

OAKLAND CITY---PAST AND PRESENT.

On the fourth day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, when the land upon which the present City of Oakland is situated was under the jurisdiction of Contra Costa County, an Act incorporating the Town of Oakland was approved by the Governor of the State, and on that day commenced the corporate existence of what the present generation is likely to see developed into the most important city bordering upon the Pacific Ocean; the western terminus of the Pacific Railroad, the greatest work of this or any other age.

The Act incorporating the Town of Oakland was brief, and its provisions were few. A Board of Trustees, consisting of five members, was created; and in this Board was vested power to use the property of the town in whatever way would best promote its interests. The property then at their disposal was the extensive water front surrounding the city, which was at the same time granted to it by the Legislature and owned by the corporation. The narrative of this property from that day until the present time would form one of the most interesting chapters in the history of California litigation that could be written; but the restricted limits of a Directory forbid anything more than a faint outline. In this and other matters of the past we must be brief. Our business is to lay before the public facts that are of present interest and importance, rather than amuse, and perhaps instruct, by narrating events that have long since transpired. There is wanted a comprehensive history of our city: its annals are still unrecorded. When impartially written,