

- Entrada Point.** Entrada Point is a low rocky point with no outlying dangers; it may be approached from the eastward to within 1 cable by a vessel drawing 18 feet; from any other direction it is not safe to approach it within one-quarter of a mile. Half a mile N. 31° 30' W. (NW. mag.) from Entrada Point
- Sextant Point.** is a low sandy point called Sextant Point. The beach between them is low and sandy, and recedes about 2 cables, forming a small bight in which the water is shoal.
- Port San Quentin.** Port San Quentin is a small, perfectly secure anchorage, protected on every side; the land in the vicinity is low and sandy, and with the exception of the cactus and a few stunted bushes, entirely without vegetation. No fresh water can be found near the coast.
- Five Hills.** To the northward of the port are five remarkable hills, which caused one of the early navigators to give it the name of the "*Bay of Five Hills.*" The south-westernmost of these hills, called South-west Hill, is 324 feet high, the others range from 500 to 1,000 feet in height. When approaching the coast from the northward these hills have the appearance of islands.
- Caution.** No vessel drawing over 12 feet should attempt to enter Port San Quentin without either sending a boat ahead to sound or buoying the channel, which is narrow and tortuous and liable to change with every southerly gale. Not more than 2½ fathoms can be depended upon in crossing the bar at low water.
- Directions.** Being off Cape San Quentin and wishing to enter the port, stand to the northward and eastward, keeping half a mile off shore, until Rocky Point, which is easily distinguished, is open to the eastward of Sextant Point, when haul up to N. 12° 50' E. (N. mag.), taking care not to get in less than 3½ fathoms water. When Rocky Point bears N. 48° W. (NW. by W. ¾ W. mag.) steer for it and keep this course until Sextant Point is passed and Mount Mazo (a hill 210 feet high, easily distinguished) bears S. 69° W. (SW. by W. mag.), when haul up to N. 82° 50' W. (W. ½ S. mag.), and anchor anywhere in 4½ to 5½ fathoms, sand bottom. The magnetic variation in 1877 was 12° 50' E., increasing about 2' annually. H. W., F. and C., VIII<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup>; tide rises 5 feet.
- Variation.**
- Tides.**
- San Quentin.** The village of San Quentin lies 5 or 6 miles in a north-easterly direction from the anchorage, at the foot of a range

of hills and near some salt ponds. A small quantity of salt is exported, but owing to difficulty of transportation the business has not hitherto been profitable.

There is said to be a channel through the inner bay or lagoon to San Quentin, but it was not examined by the *Narragansett*.

From Port San Quentin the coast trends to the eastward for 7 or 8 miles and then turns to the southward, forming San Quentin Bay. The water is shoal for several miles off shore, and a long swell will usually be found rolling in, making it an uncomfortable anchorage. The shore of the bay is a low sand beach, with hills about 300 feet high rising a short distance inland, backed by a mountain range of from 1,500 to 4,000 feet in height. About 10 miles from Cape San Quentin, where the coast assumes a southerly direction, its character changes, sand bluffs and dark-colored cliffs 50 to 100 feet in height alternating for several miles, and gradually decreasing in height as they approach Punta Baja.

Punta Baja, which is situated 26¾ miles S. 20° E. (SE. by S. mag.) from San Quentin, is a low sand cliff about 30 feet high; 5½ miles to the northward of it is a ranch lying in a small indentation of the coast between a dark-colored hill, 409 feet high, and an arroyo. A reef surrounded by kelp makes off a short distance to the southward of the point, and vessels entering Rosario Bay should give it a good berth.

From Punta Baja the coast turns abruptly to the eastward, forming Rosario Bay, so called from the old mission of Rosario, which is situated in a fertile valley a few miles inland.

Safe anchorage may be found in the bay in from 5 to 6 fathoms, sandy bottom, sheltered from the usual coast wind.

From Rosario Bay to Point San Antonio the coast is of sand bluffs 50 to 100 feet high, with hills from 300 to 500 feet in height 1½ to 2 miles back from the beach.

The northernmost point of San Geronimo Island lies 8½ miles S. 5° E. (S. by E. ½ E. mag.) from Punta Baja. It is a barren rock, covered in many places with a mixture of sand and guano, three-quarters of a mile long and less than a third of a mile wide, with rocky beaches and cliffs 10 to 20 feet in height. Near the center is a peak 172 feet high;

*Marysville*

San Quentin Bay.

