

# San Joaquin Republican, Volume 4, Number 20, 25 January 1854 — Untitled [ARTICLE]

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**HUMBOLDT COUNTY.**—Humboldt county bids fair to become one of the most populous and richest counties in the State. It has inexhaustible lumbering facilities, and as an agricultural district, is unsurpassed. The county seat, Union Town, is situated on Humboldt Bay, which is a most commodious harbor, eighteen miles in length, and from one to eight in breadth. It is divided from the Pacific Ocean by a narrow strip of land or peninsula, about half a mile in breadth. The peninsula is covered with a heavy growth of small timber, which entirely hides the ocean from sight, though the roar of its surf is constantly heard. In point of natural beauty and geniality of climate, Humboldt Bay has no equal in California. The west side of the bay is lined with Indian ranches, while on the east the steam that belches forth from our numerous mills, together with the sound of the hammer, and the woodman's axe, give unmistakable evidence that the spirit of California enterprize is doing its work. The water of the bay is generally smooth, and encircled by a growth of red wood, which for quantity or quality cannot be excelled in the known world. There is no point which possesses greater facilities for farming, grazing, or for the manufacture of lumber, than this. The present population of the bay is about 25,000, though it is scarcely known throughout California that such a place exists.

This bay was first settled in 1850, at which time four towns were laid out, and respectively named Humboldt, Bucksport, Eureka and Union. Humboldt contains but few houses, and the business done there is small, it being immediately opposite the entrance to the bay. The next town is Bucksport, a very pretty little place, has one mill, several stores, is quite lively; close to it, on a beautiful eminence, are stationed the U. S. troops. Next is Eureka, which is the head-quarters of the lumber business. It is scarcely two years

since the first cargo of lumber passed out of the bay, and now it is thought there is a full cargo for an ordinary vessel cut every day: the difficulty of crossing our bar, however, at this season of the year, is a drawback in the way of shipping lumber, and also renders our communication with San Francisco prolonged and uncertain. Last among the towns, is Union. It is the county seat, and is situated on an eminence, at the head of the bay, which makes its location beautiful. It is the largest of the four towns, and is laid out and built up with much taste.

LATER FROM AMOY.—The *China Mail*, of Oct. 11, says that at Amoy, up to the 4th inst., desultory fighting still continued between the Government troops and the rebels, with no important result to either side. The Imperialists, who are encamped near the town, were best supplied with food and ammunition, and had apparently been receiving some hints in gunnery, a marked improvement being observed in their firing. Little doubt was entertained that they would shortly succeed in driving out the insurgents, who were in bad odor for the outrages they had committed, levying contributions and searching for treasure.

Great distress is said to prevail in the town. Many of the surrounding villages are burnt, and others depopulated, the sole remaining tenants being a few old women and children. The citizens look to foreigners for protection, and the female members of several respectable families are placed for shelter in the houses of English merchants. On the water, English ensigns and house-flags have been displayed in unusual abundance, but their unauthorized use was soon detected, and several boats bearing them have been captured.

On the 1st inst a severe fight took place, which seemed likely to result to the discomfiture of the rebels, when H. M. steamer *Hermes* having drifted among the junks, the mandarins were induced to desist, the more, perhaps, from apprehension that, in the event of receiving any damage, she might return the fire. In another particular they were still more compliant, for the next day being Sunday, Capt. Fishbourne was unwilling to move his vessel, and made a request, which was acceded to, that the fight should not be resumed till the following day. The interval was busily