

THE  
WEST COAST  
OF MEXICO

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.E8  
1880

R. C.



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*M. J. ...*

No. 56.

*1917 - Dec 17*

U. S. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE—BUREAU OF NAVIGATION.

THE  
WEST COAST OF MEXICO,

FROM

THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND MEXICO TO CAPE CORRIENTES,

INCLUDING

THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

*1.37*



WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1880.

VK949  
. E8  
1880



FONDO HISTORICO  
R. CARDO COVARRUBIAS

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### ADVERTISEMENT.

Since publication No. 56 (Remarks of Commander George Dewey, U. S. N., on the coasts of Lower California and Mexico) was issued from this office, the whole coast described therein has been replotted, with many additions and corrections to the preliminary charts. This necessitated a new publication, revised and much enlarged.

The present work has been compiled by Lieut. Samuel Belden, U. S. N., chiefly from the data furnished by Commander Dewey and the officers of the *U. S. S. Narragansett*. Where other authorities are quoted it is mentioned in the text.

The originals of the views are by Messrs. W. F. Beardslee and H. von Bayer. They were redrawn at this office by Mr. A. von Motz, for photolithographing.

J. C. P. de KRAFFT,  
*Hydrographer.*

U. S. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE,  
*Washington, D. C., August, 1880.*

*Manuel Motz*  
*Motzjarrer*

*October 31*  
*1880*

## NOTE.

The bearings, courses, and trend of the land are given both true and magnetic, the true bearing in degrees and minutes and the magnetic, following it, in points and fractions of a point, to the nearest eighth, thus, N. 43° 30' W. (NW.  $\frac{7}{8}$  W. mag.) The magnetic variation and annual change are given up to the date of the latest reliable information, which date is stated in the text.

The direction of the winds as given, is the point from which they blow; of currents, the point toward which they set.

Distances are expressed in nautical miles. A cable's length is 100 fathoms.

Soundings are reduced to mean low water, unless otherwise stated.

## CONTENTS.

	Page.
ADVERTISEMENT .....	iii
NOTE .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	v-vi
INDEX OF VIEWS .....	vii-viii
INDEX CHART .....	ix

### PART I.

#### WEST COAST OF THE PENINSULA OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

*GENERAL REMARKS, WINDS, WEATHER, CURRENTS, &c .....	1-2
--	-----

#### CHAPTER I.

From the boundary mark between the United States and Mexico to Point San Eugenio, including Cerros, Natividad, and the San Benito Islands .....	3-23
---	------

#### CHAPTER II.

From San Eugenio Point to Cape San Lucas, including San Lucas Bay .....	24-47
---	-------

#### CHAPTER III.

Islands and shoals off the coast of Lower California .....	48-51
--	-------

### PART II.

#### GULF OF CALIFORNIA.—EAST COAST OF THE PENINSULA OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION, WINDS, WEATHER, CURRENTS, &c .....	53-56
---	-------

#### CHAPTER I.

The coast and islands from Cape San Lucas to the northern end of San Josef Island, including San Josef Channel .....	57-82
--	-------

#### CHAPTER II.

The coast and adjacent islands from the northern entrance to San Josef Channel to Cape Virgenes .....	83-108
---	--------

## CHAPTER III.

From Cape Virgenes to the anchorage off Philip's Point, Colorado River. .... 109-133

## PART III.

THE COAST OF MEXICO FROM THE MOUTH OF THE COLORADO RIVER TO CAPE  
CORRIENTES.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION, WINDS, WEATHER, AND CURRENTS..... 135

## CHAPTER I.

The coast and islands from the mouth of the Colorado River to Topolobampo  
Harbor ..... 136-165

## CHAPTER II.

The coast and adjacent islands from Topolobampo Harbor to Cape Corrientes. 166-194

