

## CHAPTER II.

### FROM SAN EUGENIO POINT TO CAPE SAN LUCAS, INCLUDING SAN LUCAS BAY.

From San Eugenio Point the coast trends S. 28° E. (SE.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. mag.) to Breaker Point, and consists of rocky bluffs, with projecting points and outlying rocks surrounded by kelp. Sharp, bare hills rise close to the coast, the most conspicuous of which is a mile and a half north-westward from Breaker Point, and is over 600 feet high.

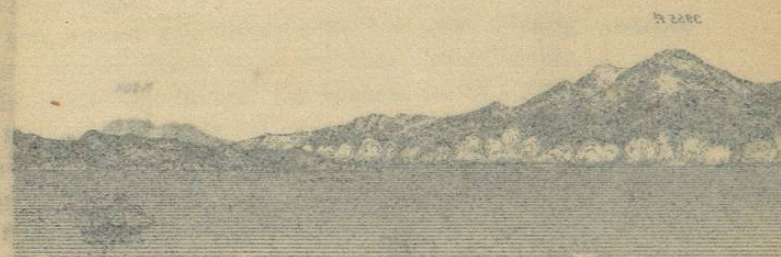
**Breaker Point.** Breaker Point is a steep, rocky headland, with numerous detached rocks lying to the southward of it, over which the sea breaks heavily. South of Breaker Point the coast recedes about a mile to the eastward. The land is lower, but rugged and barren, as far as Kelp Point, which forms the northern limit of Port San Bartolomé, and is about 30 feet high, of pudding-stone conglomerate, on a bed of sandstone, with many outlying rocks surrounded by kelp.

**Port San Bartolomé.** Port San Bartolomé is the best harbor on the west coast of Lower California between San Diego and Magdalena Bay. It is nearly circular in its general form, and is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in diameter. The entrance, which lies between Kelp Point and Cape Tortolo, is a mile in width between the rocks that make off from either side, and is free from hidden dangers.

**Reef.** From Cape Tortolo, which is a rocky point about 20 feet high, rising rapidly to an elevation of 425 feet, a reef makes off in a north-westerly direction nearly a mile, its outer end being marked by a rock which is two feet above high water.

**Conspicuous rocks.** Between the rock just mentioned and the cape there are three conspicuous rocks of large size, the outer one, Sulphur Rock, being 30 feet high; the middle one, called Coffin Rock, 50 feet high, and the one nearest the cape 60 feet high. There are numerous smaller rocks awash and above water, the whole forming a natural breakwater, against which the sea breaks heavily.

The northern and eastern shores of the bay are low shingle and gravel beaches, with generally sandy and low land



Atividad Island      Point San Eugenio      Cerros Island  
W by W N. (mag.) 2 1/2 m.      N by W W. (mag.) 4 m.      S by W N. (mag.) 2 1/2 m.

Cerros & Natividad



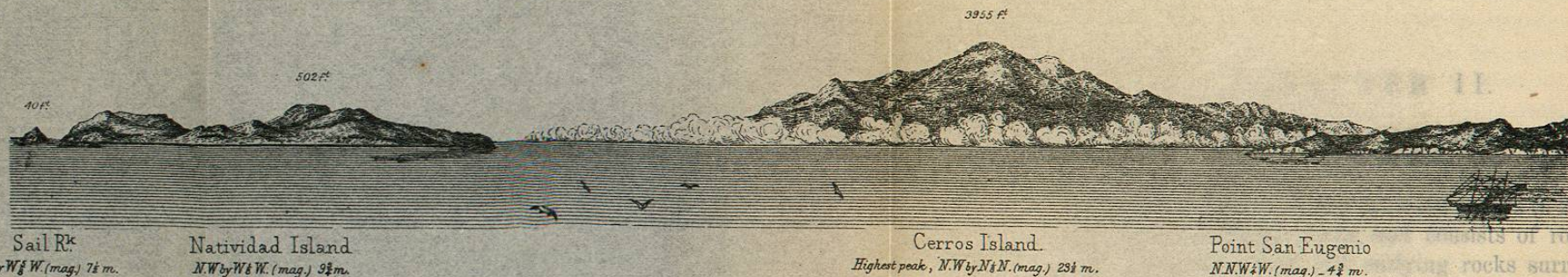
M. Belohar      M. Bartolomé      Cape Tortolo  
N by W W. (mag.) 4 1/2 m.      N by W W. (mag.) 4 1/2 m.      Peak 425 ft. high

