

GENERAL REVIEW.

IN this department of the work we propose to give a brief glance at the operations of the different public institutions, and those private establishments which are deemed worthy of notice, with such details connected therewith as we may deem interesting to our readers.

Education and the Public Schools.

Most fortunately for her own interests as well as for the permanent good of the whole State, San Francisco from an early period in her history, as an American community, has extended a fostering care to the cause of free schools, and has to the fullest extent provided the means of instruction for the children of every citizen. No institution within her limits has received greater or more zealous attention; none has been more liberally and faithfully sustained. This is as it should have been, as we hope hereafter, may ever be the case. That our Public Schools form the basis upon which securely rests our nation's present greatness, and depend our future national permanency; and progress and improvement is not merely a well rounded, euphonious sentence, but one which expresses a substantial fact.

When in 1849, there rushed to these shores the busy throng of eager and restless adventurers, impatient in the pursuit of fortune, fame, or pleasure: happily for San Francisco, there came also others having a more abiding interest in her welfare; a higher object of pursuit, than those impelled by a mere ennobling ambition. And when the exciting clatter of a thousand hammers re-echoed from every hill side, and San Francisco, as if by magic, was hastening into a real existence; these were busily, unobtrusively, yet perseveringly employed in giving her a moral and social life, which has signally elevated her character; but which, as we trust, will hereafter grow with her growth, and strengthen with her strength, till they shall ripen into those graceful proportions of a moral and social society which shall render her the pride, and endearing home of all her citizens.

Prominent among the early friends of San Fran-

cisco were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pelton, who, as it appears, left Boston, Mass., in the early part of 1849; and (strange as it then appeared to those unacquainted with them, or the *real* motives that prompted their acts) with the object, of establishing here on the far off shores of the Pacific, a free Public School on the New England plan.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Arriving in San Francisco in the autumn of 1849, Mr. Pelton immediately made preparations for carrying out his cherished object. He soon found friends, and through them secured the free use of the Baptist Chapel, then standing on Washington street near Stockton, (and still occupied by the Primary Department of the original School;) and on the 26th December, 1849, three children having been gathered, the first Public Free School in this City, or indeed on the Pacific coast, was accordingly commenced. This School was continued free to pupils from the first, and was sustained several months entirely by the voluntary and gratuitous services of Mr. and Mrs. Pelton, aided, in paying the incidental expenses of the School, and procuring the services of extra teachers, who were soon required, by the contributions of citizens who had become interested, in what had at first appeared to them an enterprise as strange as it was new. The names of those contributors having been preserved, we take pleasure in giving them a permanent place in the record of early benefactors of San Francisco:

Theo. Paype, Friedlander & Co., Wm. Meyer & Co., M. E. Gould, J. C. Palmer, S. Otis, I. C. Woods, Wm. T. Coleman, J. D. Hutton, B. F. Sherwood, B. Davidson, Wm. D. M. Howard, Talbot Green, F. Vassault, Newton & Co., Hussey & Bond, Henry M. Hale, E. Dunbar, Dunbar & Emerson, John Wilson, Jacob B. Moore, T. J. L. Smiley, A. A. Selover, John Middleton, R. S. Dorr, David Paige, C. V. Gillespie, Wm. Burling, J. H. Coghill, Burgoyne & Co., Adams & Co., Wm. Hooper, Nathaniel Lane, Capt. Tibbs, C. L. Ross, J. R. Bolton, D. Gibb, Moorhouse & Whitehead, E. Mickle & Co., J. D. Stevenson, Capt. King, R. M. Sherman, Wm. Sherman, Geo. H.