

## GENERAL REVIEW.

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We purpose in the following pages to give a brief glance at the principal public institutions, and many of the private establishments of San Francisco, with such details as we may deem of interest or a reference to the pages of this work where the same may be found.

As first in importance and public estimation, we shall commence with the subject of

### Education and the Public Schools.

From the earliest period at which this Department attracted public attention in San Francisco, it has properly been deemed one of its most important interests, and though sometimes inefficiently, has always been better sustained than any other branch of the city government. It has been deemed the pride of our metropolis, and with commendable liberality its citizens have cheerfully paid the self-imposed and heavy taxation required for its support.

The salaries allowed Teachers have been as generous as circumstances would allow, and their payment, though sometimes long delayed, has always been finally provided for.

Our subsequent remarks will exhibit the Schools in a prosperous state, so far as the discipline and system is concerned; but requiring a persistent and judicious economy in the management of the resources of the department, to preserve its efficiency and protect it from fearful pecuniary embarrassment.

For the present high character of the department, it is in no small measure indebted to Jno. C. Pelton, Esq., the present worthy Superintendent, who as the pioneer in the Free School enterprise in this city and State, gave it a progressive impulse, which it still maintains.

The system of administration is in many respects similar to those of Boston or New York. There is a Superintendent, chosen by the people at large, and a Board of School Directors, consisting of one from each election district elected once in two years. To this Board is confided the entire management of the Schools, appointment of Teachers, selection of studies, disci-

pline etc., with the complete control of the resources assigned by law for the support of the schools. Within their appropriate sphere the Board of Education is independent of, and in no way accountable to, any other branch of the government.

The resources of the Board of Education are derived from a tax of thirty-five cents on each one hundred dollars—the maximum allowed by law—and the sum received from the Treasury as the pro rata of this county from the income of the State school fund. From both these sources there will be realized, the coming fiscal year, about \$102,000—a sum entirely inadequate to sustain the present scale of expenditure, and meet the appropriations for the sinking fund, chargeable upon the revenue. The citizens in addition to the heavy taxation with which they are burdened, authorized a loan deemed to be ample for the objects contemplated, and they now, perhaps justly, require from the Board such application of the annual revenue as will gradually liquidate the debt, without the substitution of another.

The city, principally through the loan referred to, is the owner of four school house sites and buildings, viz:—The Union Street School—a brick house, well constructed and admirably adapted to its purposes. About four hundred pupils in the Grammar, Intermediate and Primary Departments under the charge of Wm. Hammell, Esq., as Principal, attend this school; the commodious brick at the corner of Francisco and Stockton Streets, is occupied in the same manner, and has nearly the same number of scholars, F. E. Dunne, Esq., Principal; the brick building at the corner of Stockton and Bush Streets, Jas. Denman, Esq., Principal, with about three hundred pupils in the different departments; and the school house at the Laguna, with about two hundred pupils in the several divisions, J. C. Morrell, Esq., Principal;—the latter, although the first owned by the city, is the smallest and most inconvenient of all.

There is in addition to the above named, ten