Off Port San Bartolomé

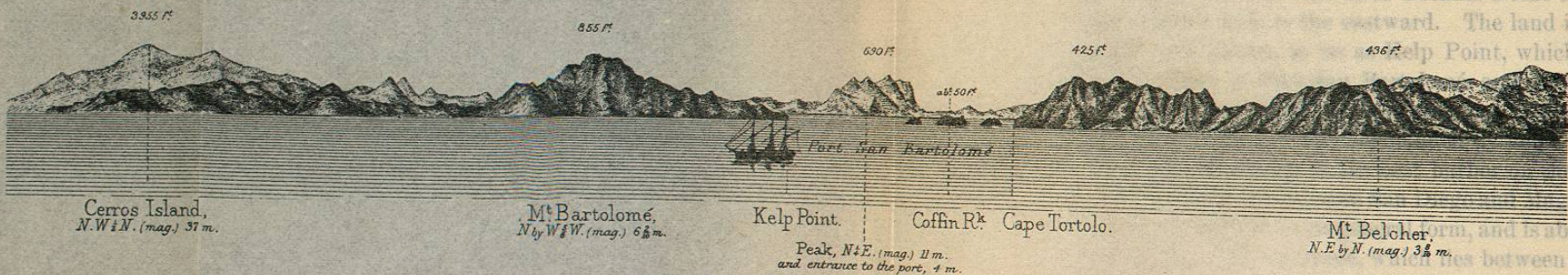


San Roque Island      San Roque & Asunción  
E by S (mag.) 3 m.      Peak 400 ft. high

San Roque & Asunción



Cerros & Natividad Islands from the Southward.

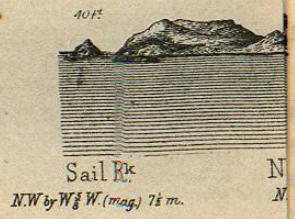


Off Port San Bartolomé.

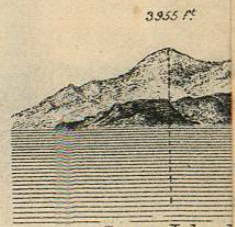


San Roqué & Asuncion Islands from the Westward.

Plate V.



Sail Pt.  
N.W. by W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. (mag.) 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.



Cerros Island  
N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. (mag.) 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.



behind them, which gradually rises to a higher, broken country, with but few traces of vegetation. The western shore consists of high bluffs.

Vessels may anchor anywhere in the bay after passing the point of the reef which makes off from Cape Tortolo. The soundings are regular and the bottom sand. In the outer bay they will be somewhat exposed to the long regular swell from the ocean.

The best anchorage is to the eastward of the reef that makes off from Cape Tortolo, where perfectly smooth water will be found, with protection from every wind. The bay abounds in fish, turtle, and sea-fowl; but no indications of fresh water were seen.

In making for the port when off the coast, bring a conspicuous jagged peak, 690 feet high, to bear N. 17° E. (N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. mag.) and steer for it until the entrance is plainly visible, after which the eye, assisted by the lead, will be the only guide needed. (View on opposite page.)

This port was formerly much frequented by whalers for the purpose of refitting their ships.

The early Spanish navigators reported the existence of extensive beds of asphaltum in the vicinity of Port San Bartolomé. The magnetic variation in 1875 was 11° 30' E., increasing about 2' annually. H. W., F. and C., IX<sup>h</sup> 10<sup>m</sup>; springs rise from 7 to 9 feet.

