

HISTORICAL REVIEW.

SINCE the publication of the San Francisco Directory for 1857, the progress of the City has been more healthy than during any previous year of its existence. It is true that there has not been the same reckless spirit exhibited as characterized the operations of many of its citizens during the early period of its history, but an examination of the statistics of trade and commerce and the returns of the different departments of government, together with the evidences set forth in the present volume, will fully establish the fact that the City has never been more substantially prosperous than it is at the close of the year 1857. Under the wise and salutary operations of the Consolidation Act, the municipal affairs of the government have been administered with energy, fidelity and success; although the stringency of a few of the provisions of that measure, may have occasioned, in some instances, considerable inconvenience; yet the general result of its operations, in checking the extravagance of former administrations, and providing a safe and economical City government has been such as to meet the approval of every true friend of the City.

Improvements.

The improvements during the past year have been numerous and permanent in their character. Several extensive and substantial edifices dedicated to religion and benevolence have been erected and improved, while the number of buildings completed for the purposes of trade have been numerous and extensive. One of the most gratifying evidences of the real prosperity of the City is exhibited by the number of buildings occupied as private residences, many of which have been finished during the past year. It is believed that of those vacant a year since, not one-fourth are now unoccupied. The condition of the streets exhibits a marked improvement, and the system of sewerage now being adopted must have a tendency not only to improve, but greatly to advance the value of real estate.

The Public Schools.

Notwithstanding that during the entire year past, the Department of Public Schools has been oppressed by constant and serious embarrassment, perceptible progress has been made in the perfecting of our School system. The High School has been permanently established, the grades of other Schools have been raised, and consequently the standard of qualification for admission to the corps of Teachers; three new School Houses have been erected, one purchased, and several improved. In all respects throughout the department, evidences of improvement are to be observed. For a full review and historical sketch of the Public Schools, see page 35.

The census returns for this City and County, as given by Henry B. Janes, County Superintendent of Public Schools, show the following returns of children in this City: