

still further improve the service and to give greater facilities for the shipment of freight by way of the creek. The steamer Capital, for many years on the Sacramento River route, is undergoing a remodeling, and will be placed on the creek for freight and for passengers.

A few leading facts will demonstrate the rapidity with which the city is advancing. House building is going on at the rate of one thousand per annum, for which are expended the sum of two and a half million dollars. In 1855 the number of children was one thousand two hundred and fifty-eight, now it is seven thousand two hundred and thirty-one. The territorial expansion of the city has helped to increase the figures, but the present total is what claims attention. Its religious societies have found it necessary to provide increased accommodations for their members, and some are building new and costly edifices, while others are contemplating like improvements. Property that but a few years ago was useful only for farm purposes, is now thickly covered with buildings, and the city is increasing in size as rapidly as it can with the aid of a thousand skilled mechanics and a still greater number of laborers.

By an Act of the last Legislature, the county buildings were located on one of the plazas fronting on Broadway, between Fourth and Fifth streets. The Supervisors selected the square on the west side of the street, and have erected a Court House and County Jail, which have been occupied about three months. The county was authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$200,000 for building purposes. The cost of the improvements has been in excess of that sum; this difference coming from the general funds at the disposal of the Supervisors. The Court House is two stories in height, and has a roomy basement. The extreme dimensions of the main edifice are one hundred and thirty by one hundred and forty-five feet, and in the rear there is a two story wing, forty by eighty feet; the lower story being the Hall of Records, and the upper story the room for the meetings of the Supervisors. The height of the ceiling in the first story is sixteen feet. The hall is twenty-eight feet wide; on the north side is the office of the County Clerk, thirty by forty-four feet, and on the south side is the office of the Treasurer, of the same dimensions. On the west side are the offices of the Sheriff, Auditor, Superintendent of Schools, County Surveyor, and Assessor. On the second floor are two court rooms, one for the County Court and the other for the District Court. They are similar in all respects, each being fifty-two by sixty feet in size. The ceilings are twenty-four feet high. In the rear are suitable apartments for the judges and the jurors. In the finishing and furnishing of the building the Supervisors have shown good taste and great liberality. The desks, counters, and book-cases are of black walnut and Spanish cedar; the upholstering is of the finest style, and nothing has been omitted which would tend to make the building worthy of the second county in the State. The building is heated by twenty-five steam registers, supplied by a boiler in the basement. There are four fire-proof vaults and a burglar-proof vault for the use of the Treasurer. There is an abundance of water in every part of the building. The structure is surmounted by a dome, the top of which is one hundred and eighty-five feet from the ground. The view to be obtained from that point is comprehensive and grand. J. J. Newsom was the architect, and G. W. Babcock the builder. The total cost of the Court House is \$195,380.86, the builder's contract having been for \$148,550, and the remainder for fixtures and incidentals.

The County Jail is on the same square, and fronts on Washington Street; it cost \$43,800.78. Most of the material was from the jail that had been erected in East Oakland, prior to the change of location, at a cost of some \$40,000. It is a commodious structure, having all the appliances usual in the best appointed prisons. While it is thoroughly secure, close atten-

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