Thurloe Head is a bold, rocky point, with a reef extending a short distance off from it to the southward. It lies about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles in a south-easterly direction from Cape Tortolo, the coast between them being a long, irregular cliff, high, rocky, and steep, with high hills just back of it. A field of kelp extends about a quarter of a mile off shore for the entire distance.

From Thurloe Head the coast recedes about a mile to the northward and eastward, forming a small open bay, where vessels may anchor in 6 to 7 fathoms water and find protection from the prevailing coast wind. The land at the bottom of the bay is low, with a shingle beach.

From this anchorage to Morro Hermoso, which is a bare, rocky cliff rising abruptly to a hill of 900 feet in height, the coast consists of steep bluffs from 50 to 100 feet high, with a range of high hills immediately back.

Anchorage.

Fish, turtle, &c.

Directions.

Asphaltum.

Variation.

Tides.

Thurloe Head.

Anchorage.

San Cristobal Bay.

Between Morro Hermoso and Point San Pablo the coast recedes several miles, forming the open bay of San Cristobal, whose shores consist principally of bluffs and sand cliffs from 50 to 100 feet high, the coast range rising to a height of several hundred feet at a short distance inland.

Rocks.

There are a few large outlying rocks near the shore in the northern part of the bay, and a strip of shingle and sand beach 4 miles in extent makes a break in the line of sand cliffs at the place where the indentation in the coast line is deepest. There is a deep arroyo 3 miles north of Point San Pablo.

Arroyo.

Point San Pablo.

Point San Pablo is a dark, slate-colored bluff, with a prominent hill, 760 feet high, rising immediately from it. A reef extends off from the point to the southward for about half a mile, outside of which the water deepens rapidly, no bottom being found at 50 fathoms, less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the land.

Table-lands.

In the vicinity of Point San Pablo, a few miles in the interior, are extensive table-lands from 1,000 to 2,000 feet high; back of these is a remarkable range of peaks from 2,000 to 3,000 feet high and of variegated colors, which is probably the Sierra Pintada of Sebastian Viscaïno; it corresponds well with his description, being "of bare and naked rocks of varied and beautiful formation, where great mines of gold and silver are supposed to be."

San Pablo Bay.

San Pablo Bay is an open bay, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles deep, formed by an indentation in the coast between Points San Pablo and San Roque. It is apparently free from all dangers and affords good anchorage in from 10 to 15 fathoms of water at about three-quarters of a mile from the shore. At the bottom of this bay there is a sand beach about three-quarters of a mile in extent, with steep bluffs on either side of it.

Coast from Point San Roque to Asuncion Point.

Point San Roque is a light-colored bluff from 30 to 50 feet high, with a hill rising just back of it to a height of 543 feet. The water is deep close up to the point, 16 fathoms being found within half a cable of it. From this point to Asuncion Point it is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  miles; the coast between them recedes somewhat, forming the open bay of San Roque, the shore of which is generally bluff, with occasional stretches of shingle and rocky beach fronting the bluff. Back from the coast the country is hilly, with table-lands a few miles in the interior.

San Roque Island lies  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles S.  $58^\circ$  E. (ESE.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E. mag.) from Point San Roque and about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the bottom of the bay of the same name. It is a rugged rock a mile long east and west, less than half a mile wide at its widest part, and about 40 feet high.

A reef, over which the sea breaks, extends a quarter of a mile off from the eastern end of the island, and half a mile E. by N. from the point of the reef is a patch of rocks with 11 fathoms water between it and the reef. Half way between the patch of rocks and the shore of the mainland is a 3-fathom shoal.

Heavy breakers extend off nearly a mile from the mainland north of the island, indicating shoal and rocky ground. (View opposite page 25.)

The passage between the island and the mainland is *not recommended* except for boats or very small vessels.

Asuncion Point is a low, sharp, bluff point with a cone-shaped mound about 75 feet high at its outer extremity, and moderately high hills a short distance inland. A short reef extends off from the point, and on either side of it are several large detached rocks, against which the sea breaks heavily.