## CHAPTER III.

Revilla—Gigedo Islands..... 195-198

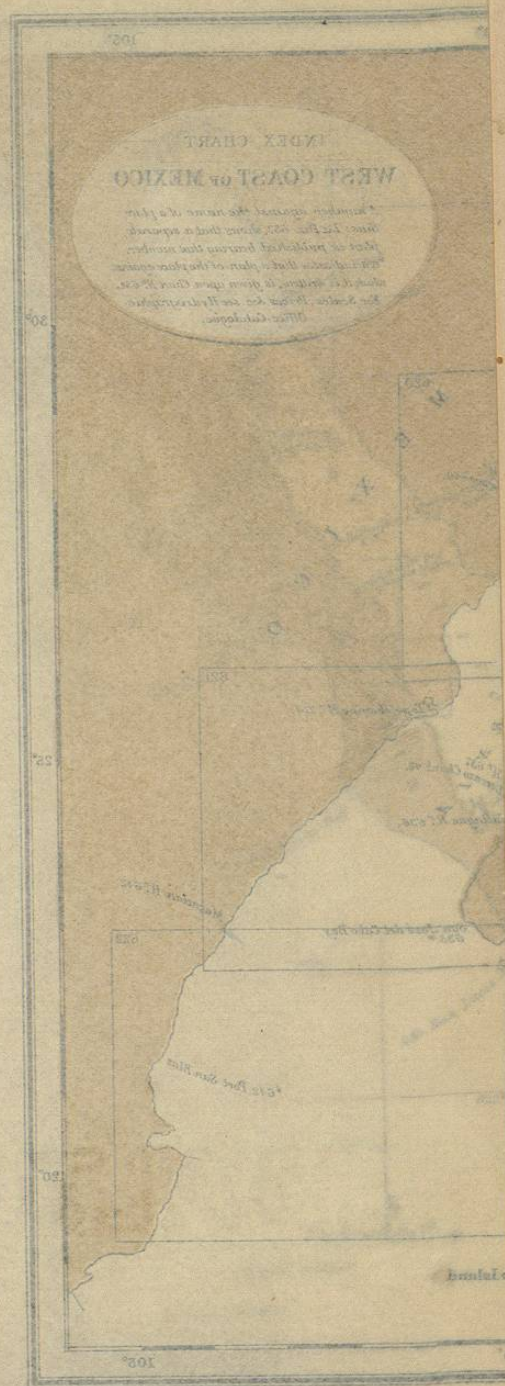
TABLE OF GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS..... 199-200

ALPHABETICAL INDEX..... 201-209

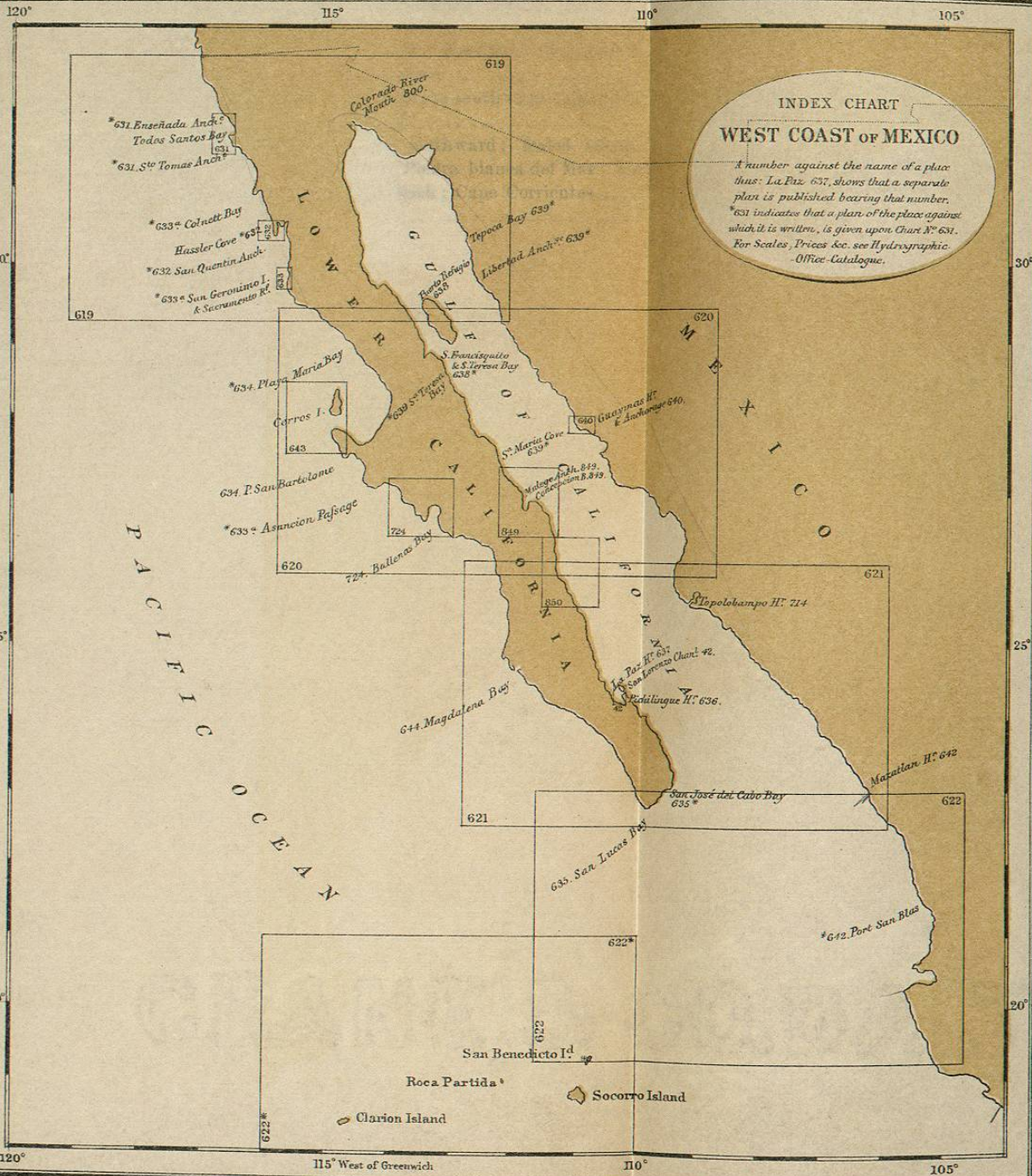
## INDEX OF VIEWS.