Punta Baja.

Reef.

Rosario Bay.

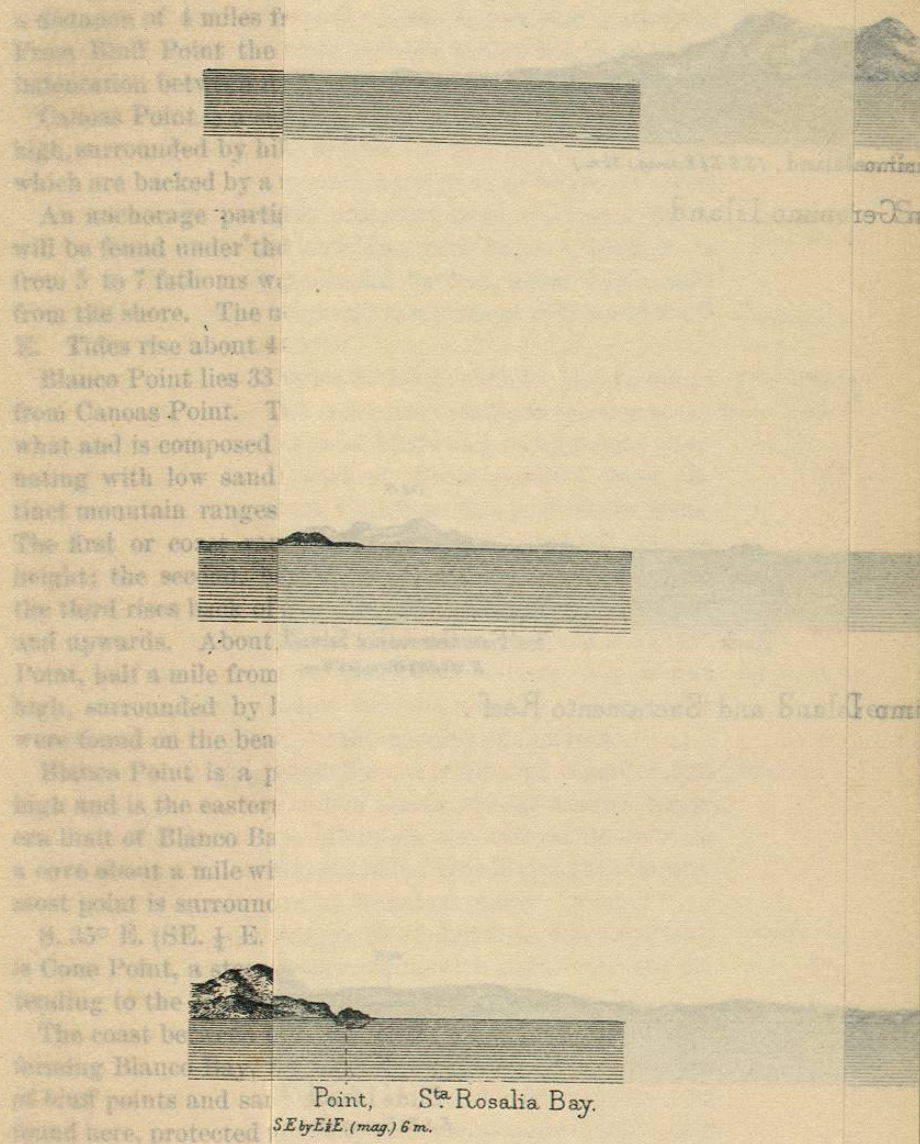
Anchorage.

San Geronimo Island.

