

gave birth to the great Western Republic on the Atlantic shore of North America, witnessed the first permanent settlement on the coast of Upper California. In 1776, two Missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church reached the bay of San Francisco, and proceeded to establish a central point for their operations. Their names were Francisco Palou and Benito Cambon. They were natives of Spain, but came to this place from Mexico. Finding a fertile tract of land, capable of irrigation, nearly two miles south of the present city of San Francisco, they selected it for their home, and with much pious pomp, they founded the *Mission of Our Father St. Francis*; but in the course of years, the name was changed to that of the *Mission Dolores*, in commemoration of the sufferings of the Virgin. The Fathers evinced much good sense in selecting the site for their buildings, which was a small, fertile plain, embosomed among green-clad hills. Several tiny rivulets of clear, sweet water met about the spot, whose united streams were conducted to the bay by one of a larger size, now well known as Mission Creek. Among the first buildings erected was the Church, which is still devoted to religious uses, while the adjoining adobe buildings are now used for secular purposes. The Missions were established with the view, not only of propagating the doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion, but by so blending agriculture and trade, under the tutelage of the Church, as to render the Natives amenable subjects of the Spanish Crown. The Friars succeeded in reducing a large number to a partial degree of civilization; and to the self-denial of the good Fathers, La Perouse, Vancouver, Beechey, and other enlightened travelers, afford unqualified testimony. "During this primitive period, from which we are removed by so brief an interval, it would seem that kindness in their intercourse with one another, and hospitality to the stranger, were the characteristics of the Friars and their converts." Three miles west of the city, and two and a half miles north of the Mission is the *Presidio*, established to give military aid to the clergy in the conquest of the Indians. Under the protection of *this* Presidio were the Missions of San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Rafael, and Sonoma. The original buildings were constructed in quadrangular form; the portions still remaining continue to be occupied as a Barracks. Here it is worthy of mention, that soldiers of three different nationalities have been successively quartered in this venerable garrison. The Presidio was founded on the 17th of September, and the Mission on the 9th of October, A. D., 1776. Those interested in the early history of the Mission and Presidio, will find a very graphic account in Palou's life of Junipero Serra.

Fort Point, the Golden Gate, and the Bay.

On the northwesterly extremity of the peninsula of San Francisco, four miles from the city, there stood, in early times, a bold, narrow, jutting promontory of hard serpentine rock, 107 feet above the level of the sea, surmounted by a small Mexican fortification, called Fort Blanco. The view from this point was one of the finest in the harbor; but the entire headland has been cut down within a few feet of high water, and increased in area to make room for the present noble and substantial structure, known as *Fort Point*. It was commenced in 1854, and is four tiers in height, including the battery in the rear, mounting in all, 164 guns, with accommodation for 2,400 men. The ordnance here and at Alcatrazes combines all the im-