Asuncion Island lies a little more than three-quarters of a mile to the southward of Asuncion Point; it is three-quarters of a mile long and less than a quarter of a mile wide, of sandstone formation and entirely barren; toward its southern end some hills reach an altitude of 100 feet. The whole island is surrounded by detached rocks and kelp, and from its northern end a reef of rocks, many of them above water and two of large size, extends off 3 cables to the northward and half a mile to the westward, the sea breaks over it continually. About midway between the point and the island is a solitary rock which is awash at low water. (View opposite page 29.)

There is a clear passage a quarter of a mile wide between Asuncion Point and the rocks to the northward of the island through which from 4 to 6 fathoms may be carried. In using this passage, which should only be done in cases of emergency, keep well over toward Asuncion Point, which may be passed in safety at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cables distance. The magnetic variation at Asuncion Island in 1875 was  $11^\circ 25'$  E., increasing about  $2'$  annually. Tides rise about 5 feet.

From Asuncion Point the coast turns abruptly to the

San Roque Island.

Asuncion Point.

Asuncion Island.

Asuncion Passage.

Variation.

Tides.

Asuncion Bay.

northward for about a mile and then sweeps around to the south-eastward to San Hipolito Point, forming in its western part Asuncion Bay, which is about 2 miles deep and affords good anchorage in moderate weather under the lee of Asuncion Point, close to the shore, in from 5 to 7 fathoms water; off shore the soundings deepen rapidly to 30 fathoms and over.

The coast between Asuncion and San Hipolito Point is low and sandy, with an occasional bluff. Hills and table-lands of moderate elevation rise at a short distance inland.

**San Hipolito Point.** San Hipolito Point is low and of black rock, with barren sand-hills 50 to 100 feet high rising a short distance from it. A shelving, rocky reef, over which the sea breaks, extends southward from it nearly half a mile. A remarkable table-shaped mountain, 1,227 feet high, lies  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles north (mag.) from the point.

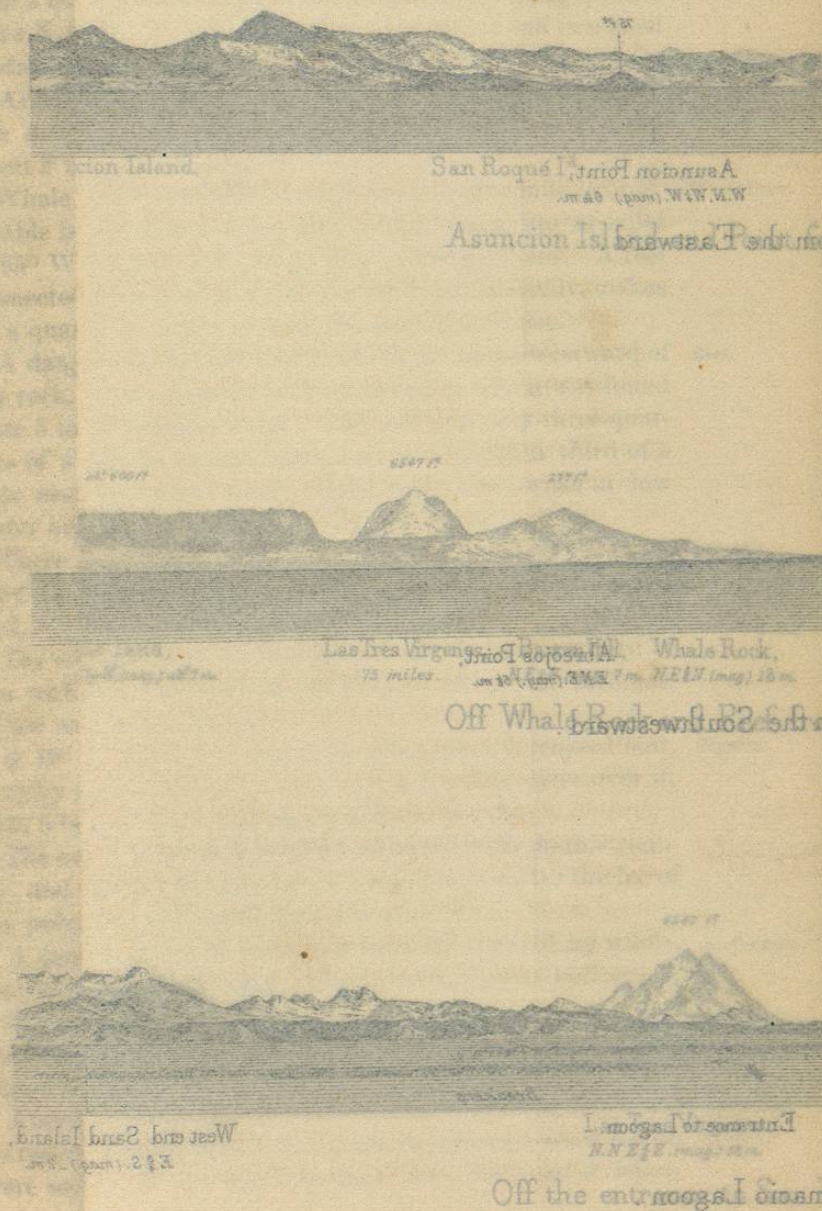
From San Hipolito Point the coast turns abruptly to the northward for a mile and a half, thence to the eastward for about 3 miles, and then sweeps around to the south-eastward toward Abrejos Point.