- Reef. northward of this are two lower ones. A reef extends half a mile off the southern extremity of the island, its termination being marked by a rock above water, over which the sea breaks heavily, and the whole island is surrounded by outlying rocks and kelp.
- Rocky patch. About a mile and a half to the northward of the island the U. S. Coast Survey steamer *Hassler* found a rocky patch with only  $5\frac{3}{4}$  fathoms water over it and from 8 to 12 fathoms around it. As there are many rocky patches in the vicinity, it is possible that other shoal spots may exist. (View on opposite page.)
- Anchorage and landing place. There is an anchorage to the eastward of the island in about 7 fathoms, sand bottom, but an uncomfortable swell will usually be felt. A good landing place will be found on a small shingle beach, in a slight indentation of the shore line on the south-east side of the island, at the base of the highest peak. The magnetic variation in 1877 was  $12^{\circ} 35'$  E., increasing about  $2'$  annually. Tides rise about 5 feet.
- Variation. Tides. Sacramento Reef. Sacramento Reef lies about SW. by S. (mag.) from San Geronimo Island, and is very dangerous. The channel between them is about 3 miles in width, with from 11 to 13 fathoms water in the center, shoaling to about 6 fathoms within a quarter of a mile of the breakers on either side. The reef is a little more than a mile in extent from north-west to south-east, and half a mile wide; there are several large rocks *awash* and *above water*, over which the sea breaks constantly. (View on opposite page.)
- Caution! In the passage between the reef and San Geronimo Island and in that between them and the main land there are large, dense masses of kelp which should always be avoided if practicable, as there are many rocky patches in this vicinity, and although no hidden dangers were found in the short time devoted to its examination, vessels should proceed with great caution while in these passages.
- Coast from Point San Antonio to Canoas Point. From Point San Antonio the coast trends S.  $53^{\circ}$  E. (SE. by E.  $\frac{3}{4}$  E. mag.) to Canoas Point, retaining its character of sand bluffs varying in height from 50 to 100 feet, backed by moderately high hills and in some portions by table lands from 1,000 to 2,000 feet high, of which Sombrero Peak, lying about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north-east of Bluff Point, is the most conspicuous and is 1,968 feet in height.

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Plate I



Point, Sta Rosalia Bay.  
SE by E & E. (mag.) 6 m.

... sand thin 100 feet high...  
... a remarkable gorge, 3 miles to the south...  
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San Geronimo Island, (S. S. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. (mag.) 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

San Geronimo Island.



Wreck & Sacramento Reef,  
W. S. (mag.) 3 m.

Rock.

San Geronimo Island,  
N. W. by W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. (mag.) 6 m.

San Geronimo Island and Sacramento Reef.



Elide Island,  
E. S. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. (mag.) 5 m.

Point,  
S. E. by E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E (mag.) 6 m.

Sta. Rosalia Bay.

Off Elide Island.

Bluff Point is a bold sand bluff 100 feet high, lying  $18\frac{3}{4}$  miles in a south-easterly direction from Point San Antonio, between it and a *remarkable gorge*, 3 miles to the southward of the latter, is a large field of kelp which extends about 5 miles off shore; 12 fathoms water was found in this field at a distance of 4 miles from the land, bottom sand and rock. From Bluff Point the coast recedes somewhat, forming an indentation between it and Canoas Point.

Canoas Point is a sharp perpendicular sand bluff 224 feet high, surrounded by hills of from 700 to 1,200 feet in height, which are backed by a mountain range of 2,000 feet or more.

An anchorage partially protected from the coast winds will be found under the lee of the point in good weather in from 5 to 7 fathoms water, sand bottom, about half a mile from the shore. The magnetic variation in 1877 was  $12^{\circ} 30'$  E. Tides rise about 4 feet.

Blanco Point lies 33 miles S.  $53^{\circ}$  E. (SE. by E.  $\frac{3}{4}$  E. mag.) from Canoas Point. The coast between them recedes somewhat and is composed of sand bluffs and rocky points alternating with low sand beaches. From seaward three distinct mountain ranges are visible on this part of the coast. The first or coast range being from 500 to 1,000 feet in height; the second, back of the first, 2,000 feet high, and the third rises back of the second to a height of 3,000 feet and upwards. About  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the northward of Blanco Point, half a mile from the shore, is a solitary rock 20 feet high, surrounded by kelp. Large quantities of driftwood were found on the beach in the vicinity of this rock.

Blanco Point is a perpendicular sand cliff about 50 feet high and is the eastern of two points which form the northern limit of Blanco Bay. Between the two points there is a cove about a mile wide and half a mile deep; the westernmost point is surrounded by detached rocks.

S.  $35^{\circ}$  E. (SE.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E. mag.),  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Blanco Point, is Cone Point, a steep rocky point, with a reef of rocks extending to the southward a quarter of a mile.

The coast between these two points recedes  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 miles, forming Blanco Bay, the shores of which are a succession of bluff points and sand beaches. Good anchorage may be found here, protected from the prevailing coast wind. Just

Bluff Point.

Kelp.

Canoas Point.

Anchorage.

Variation.

Tides.