	Page.
Index chart, showing charts published by the United States Hydrographic Office, of that part of the coast of Mexico treated of in this work .....	ix
PLATE I. Coast to the northward of Descanso Point; Coast to the southward of Point Santo Tomas; Cape Colnett .....	6
II. Coast northward of San Martin Island; Reef Point and San Martin Island, from the northward; Reef Point and San Martin Island, from the southward.....	8
III. San Geronimo Island; San Geronimo Island and Sacramento Reef; Off Elide Island .....	12
IV. Lagoon Head, from the northward; Lagoon Head, from the southward; San Benito Islands, from the south-east.....	16
V. Cerros and Natividad Islands, from the southward; Off Port San Bartolomé; San Roque and Asuncion Islands, from the westward .....	25
VI. Asuncion Island, from the eastward; Whale Rock and Reef, from the south-westward; Entrance to San Ignacio Lagoon..	29
VII. Ballenas Bay, from the south-east; Coast near Point San Juanico; Boca de San Domingo, from the Bar .....	33
VIII. Cape San Lazaro; Santa Margarita Island and entrance to Margarita Bay; Cape Falso, from off Point San Cristobal .....	41
IX. Cape San Lucas, from the westward; Los Frailes, from San Lucas Bay; Cape San Lucas, from the eastward .....	46
X. Guadalupe Island, from the westward; Alijos Rocks, from the south-eastward; Cape Pulmo, from the southward .....	52
XI. Coyote Point (San Lorenzo Channel); Approaching La Paz; La Paz, from the anchorage .....	71
XII. San Francisco Island; Cayo Island (west side); San Josef Island, from the eastward; Las Animas; San Diego Island; Santa Cruz Island.....	82
XIII. Carmen Island, from the southward; Pulpito Point and adjacent land; Las Tres Virgenes, from near San Carlos Point .....	98
XIV. Calamahue Mountain; Consag Rock; Colorado River, from the anchorage off Philip's Point .....	130
XV. Sonora Coast at the entrance to the Colorado River; Pinicate Mountain; Tiburon Canoe .....	136

	Page.
PLATE XVI. Las Tetas de Cabra; Approaching Guaymas Harbor; From the anchorage off Ciaris Island .....	155
XVII. Topolobampo high-lands, from the Bar; Farallon of San Ignacio; Off Playa Colorada; Off Altata Estero .....	167
XVIII. Off Boca Tavala; Piastra Point, from the southward; Approaching Mazatlan, from the northward.....	175
XIX. Approaching Mazatlan, from the southward; Isabel Island; Mount San Juan (San Blas) and Piedra blanca del Mar; Las Tres Marias Islands; Corveteña Rock; Cape Corrientes.....	178
XX. Roca Partida .....	197







INDEX CHART  
**WEST COAST OF MEXICO**

A number against the name of a place thus: La Paz 657, shows that a separate plan is published bearing that number. \*631 indicates that a plan of the place against which it is written, is given upon Chart N° 631. For Scales, Prices &c. see Hydrographic Office Catalogue.

