occasional one—reaching our shores now and then, and half the time not as often. One marine insurance company has already been formed, with a capital of $500,000, and another in progress of organization.

Such is a bird's eye glance at San Francisco, at the close of "eighteen hundred and fifty," as compared with "San Francisco fifty years ago." The change is wonderful and surprising; but when we add that nearly all this has been accomplished within two years and a half, it is no secret that the world look on and wonder. Civilized and uncivilized nations alike have heard of California, and most of them have witnessed, in some degree, enticing specimens of her mineral treasures. But she has a mine of wealth in her broad acres yet undeveloped; agricultural riches that lack only the hand of industry, the energy of the people into whose hands Destiny has placed the country, to make the wilderness "blossom like the rose," and her plains and valleys to yield riches far more lasting and stable than even the glittering ore that each stroke of the miner's pick exposes to the broad light of the noonday sun. But California is not "for a day." The history of the past, her position in the present, assure us that there is a future in store for her more glorious than has marked the progress of any State, or even any nation, whose history has been written. We do not speak enthusiastically: we say what we believe time will fully warrant us in penning. The germ of a mighty people on the shores of the Pacific has been planted; it has grown into a stately, proud position already, and although the past has witnessed much that appears like a dream, the future, as developed by time and energy, will give birth to yet many fold more astonishing results within the golden gate of San Francisco.

Wreck of the Bark Popmunnett near San Francisco—Six Lives Lost.

[From the San Francisco Herald, Dec. 30.]

The gale on the 15th and 16th instant, appears to have been very severe along the coast. The vessels that have arrived in port during the last two days, report having suffered severely from its effects.

The whaling bark Popmunnett, William H. Taylor, master, of this port, which sailed hence on the 14th inst, on a whaling cruise, foundered at sea during the gale, and six of her crew, numbering in all sixteen, met with a watery grave. It appears that at eight A. M., on Sunday, the 16th instant, it being the mate's watch, a terrific sea struck the vessel on the larboard bow, throwing her on her beam ends, and bursting her main hatch bars off, and immersing the hatch in water, when she instantly filled. The watch on deck, with the exception of the mate, were washed from the decks into the sea. The captain and nine others succeeded in getting into a boat, but unprovided with either oars or sail to govern the boat, food to eat, or clothes to their backs. They had left the vessel but a few seconds when she foundered. At 11 P. M., one of the number, a seaman named R. H. Still, died from exhaustion. A portion of the lining was torn from the boat, with which they continued to paddle a distance of some hundred miles. After knocking about in this way, with a heavy sea running, for fifty-two hours, these unfortunate men were picked up by Capt. Hogan, of the Col. Tayloe, and have been safely brought into this port.

We are informed by Capt. H. that it would be impossible to describe their state when taken on board his vessel, and that in his opinion they could not have survived in the boat three hours longer. They are still suffering severely, especially the captain. Their names are Joseph C. Little, first mate; James Taylor, second mate; Wm. Spooner and Bernard Keen, boat steerers; W. Baldwin, cooper; C. Perkins, George French, and James Roundy, seamen. The names of those who were drowned we have been unable to ascertain.

The ship W. V. Kent made the Farallone Rocks on the 16th, when, having lost sails, spars, etc., she was compelled to run before it, having the wind from the southeast.

The Col. Tayloe experienced the gale from the southwest, lost sails, bulwarks, &c.

The brig Ellis had it from the northwest—lost a boat, and was compelled to throw overboard about fifteen tons of her deck cargo.

Indian Hostilities in California.

[From the California Courier, Jan. 1.]

It appears, from all the accounts we can gather, that the Indian tribes of California have taken the bold stand in their affairs with the whites, that they must have undisturbed control of their old hunting grounds, or perish in defending them. This is now the issue. They refuse to listen to any proposition for peace—for any amicable termination of their difficulties with the whites. Indeed, the exasperated state of mind of the Indians on the whole west coast, towards the whites, whom they regard as intruders upon their possessions, is likely to involve us in constant troubles. If they adhere to their determination, we apprehend that they are all doomed to perish.

The Indians in the northern mines, have openly attacked trading and mining settlements, and committed many thefts and murders. This they have done repeatedly. There is no evidence that they will cease to harrass the whites. As a matter of course, the whites will retaliate. They have already visited upon them severe and terrible chastisements. We do not, however, consider the Indians the aggressors. Some white men, in a spirit of wanton cruelty, have shot them down without provocation, and thus produced a feeling of implacable hatred to the whites, which no peaceable overtures yet offered them have been strong enough to reconcile, and they have become desperate.

This hostile feeling is assuming an open and undisguised appearance among the tribes on the Trinity and Klamath. Several skirmishes have taken place, and the whites, in sparse settlements, are in constant apprehension of marauding and murdering bands of Indians. On this account, all travelling and prospecting parties go armed, and are constantly on the watch against Indians. This hostility to the whites has existed, to some extent, for many years in Oregon. In some parts of that territory