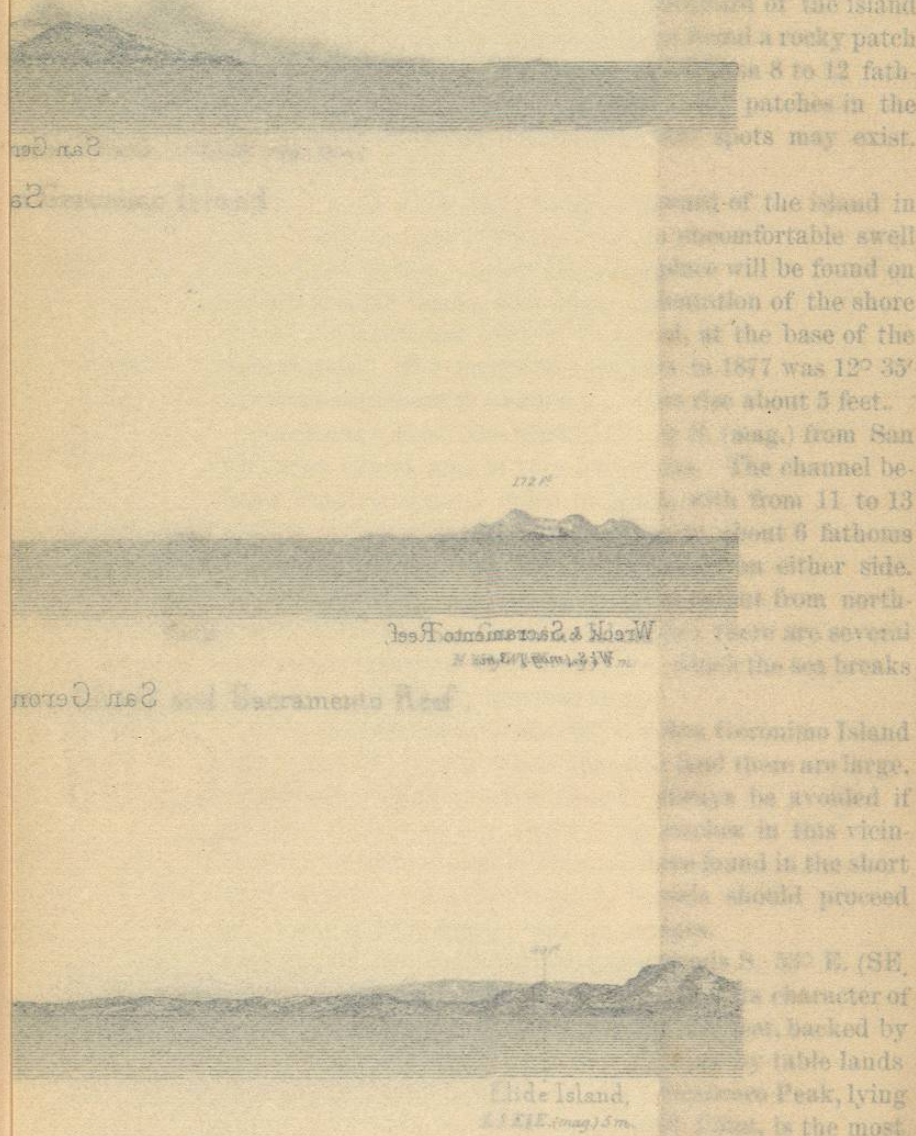
Coast from Canoas Point to Blanco Point.

Solitary Rock.

Blanco Point.

Cone Point.

Blanco Bay.



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Red Cone. north of Cone Point is a conspicuous hill of a reddish color called Red Cone. It is 200 feet high, and when first seen from the northward has the appearance of an island.

Falsa Bay. Falsa Bay is formed by an indentation in the coast to the southward of Cone Point; its shores are quite low and consist of sand and shingle beaches to within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of Maria Point, thence to the point it is steep and rocky. At the bottom of the bay is a wide arroyo, with sand hills on either side. There is anchorage in the northern part of the bay, in from 4 to 6 fathoms, pretty well protected from the usual coast winds.

Anchorage. Maria Point. Maria Point, which forms the southern limit of Falsa Bay, is low and rocky, with sand hills rising to a height of 100 feet, one-quarter of a mile to the northward.