\*631. Ensenada Anch.  
 Todos Santos Bay  
 \*631. S<sup>to</sup> Tomas Anch.

\*633. Colnett Bay  
 Bassler Cove \*637  
 \*632. San Quentin Anch.  
 \*633. San Geronimo I.  
 & Sacramento R.

Tepic Bay 639\*  
 Puerto Velasco 638  
 Liberia Anch. \*639\*

\*634. Playa Maria Bay  
 Corros I.  
 634. P. San Bartolome  
 \*635. Asuncion Passage

S. Francisquito & S. Jeron Bay 638  
 S. Maria Cove 639\*  
 Mictlan Anch. 849  
 Cahuatlan B. 849  
 Guaymas R. & Anchorage 840

644. Magdalena Bay  
 P. Pololampo H. 714  
 La Paz H. 637  
 San Lorenzo Chanl 72.  
 P. Tlaliquine H. 636.

San José del Cabo Bay 635\*

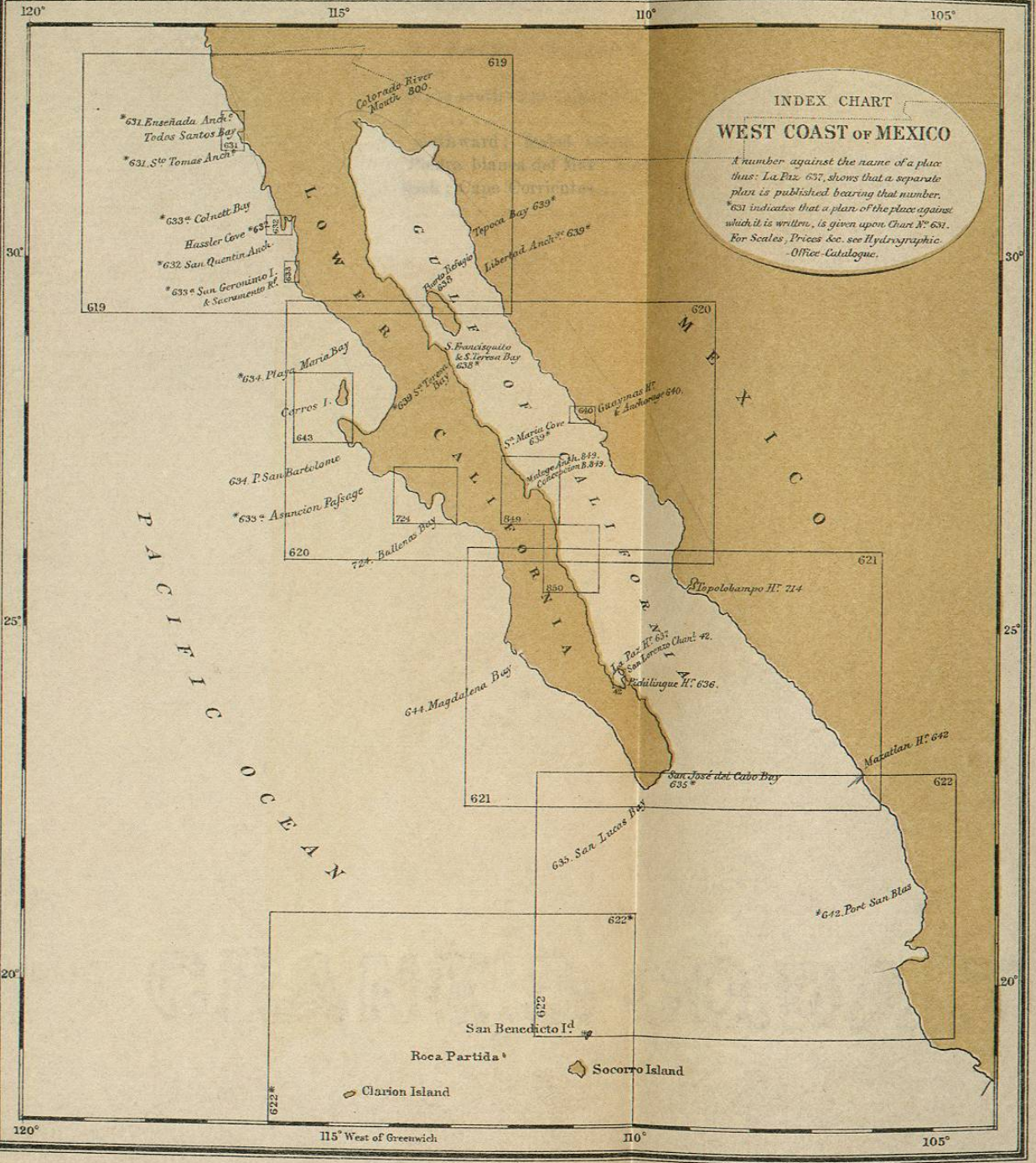
635. San Lucas Bay

\*642. Port San Blas

Clarion Island

Roca Partida \*

Socorro Island





Page  
155  
167  
175  
178  
187

## PART I.

### WEST COAST OF THE PENINSULA OF LOWER CALIFORNIA — GENERAL DESCRIPTION — WINDS, WEATHER, CURRENTS, ETC.

The entire west coast of the peninsula of Lower California from the boundary line to Cape San Lucas is, with the exception of the valleys of Santo Tomas and Todos Santos, barren in the extreme. The land is generally high and precipitous, and its approaches bold; but there are many places where vessels may anchor and find shelter from the prevailing coast wind. General description.

The prevailing winds along the coast are from a north-westerly direction, and they may be said to blow steadily from that direction for eight months out of the year. During the months of November, December, January, and February, winds from south-east to south-west will be frequently met with, and during these months moderate south-east gales, accompanied with considerable rain, will be occasionally encountered. About the breaking up of these gales the wind hauls to the south-west, and sometimes blows quite hard for a few hours, then comes from the north-west with fine weather. In December and January, heavy northers are liable to occur; these winds blow from north to north-east and last from one to three days. During the summer months strong south-east gales of short duration occur in the vicinity of Cape San Lucas, sometimes extending as far north as Magdalena Bay. Winds.

During the greater part of the year the weather along the coast is clear and pleasant, and the climate salubrious and equable; rains are most frequent between May and October; fogs occur at all seasons of the year; the largest proportion of foggy weather being encountered during the summer months; they usually occur at night or in the early morning and clear up at about ten o'clock in the forenoon, Weather.

Fogs.

the remainder of the day being clear and pleasant. South of Cerros Island there is much less fog than north of it, the weather clears earlier in the forenoon, the temperature is lower, and the winds lighter.