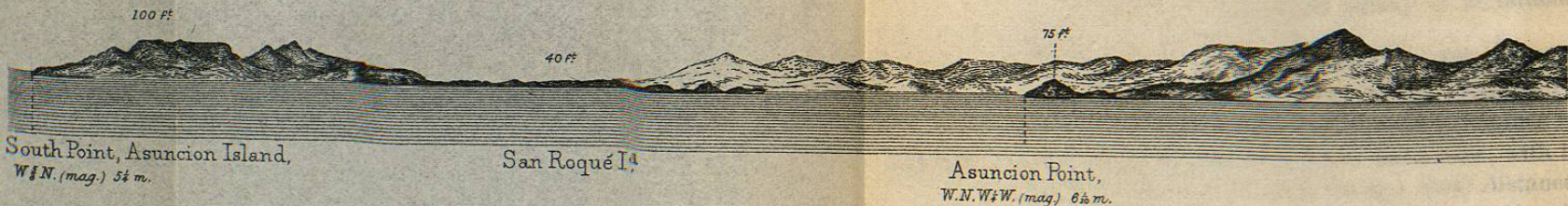
**San Hipolito Bay.** The open bay formed by the indentation in the coast line east of San Hipolito Point is called San Hipolito Bay, where good anchorage may be found under the lee of the point, in from 5 to 7 fathoms, sandy bottom, at half a mile from the shore.

The coast as far as Abrejos Point is low and sandy, the land back of it rising gradually to hills and table-lands from 600 to 1,000 feet high; in the distance may be seen high and broken mountains.

The soundings are regular and the water bold along this portion of the coast until within about 11 miles of Abrejos Point, when the soundings become irregular and the water shoaler. About 8 miles north-westward from the point a shoal about 2 miles in extent, over which the sea breaks heavily, makes off over a mile from the shore; it is probably the mouth of a lagoon which lies parallel to the coast, ending near Abrejos Point, which at very high tides communicates with the sea. Two miles farther up the coast is a smaller shoal making off about half a mile.

**Abrejos Point.** Abrejos Point is low and sandy, being composed of a bed of pudding-stone conglomerate which rises about 5 feet above high-water mark, and is covered with a layer of sand





South Point, Asuncion Island,  
W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. (mag.) 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

San Roque I.

Asuncion Point,  
W.N.W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. (mag.) 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

Asuncion Island and Point from the Eastward.