Sebastian Viscaino Bay. From Maria Point the coast sweeps around to San Eugenio Point in an almost unbroken curve, and with Cerros Island on the west forms the great bay of Sebastian Viscaino. The eastern coast of this bay is for the most part low and sandy, with extensive marshes; high mountain ranges being visible far in the interior. The south coast has the same character until within a few miles of False Point, when the bluffs become high and the mountains approach the coast. Nearer Point San Eugenio the character of the coast changes, rocky formation predominating and forming a steep rocky point called False Point. Whales were formerly found in large numbers in the bay at certain seasons of the year. Sharks are abundant wherever the water is shoal, and many other varieties of fish are plentiful. The great *Jew-fish* attains here a weight of from 100 to 400 pounds. Within the limits of this great bay (which is 60 miles wide from east to west and about 55 miles deep from an imaginary line drawn between Maria Point and the north point of Cerros Island) are several smaller bays and anchorages, a detailed description of which follows.

Fish. Playa Maria Bay. Playa Maria Bay, formed by a sweep in the coast line between Maria Point and Black Point, is about 2 miles deep and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in extent between the two points. Its shores are low, sandy, and barren. A few miles inland there is a little vegetation and some small game. On the northern shore of the bay is a cone-shaped hill, 256 feet high, called Station Peak. There is good anchorage in the north-

Anchorage.

ern part of the bay in 6 or 7 fathoms, sand bottom, where vessels may lie, protected from the prevailing coast wind.

Variation. Tides. The magnetic variation in 1875 was  $11^{\circ} 55'$  E., increasing about  $2'$  annually. H. W., F. and C., IX<sup>h</sup> 20<sup>m</sup>. Springs rise 7 to 9 feet.

Black Point. Black Point, which forms the southern limit of Playa Maria Bay, is a low, dark, rocky projection, backed by white sand; 5 miles to the southward of it is a steep rocky point with a hill 500 feet high rising close to it; with this exception the coast as far as Rocky Point is composed of sand beaches.

Rocky Point. Rocky Point is a steep cliff 75 feet high, and is the abrupt termination of a ridge of high hills running at a right angle to the coast line;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the point in a north-easterly direction is a conspicuous conical hill 1,000 feet high. In clear weather the high peaks of Cerros Island, 60 miles distant, are visible from this vicinity.

The coast for  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the southward and eastward of Rocky Point is bold and rocky with cliffs 50 feet high; thence to Elide Island it consists chiefly of low sand beaches, with hills of moderate height rising a short distance inland.

Elide Island. Elide Island is a barren rock 3 cables in length, about 40 feet high, and covered with a thin layer of guano. It is a favorite resort of seals and sea fowl. A sand spit or bar, over which the sea breaks, connects it with the main land, from which it is about half a mile distant.

Vessels sometimes anchor on the south-east side of the island, but the anchorage is not recommended, as a heavy swell usually heaves in there.

From Elide Island to Rosalia Point the coast is composed of rocky bluffs, 50 to 75 feet high. (View opposite page 12.)

Santa Rosalia Bay. From Rosalia Point the coast turns sharply to the northward and eastward, forming Santa Rosalia Bay, where good anchorage may be found in from 5 to 8 fathoms, sand bottom; sheltered from the coast winds. On the north side of the bay is a shingle beach, where the best landing will be found. Bold, rocky cliffs line the eastern shore, and the southern limit of the bay is marked by a low projecting point with numerous outlying rocks, and a dangerous reef extending half a mile to the southward and surrounded by

Landing place.

Reef.

kelp. An ample supply of excellent clams was found by the *Narragansett's* crew, by digging on the beach. No fresh water was found.

South of Santa Rosalia Bay the coast falls away about 5 miles, forming a large open bay with bluff shores from 50 to 100 feet high, increasing to 200 feet as Lagoon Head is approached. High hills rise a few miles inland and mountain ranges are visible in the interior, the most conspicuous being "High Leaning Peak," whose jagged top appears to overhang.

**Lagoon Head** Lagoon Head, the Cabo Negro of the old Spanish charts, is a high dark-colored headland of volcanic origin; its highest point is 475 feet above high-water mark, and it can be seen in clear weather from a distance of 30 to 40 miles, having, when first seen from seaward, the appearance of an island. (View on opposite page.)