Currents.

The currents along the coast set in the direction of the prevailing wind, and vary in strength from half a knot to a knot per hour. Near the land the influence of the tides is felt. *At all times an easterly set should be guarded against.* A very slight NW. current has occasionally been found in the winter season, but it is of rare occurrence.

## CHAPTER I.

FROM THE BOUNDARY MARK BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO TO POINT SAN EUGENIO, INCLUDING CERROS, NATIVIDAD, AND THE SAN BENITO ISLANDS.

The boundary line between the United States and Mexico is marked by a white marble obelisk about 20 feet high, resting on a pedestal. It stands on a low table land near the edge of the bluff, about 300 yards from the beach, and is plainly visible from the water. Its geographical position, as determined by the *U. S. Coast Survey* in 1871, is Lat.  $32^{\circ} 31' 58''.46$  N., Long.  $117^{\circ} 07' 32''.37$  W., about  $10\frac{2}{5}$  miles S.  $36^{\circ} 30'$  W. (true) from Point Loma light-house. This monument marks the north-western initial point of the survey of the "Coast of Mexico from the northern boundary to Cape Corrientes, including the Gulf of California," by Commander George Dewey, in the *U. S. S. Narragansett*.

Boundary monument.

The Coronados Islets are a group of barren rocks of trap formation lying about 7 miles off the coast and extending about 5 miles in a NW. and SE. direction. The southernmost is the largest and is 2 miles long by half a mile in width; it is wedge-shaped, and its highest peak is 674 feet above the sea level. The south-eastern extremity of the group bears S.  $34^{\circ} 30'$  W. (S. by W.  $\frac{3}{4}$  W. mag.), distant  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the boundary monument and S.  $2^{\circ}$  E. (S. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. mag.), 17 miles distant from Point Loma light-house. On the west and north-west sides of the southern islet, at a distance of three-quarters and one-half a mile respectively, are two barren rocks about 50 feet high that are a favorite resort for the enormous sea elephants that frequent this coast. N.  $62^{\circ} 30'$  W. (WNW.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. mag.) from the northern end of the largest islet, at a distance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, lies the north-westernmost of the group, a barren rock about 7 cables in length, and 350 feet high. Between this islet and the others is a passage with from 18 to 50 fathoms water and numerous patches of growing kelp.

Los Coronados.

Rocks.