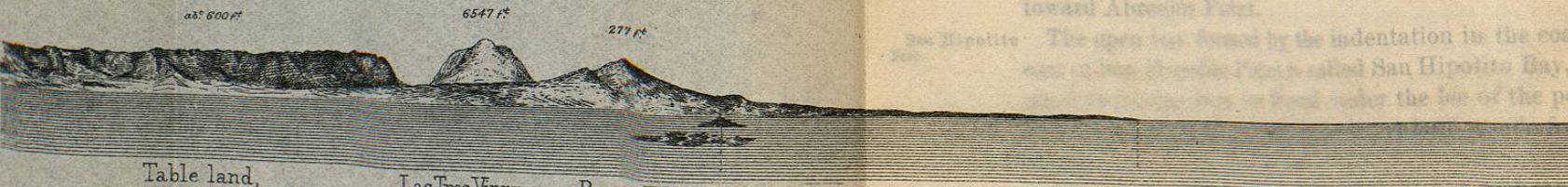


Table land,  
about N by W. (mag.) abt 7 m.

Las Tres Virgenes,  
75 miles.

Barren Hill, Whale Rock,  
NE  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. (mag.) 7 m. NE  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. (mag.) 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

Abrejos Point,  
E.N.E. (mag.) 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

Off Whale Rock and Reef, from the Southwestward.



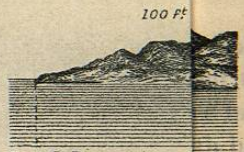
Las Tres Virgenes,  
N.N.E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. (mag.) 58 m.

Entrance to Lagoon.

West end Sand Island,  
E  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. (mag.) 2 m.

Off the entrance to San Ignacio Lagoon.

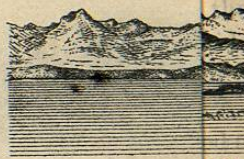
Plate VI.



South Point, Asun  
W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. (mag.)  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m.



Take  
about 1



Island,  
feet  
2 m.

10 to 15 feet in depth, in which are growing some stunted bushes. A reef extends a short distance south from the point, and there are numerous detached rocks on the eastern side close to the shore.

A barren hill, 277 feet high, in front of and separated from a conspicuous range of table-land, 600 feet high, lies 3 miles N. 6° E. (N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. mag.) from the point, and is a good landmark for it when off the coast. It is H. W., F. and C., at Abrejos Point at IX<sup>h</sup> (approx.); tides rise about 5 feet. The magnetic variation in 1878 was 11° 15' E., increasing about 2' annually.

Whale Rock, which is about a quarter of a mile long by a cable in width and 4 feet above high water, lies 4  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles S. 85° W. (WSW.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. mag.) from Abrejos Point. A reef connected with it, over which the sea breaks heavily, makes off a quarter of a mile in a south-easterly direction.

A dangerous reef lies half a mile to the south-westward of the rock, with a passage between them, in which was found from 5 to 10 fathoms water. The reef is nearly three-quarters of a mile in extent north and south, and a third of a mile east and west; many of the rocks are awash at low water and the sea breaks heavily over them.

There is a passage between Whale Rock and the main land 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide, through which 5 fathoms may be carried.

The soundings to the southward and to the westward of the rock and reef increase quickly to 10 and 20 fathoms. (View on opposite page.)

S. 19° E. (SSE.  $\frac{3}{4}$  E. mag.), 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Abrejos Point, a rocky patch was found with only 4 fathoms water over it, with 5 to 8 fathoms between it and the point.

The swell was observed to break occasionally in this vicinity, and vessels making for the anchorage under the lee of the point are advised to give it a wide berth.

A good anchorage, protected from the prevailing winds, may be found in about 6 fathoms water, sandy bottom, on a line between Abrejos Point and the next point to the north-east, at a distance of half a mile from a sandy beach, where boats may readily land in moderate weather.

Abrejos Point and the plains in the vicinity are a favorite resort of the prong-horned antelope, large droves of which were seen, and one fine specimen shot, the flesh of which

Tides.

Variation.

Whale Rock.

Reef.

Passage.

Breaker.

Anchorage.

Remarks.  
Game.

proved to be excellent. Another quadruped inhabiting this region in great numbers is the *coyote* or *cajote*, a species of wolf; they are very shy and cunning and extremely voracious.