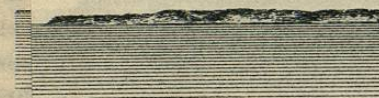
From Lagoon Head the coast makes a sudden turn to the eastward for about two miles and then sweeps around to the southward, forming a small open bay which affords good anchorage in from 3 to 8 fathoms, sandy bottom. A

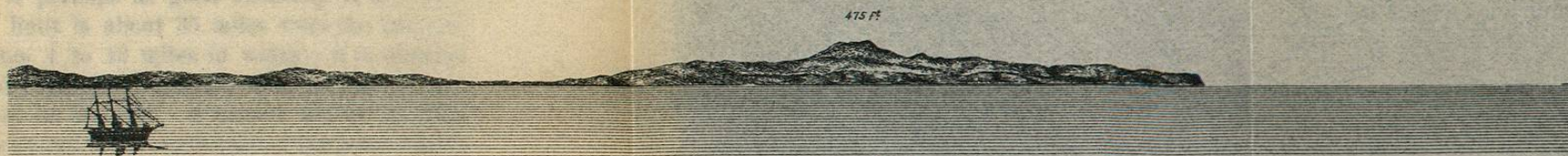
**Landing place** good landing place will be found on a sand beach at the foot of the bluffs about 2 miles east of the head. The magnetic

**Variation.** variation in 1877 was  $11^{\circ} 50'$  E., increasing about  $2'$  annually.

**Manuela Lagoon.** Manuela or Upper Lagoon is the northernmost of three large lagoons situated near the eastern shore of Sebastian Viscaino Bay and communicating with its waters. It is nearly 8 miles long in a north and south direction and about 2 miles wide, a narrow strip of low sand beach interspersed with small hillocks and partially covered with stunted bushes intervening between it and the waters of the bay. The entrance is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.  $38^{\circ}$  E. (SE.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. mag.) from Lagoon Head, and is obstructed by a bar which makes off about a mile and has 5 feet of water over it at low tide. The sea usually breaks on the bar in fine weather, except near high water.

**Black Warrior Lagoon.** Black Warrior Lagoon takes its name from that of a bark which was lost on the bar in 1859. It is about 10 miles long north and south, and 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide. The entrance is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  miles to the southward of that of Manuela Lagoon, and shoal water makes off from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles. Vessels have crossed the bar drawing 13 feet.





Lagoon Head. (SSE. mag. 13 m.)

Lagoon Head.  
(From the Northward.)



Lagoon Head,  
N by E. (mag.) 8 m.

Lagoon Head.  
(From the Southward.)



Obs<sup>d</sup> Mound on Western Island,  
NW by W. (mag.) ab. 20 m.

Middle I<sup>d</sup>

Eastern Island.

San Benito Islands from the Southeast.

Scammon's Lagoon (*Ojo Liebre*) is the southernmost and much the largest and most important of the lagoons that open into Sebastian Viscaïno Bay. It has never been surveyed and opinions differ greatly as to its extent (Captain Scammon, who is perhaps as good authority as any, says that its eastern limit is about 35 miles from the bar, and that it varies from 4 to 12 miles in width); it is studded with low islets and there are numerous sand bars in it, many of which uncover at low tide. A branch known as Fort Lagoon extends 8 miles to the southward of the main lagoon and is navigable.

Extensive shoals make off from the entrance, which lies 14½ miles in a south-westerly direction from that of Black Warrior Lagoon, in lat. 27° 54' N., long. 114° 19' W., and is marked by white sand bluffs on either side 30 to 40 feet high.

No definite directions can be given for crossing the bar, which is constantly changing, and its passage should not be attempted by a stranger without either sending a boat ahead to sound or buoying the channel.

It is said that 18 feet have been carried over the bar (probably 12 to 15 feet would be found at ordinary high tides), which is about half a mile wide, the water rapidly deepening after it is passed to 4, 5, and 6 fathoms.

The *Narragansett* was unable to examine either the channel or the lagoon, as the sea was breaking heavily over the bar during her stay.

The following is from a report by Capt. C. M. Scammon: 'Scammon's Lagoon was first known commercially in 1858. The passage into it is lined on the south side by a continuous line of breakers, forming a curve which extends 4 miles from the heads of the harbor, reaching the bar, which has 3 fathoms water over it at ordinary tides; detached breakers on the north side plainly mark that side of the channel, which is of sufficient width to afford a good beating passage for a vessel of 300 tons, drawing 12 feet. The brig *Boston*, with the schooner *Maria* as tender, on a whaling and sealing voyage, were the first vessels to traverse this hitherto unknown whaling ground. At that time the waters were alive with whales, porpoises, and other fish; turtles and seals basked on the shores of the low islands studding the lagoon, and many species of game were so abundant that



Western Island

Eastern Island