

THE HISTORY OF SOLANO COUNTY .

BENICIA .

The following interesting record of the township and city of Benicia has been most kindly furnished to us by S . C . Gray, Esq., an old pioneer of that city . We reproduce it, because a fuller and more concise record would be hard to find ; and we take this opportunity to thank the author for his kindness in extending to us the permission to allow it to form a no mean portion of the history of Solano county :

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"RECOLLECTIONS OF BENICIA.

A Lecture—By S. C. Gray.

From the Pacific Ocean, whose waters press the shores of California, along a coast line scarcely less than one thousand miles in extent, between the 117th and 124th parallels of W. longitude, and from the 32d to the 42d parallel of N. latitude, the main entrance into this great State for the shipping and commerce of all nations, is through the world-renowned "Golden Gate," the outlet for the waters contained within the Bay of San Francisco.

The striking features of the "Golden Gate" have been described again and again, by many writers; and its praises will continue to be sounded so long as the soul of man is touched by those beauties of nature that are presented to his appreciation through the medium of his sight.

As a counterpart, or, perhaps, a continuation of this charming "Golden Gate," may be regarded the less renowned but equally beautiful, "Straits of Carquinez," constituting the passage from the San Francisco and San Pablo bays into Suisun bay, that receptacle for all the interior waters of the State, which from the length and breadth of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, have here descended to flow on their way to the sea through the deep and commodious channel of these Straits.

On account of their bold shores and beautiful outlines, the Straits have been likened to the Bosphorus, near Constantinople; and it may well be predicted, that in time when these hillsides have been subjected to the culture and adorned with the improvements of which they are susceptible, they will fairly rival that famous highway in attractiveness.

On the north side of these Straits, at a distance of twenty-eight miles from San Francisco, by the usual traveled route on steamer, but of not more than twenty-three miles north-eastwardly, in an air line, is situated the whilom city of Benicia, the scene of the reminiscences which are to be made the subject of this brief sketch. And what claim has Benicia, or its history, to our present consideration?

