

volving a heavy outlay for labor and materials the past year of \$65,000. The worthy proprietors are men of family, settled here as permanent Californians, and deserve, as they will certainly achieve, success.

And, though last, not least, the extensive establishment of Mr. Peter Donahue, known as the "Union Iron Works." The present proprietor, with his brothers, are well known among the most enterprising and successful of the business men of San Francisco. Commencing in 1849 in a small way as blacksmiths and machinists, they continued to enlarge their works as their capital justified, and the business of the city required, until they have extended to their present importance. In March, 1850, the first essay at iron casting was successfully made at these Works, consisting of propeller boxes for the Steamer McKim. Although the enormous price of fifty cents per pound was received for this work, it was unprofitable, owing to the great expense of preparation for it. A brick Foundry and Machine Shop has just been completed, which with the different Machine and Boiler Shops, etc., covers a fifty vara lot and an adjoining space of 40x30 feet. All the machinery of these works was constructed within them, and the extensive castings and machinery of the Gas Works of this city were also made here. From 50 to 170 men are employed at the Union Works, according to the exigencies of business.

Furniture.

A branch of trade of great magnitude in this city is the FURNITURE BUSINESS. Various causes have combined to prevent its manufacture here, while the influx of a large population, and the sudden growth of towns and cities, with perhaps a larger proportion of people of taste and means for its gratification, than that of many older communities, created a great demand for all descriptions—which demand had to be supplied from the Atlantic States and Europe, hence the entire trade has centered here, and several mammoth establishments have been created by it. In the extensive warehouses of these dealers are displayed immense stocks, constantly renewed from the clippers at our wharves, which include every thing in their line, from the unpretending necessities essential to the humblest housekeeper, to the most elegant articles demanded by modern luxury.

Of these houses, as senior in date of establishment, and equal in importance to any, we take

the liberty of naming Messrs. GEO. O. WHITNEY & Co. Their history is a recital of San Francisco, or rather California perseverance and determination under discouraging circumstances. They commenced business in the fall of 1850 on Pacific street, and established a branch warehouse at the corner of Sacramento and Webb Streets. Both of these stores, with their large and valuable stocks, were totally destroyed in the great fires of May and June, 1851. Notwithstanding these disasters, by which within the short space of thirty days their stock was twice destroyed and their business twice broken up, they resumed or rather continued their business, occupying a warehouse on Battery Street next to the old Vigilance Committee Rooms, and rebuilt and continued the store on Sacramento Street. In 1852 they built a warehouse on Sacramento Street, which was the first fire-proof building put up on that street. In 1853 they built the spacious warehouse they now occupy on California street. This building is 57x80 feet, with three stores besides basement, built expressly for their business, and admirably adapted to it, yet scarcely sufficient to contain the immense stock their extended business requires. Besides the store here, they have an extensive branch establishment in Sacramento. Mr. Geo. Whitney, the father of the members of the firm here, remains constantly in the Atlantic States, for the purpose of selecting and forwarding the constant supplies arriving here by every clipper.

Another of these great houses, Messrs. J. G. CLARK & Co., occupy the old Clipper Warehouse, extending through from No. 128 Washington to Jackson Street. Their premises front on Washington 30 feet, and 75 feet on Jackson, besides an extensive yard West of the warehouse, work shops, etc., suitably divided and assigned to the different departments of their business, viz: desk-rooms, varnishing-rooms, mattress-rooms, ship-ping-rooms, sales-rooms, etc., etc. But the Hall, especially worthy of observation, is the principal salesroom, occupying the second story of the warehouse, 30 feet wide, and extending from street to street, a distance of 275 feet. No conception can be formed of this magnificent apartment from mere description, and any person visiting it will be amply rewarded by an exhibition of tasteful and elegant furniture, artistically arranged in an apartment so extensive and so well calculated for its display.

This house has just commenced manufacturing, and have a large number of hands constantly em-