

at junction with nave. At the northeast and southeast corners, there are two rooms 60 feet by 35 feet, and on the west end a building 205 feet long by 30 feet wide, which were used respectively for piano room, art gallery, and restaurant. These, with boiler and agricultural machine rooms, contained an area of over 67,000 square feet, the whole of which space, with the exception of necessary passage ways for spectators, was completely filled with manufactures and works of art, nearly nine-tenths of which were produced in this city. The articles exhibited, as a rule, were of superior excellence in both material and workmanship, and in some branches of manufactures are believed to have been unsurpassed by any display heretofore made in the older States of the Union.

The exhibition, as a whole, surpassed in magnitude, variety and excellence of displays, the expectation of the public, and presented evidences of progress in range of manufactures, as compared with the last fair held by the Association (in 1865) that surprised the best informed among our people.

WOOLEN MANUFACTURES.—Prominent among the important manufactures of this city is that of woollen goods, the local mills turning out fully two-thirds the entire quantity produced on the Pacific Coast. These fabrics have attained so high a reputation for excellence of material and workmanship, that the name of the mill being mentioned, the quality of the goods is often considered satisfactory in advance of inspection by the buyer. In some styles, such as blankets and fine flannels, the products of our city mills are considered unapproachable in quality by imported goods, and they have now a virtual monopoly of this market. The cassimeres, tweeds and broadcloths produced by our local mills are also admitted to be superior in wearing qualities to similar goods imported, the great advantages being their manufacture from wool of finer quality than is used elsewhere for the purpose, and entire freedom from admixture of "shoddy," which latter is used in more or less quantity by most manufacturers in the Atlantic States and Europe. In connection with this is the notable fact that the local Woollen Mills now take about 4,000,000 pounds of the finest clips of wool out of about 10,000,000 pounds, which is the entire crop of the State for 1868, as marketed in this city. This fact is so well established that all the largest clips of fine wool are offered for purchase to the agents of these mills before being submitted to competition among buyers for shipment to the Atlantic States, and also the withdrawal of buyers for home consumption is regularly followed by an average decline of from two to three cents per pound on best grades of wool when shippers are the only purchasers in the market. The great improvement in the grade of wool clips in California during the past ten years can be distinctly traced to the demands of the San Francisco mills, which are constantly stimulating wool growers to the importation and raising of varieties of still finer wooled sheep.

The first woollen mill erected in California was the Pioneer Woollen Mills, of this city, which commenced to manufacture the common grades of blankets and plain flannels in 1858, the wool then raised in the State being of quite inferior quality, and not suitable for making better classes of goods. These mills were located at Black Point, and were destroyed by fire in 1861. They were soon afterwards rebuilt in a more substantial manner, and now employ a capital of \$300,000. The original mills were erected by the firm of Heynemann, Pick & Co., but after the fire the enterprise was resumed by the same parties in connection with others, as an incorporated company, with the above named capital. Year by year the manufactures of these mills have increased in variety and fineness until at the present time they produce fabrics that

are unexceptionable in the grades represented. At the late Fair of the Mechanics' Institute this company occupied one hundred feet of wall space, with table adjoining and two large tables near by, the whole being covered and adorned with an assortment of woollen goods of such excellence as would be a credit to any State of the Union. Among others were an almost endless variety of blankets of all colors and qualities, varying in price from two to forty dollars per pair, broadcloths, cassimeres, tweeds, flannels, plain and fancy colored ladies' cloakings, etc. These goods, with those of the other mills on exhibition, were located in the south wing of the main pavilion, and as a single branch of industry almost made a fair by themselves. Too much credit can hardly be given to the managers of the Pioneer and other woollen mills in this city for the public spirit and enterprise that have characterized all their business transactions, the result of which in the aggregate has given profitable employment for fully 1,200 operatives, and has virtually rendered us independent of importations from abroad. The machinery of the Pioneer Woollen Mills requires a 150 horse-power engine, which drives 18 sets cards, 8 mules, 14 jacks, 72 looms, and 6,000 spindles, employing 350 hands.

The Mission Woollen Mills in this city are located at the corner of Sixteenth and Folsom Streets, and in all their ramifications make use of nearly ten acres of land, belonging to the company. Though not established until 1861, the personal enterprise of their originator and part proprietor, Donald McLellan, soon made them take the lead in woollen manufactures on the Pacific Coast. Starting with a very limited capital, this gentleman soon essayed the manufacture of the finer grades of blankets and flannels, as well as cloths, cassimeres, etc., which until then had not been attempted. These manufactures being unexceptional as to grades soon established a very high reputation in the market, which, in connection with the difficulties attending importations from the Atlantic States, caused by the late rebellion and the demand for clothing for State militia and United States troops on the Pacific Coast, stimulated these mills to the highest capacity for production. To meet the demand the facilities for manufacturing were increased by the importation of additional machinery, while the mills were run night and day almost constantly for a period of four years. From being a personal enterprise the Mission Woollen Mills were changed into a stock company, of \$500,000 capital, the house of Lazard Freres and Mr. McLellan being the largest owners. The Mills have run uninterruptedly since their establishment, the motive power being two steam engines of 150 horse power aggregate capacity, which drives 11 sets cards, 6 mules, 13 jacks, 50 looms, and 6,000 spindles, the whole employing 425 operatives. These mills sent specimens of their manufacture to the Great Exposition, held in Paris in 1867, and received the highest award in their class—a bronze medal—for blankets and flannels over all other competitors from the United States. Owing to the limited market here for various styles of woollen goods the proprietors of these mills have been compelled to manufacture a greater variety of fabrics than is said to be the case in any one establishment elsewhere. The display of goods made by the Mission Woollen Mills at the late Mechanics' Institute Fair is believed to be the best ever made on the Pacific Coast. The exhibit among other articles comprised all known varieties, styles, and colors of blankets, and plain and fancy flannels, as well as a great variety of broadcloths, cassimeres, tweeds, cloakings, shawls—traveling and others—buggy robes, a great variety of ladies' plain and fancy cloakings, and two-ply and super carpets, the whole forming an assortment of great beauty and worth. The display occupied 110 feet wall space, and adjoining table and a side table 30 feet long by 10 feet wide.