At the foot of the barren hill, 277 feet high, (before mentioned), on its south-east side, is a pond which contains brackish water, not fit for drinking purposes, but from the large number of animals seen in the vicinity there is undoubtedly fresh water to be found at no great distance. The shores near Abreojos Point are strewn with the bones of whales, the relics of a formerly flourishing business.

Ballenas Bay. From Abreojos Point the coast trends to the northward and eastward, forming, with the west end of a low sand island, that bears N. 88° 30' E. (ENE.  $\frac{7}{8}$  E. mag.) from the point, and its surrounding shoals, which uncover at low water, a large open bay from 5 to 6 miles deep, known as Ballenas Bay. The soundings in this bay are quite regular, with moderately deep water close to the shore, except off the entrances to the lagoons, which will be described hereafter. With strong winds a heavy swell rolls into the bay, causing a high surf on the beach.

The shores of the bay are extremely low and sandy, except on the western side, where two rocky points project, connected by low bluffs, behind which the land gradually rises to the hill before mentioned. Whales of the hump-back species formerly resorted to this bay in large numbers.

Lagoon. About 9 miles to the north-eastward of Abreojos Point is the entrance to a lagoon that extends about 8 miles in a northerly direction, and varies in width from 3 to 8 miles, the latter near its northern limit. A shoal, over which the sea breaks, extends about three-quarters of a mile off its mouth. Only vessels of small size are able to enter this lagoon.

San Ignacio Lagoon. The coast, for  $10\frac{3}{4}$  miles to the eastward of the entrance of the lagoon just described, is low and sandy, terminating in San Ignacio Point, which lies 17 miles N. 78° 30' E. (ENE. mag.) from Abreojos Point, in lat. 26° 45' 44".6 N., long. 113° 16' 25" W., and forms the western side of the entrance to San Ignacio Lagoon. (View opposite page 29.)

Extensive shoals which partly uncover at low tide make off from the entrance to this lagoon, and the channel, in which will be found from 9 to 13 feet at low tide, is narrow

and tortuous, but is clearly marked by the lines of breakers on either side, which are the best guides for entering the lagoon.

Vessels drawing 12 feet may cross the bar at ordinary high tides by keeping midway between the two lines of breakers. As soon as the bar is passed the water deepens quickly to from 3 to 7 fathoms. At full and change of the moon the strong tides usually cause a heavy swell on the bar.

Just inside the bar a lagoon branches off to the eastward which has an opening to the sea at a distance of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles; it was not examined.

The following remarks bearing upon San Ignacio Lagoon are taken from Capt. C. M. Scammon's report: Remarks.

"A passage was found into Ballenas Lagoon practicable for vessels drawing 12 feet of water. It is very narrow, not more than half a cable in width, but at this particular place the land and sea breezes are strong and regular. Were it not for the certainty of these winds the passage into this lagoon would not be practicable for sailing vessels. The main branch of the lagoon is 2 miles wide at its mouth. After running northerly about 3 miles it turns to the westward, increasing in width to 4 miles and terminating 14 to 18 miles from the bar. Near the head of this fine sheet of water are two low islands, each not over 2 miles in length and less than a mile in width. The upper one has on its highest elevation a growth of green bushes which affords a pleasant contrast to the surrounding country. The southern island is quite barren; flocks of gray gulls literally covered its shell beaches, hawks were building their high nests, while pelicans and cormorants filled the air and surrounding waters. Around the shores numbers of turtle lay sleeping and cowfish and porpoises gamboled. All gave evidence of the place being unfrequented by human beings.

"Vessels first entered this lagoon for the purpose of whaling in 1859. Large numbers of whales (California grays) were found, and in the first two seasons over 8,000 barrels of oil were taken by four ships and a small shore party; but this limited whaling ground soon gave out, and the place is no longer regarded as valuable for that purpose.

"The face of the country inland from Ballenas Bay and the lagoons is nearly level and extremely barren. A few