

P R E F A T O R Y .

ON presenting to the public the SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY for 1863-64, the sixth volume issued by the present compiler, he deems the present an appropriate occasion to refer to the introductory remarks contained in the first volume of the series: "In the preparation of the present volume, the compiler has aimed to arrange a Directory more comprehensive in its plan, and more systematic in its arrangement, than any publication of its character hitherto issued in California. He has endeavored to present a Manual of Reference so useful and valuable, that its successors may be deemed welcome annual visitors to every citizen. To this end he has devoted unremitting industry and the most vigilant care." The pages of the work from year to year furnish the best evidences of his determination to merit the increasing patronage bestowed upon his efforts, and he now refers with peculiar satisfaction to the present issue to determine how far he has fulfilled the expectations of his friends and the public.

Few people who consult the pages of a City Directory have a proper conception of the amount of labor and patient care required in the preparation of its material for the press. No literary enterprise is surrounded with so many obstacles to its successful prosecution; and it is a matter of surprise to experienced minds how so large an amount of labor can be so accurately performed. In these remarks the compiler does not intend to convey the idea that perfection has been attained in the present volume, but he feels confident that he has succeeded in producing a work as free from errors as any similar enterprise in the United States.

The rapid increase in the size of the SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY, rendered necessary by the advancing progress of our city, has required a reduction in the size of the type used in the printing of the work. This change will secure the insertion of a larger amount of information, thereby rendering the work more useful and complete.

The present issue of the SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY is the largest and most comprehensive of any hitherto published in this city. The number of names contained therein exceeds thirty-eight thousand, an increase in one year of over four thousand, or nearly twelve per cent. The same gratifying evidence of our city's prosperity will be found in every department of the work. The register of names includes the locations of over seventeen hundred mining companies having offices in this city. The "Business Directory" has received from the