

THE BOHEMIAN CLUB.

THIS organization, so widely and favorably known, was originally intended—as was the Lotus Club of New York—to be an association of the professional journalists of San Francisco. The first meeting of consequence was held on the twenty-third of February, 1872, in the editorial rooms of the *Evening Examiner*, Benjamin P. Avery, late minister to China and then an editorial writer on the *Bulletin*, presiding. After some considerable discussion the first draft of the constitution and by-laws was adopted, which specified that “This association shall be called The Bohemian Club, and its objects shall be the promotion of good fellowship among journalists and other writers, and the elevation of the profession of journalism to that place in the popular estimation to which it is entitled; professional journalists to be eligible to active membership—actors, essayists, poets, and dramatic authors to be entitled to honorary membership.” On this basis the club went into active existence, the list of members comprising the names of nearly all the reputable journalists of the city, with a strong artistic, musical and dramatic following. In a very short time, however, there came trouble and a proposition to change the name of the club from “Bohemian” to something more aristocratic, and to let into active membership those outside of the strict line drawn by the constitution in favor of journalists. The controversy resulted in the old name being retained, but the barrier of exclusiveness was broken down by a revision of the aims and purpose clause of the constitution to read: “This club is founded for the association of gentlemen connected professionally