

energetic priests from old Spain had established, and for more than half a century maintained, for the civilization, protection, and employment of the aboriginal Indians. Well, indeed, may it be said of this beautiful country that "here only man is vile."

The harbour of San Francisco is unrivalled in the world. A bay of many leagues in circumference, abounding in safe anchorages, is entered from the ocean by a deep strait of less than three miles in breadth. Into this bay several rivers, the Sacramento—(having a course of about four hundred miles) the Buena Ventura, and the St. Joaquin, the principal ones—empty themselves, and afford communication with a wide expanse of interior country of the most fertile description. The climate cannot be surpassed; it equals that of the finest parts of Europe. Rains are unfrequent; there is so little cold in winter that no fire-places are to be seen; and the heat in summer is much more tempered than in the region of the Columbia.

The whole tract north of San Francisco is all but uninhabited. A farming establishment belonging to General Vallejo, the military commandant of the district, in the interior country, and another occupied (but since abandoned) by the Russian Fur Company at Bodega on