

for their wit and wisdom and original method of management. No gambling is permitted. Its membership now comprises the most brilliant and progressive element of the community, more especially the young and middle-aged. Its rooms are convenient and commodious, and its dues merely nominal. The other clubs, such as the Concordia, the Olympic, and a hundred others that might be mentioned, all have special features that will be found mentioned in each club preface. There are no purely political social clubs in the city. As to the general tone and influence of the San Francisco Clubs, they are not so demoralizing to society as might at first be imagined. Without a doubt they are all enemies to the social circle. Any organization that furnishes good food, luxurious surroundings, and an opportunity to meet intelligence, and wealth, and wit, on an equal footing, naturally would be. It undoubtedly works disaster to the marriage relation, and is the especial abomination of ambitious mothers having daughters to marry. And yet there is not the degree of dissipation that has been talked and written regarding them. Only one club of prominence ever swung entirely into the broad and destructive way—the California, an organization of budding young brokers—and that had such a speedy and embarrassing death that the experiment will not soon again be tried. Money is recklessly squandered it is true, and very little thought taken for the future or the morrow. It could not well be otherwise, with fortunes made and lost in a day—with liberality the rule, and even an approach to economy the exception. But this prodigality brings luxury, and comfort, and associations that are considered an ample compensation for the outlay; and the charm of the club and its freedom of life will linger here as long as we remain the same nervous, variable and peculiarly audacious people.