

The liberal support extended by San Francisco to educational enterprises, public and private, is the most certain indication of her future greatness, while it is one of her noblest sources of self-gratulation and pride. Her citizens, with such a system of Schools—built up within six years, under all the circumstances which have embarrassed and retarded its establishment—may certainly without vanity point to it as an instance of enlightened energy without a parallel. From the nature of her position, as the depot of the vast gold fields of California, the great exponent of American civilization on the Pacific, San Francisco becomes the cynosure of the vast nations of Asia and the "Islands of the Sea," now first interested in the affairs of "outside barbarians," as well as the subject of careful observation of the Christian world; how important then that her infancy should exhibit the characteristics of American progress—the Press, the School, the House of God—Religion, Education, a Free Press—that she has struggled bravely, that she has nobly succeeded, the pages of this work afford ample testimony.

Religion—Religious Societies and Associations.

The number of churches, and the numerous auxiliary associations existing in our midst, afford at least some evidence that our people on this "far distant shore" manifest the same respect for religion which has characterized us as a nation; and that the principle of active benevolence which seeks to make itself efficient by association, is as vital here, as it is with our brethren on the Atlantic.

The principal sects are in possession of houses of worship, some of them, of several, for descriptions and locations of which, the reader is referred to the appropriate heads, in the registry or appendix. All of these buildings are tolerable, several of them imposing and even splendid structures. There are also two Jewish synagogues, one of which is a very elegant building. In addition to the houses of worship enumerated, there are several congregations who are not provided with a permanent location, and who assemble either in the church of some friendly sect or in one of the public halls. So it can be truthfully said, that San Francisco affords ample accommodation to the church-goer, with an expanded field from which to select the Divine nourishment. The attendance on the Sabbath, at the public ministrations, at most of the

churches, is very good and constantly increasing. In this particular the influence of Christianity has been, within a few years, very great, affording a happy presage of the future of our city.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

There are Sabbath Schools connected with most of the churches. Some of these have a very large attendance, well selected libraries, etc. We learn from Mr. Stoddard, that there are about three hundred and fifty Teachers, but he declines giving the average attendance of the schools, for reasons he deems satisfactory. In this connection, it is not improper to state that in several instances parties have refused to furnish statistics, alleging that they did not wish to have them published—did not think any benefit would be derived, etc. This notion—for we can call it nothing else—is altogether too antiquated for this period, or at any rate for this locality, and we beseech these gentlemen to arouse and rub their eyes. The spirit of the age is that of investigation; men demand facts, and respond "humbug," to declarations that "this is too sacred," or "this will give offense," or "the cause will suffer if all the facts are published," etc. Why, wise men are now demanding that *Diplomacy*, that seven-times-sealed subject, shall henceforth be open and above board; that Ministers of State and Ambassadors shall no longer play at hide-and-seek with the vital interests of great nations; and there is every reason to believe that this will be complied with before many years shall pass away. The public require information upon all subjects of public concernment, and that such information may be not only, readily accessible, but properly diffused, they demand its publication.

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS—CHRISTIAN AND BENEVOLENT.

These have been very fully described under the proper heads in the Registry or Appendix, and we have time only for a few remarks.

During the year past the Tract Society has distributed, gratuitously, within the eighteen districts into which for convenience they divide the city, 218,227 pages of tracts, of which 26,197 pages were in foreign languages.

The Young Men's Christian Association is a most influential institution, well calculated to produce good fruits. Confined to no denomination, its halls are open to all who either profess or seek a knowledge of Christ. They have sev-