

About two miles before reaching Wilmington, we pass, on the right, embowered in trees, the old headquarters of the Military Department, of Southern California and Arizona, abandoned in 1870. When the Government had no further use for the property it was sold, and is now used by the Protestants, and called Wilson's College.

Wilmington contains a population of about 500, most of whom are engaged in the shipping interests. At the long wharf are great warehouses, beside which, vessels drawing twelve feet of water, can lay and load and unload from and into the cars of the railroad, which run the whole length of the wharf. Vessels drawing 15 feet of water can cross the bar, two miles below, but are unable to reach the wharf, and are unloaded two miles below.

Inside the bar is a ship channel, perfectly sheltered, several miles in length, with a width of from 400 to 500 feet, and a depth, at low tide, of from 20 to 25 feet, shoaling at its head to 12 feet.

The Government has expended over half a million of dollars to improve the harbor at this place; the breakwater is 6,700 feet long, and when completed, it will be of incalculable advantage to the people of this section of country.

Wilmington is a point where immense

quantities of ties and redwood lumber are landed from the Humboldt Bay country, 200 miles north of San Francisco, on the coast, and also where are landed large quantities of coal from the Liverpool vessels that come here to load with grain. The coal is brought for ballast, more than for profit.

Rattlesnake Island is in front of the harbor—sand principally. San Pedro Point is two miles south, and Point Fermin, around that point to the west, reached by wagon-road around the beach or over the bluffs, six miles distant. Deadman's Island is a small, isolated rocky peak, where commences the breakwater improvement below Point Pedro.

Fermin Point is on the most prominent headland on the west, surmounted with a light of the first order, [which is kept by two ladies.] Near this point, *in stone*, is the subject of our illustration, below, called San Pedro's Wife or the "WOMAN OF THE PERIOD."

The distance from Wilmington by steamer to San Francisco is 387 miles; to San Diego, 95 miles; to Santa Catalina Island, 20 miles. This Island is owned by the Lick estate, is 35 miles long and ten wide, on which are some gold mines, and great numbers of sheep and goats.



SAN PEDRO'S WIFE OR, THE WOMAN OF THE PERIOD.