

of Bush and Montgomery streets. Its yearly attendance numbers about five hundred students, among whom are representatives from every county in this State, as well as many from Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Mexico and the Sandwich Islands.

### Sabbath Schools.

The schools connected with the different churches exhibit an unusual degree of prosperity. The aggregate enrollment is nearly eighteen thousand, with an average attendance of ten thousand eight hundred. Of this number about one-third are attached to the Catholic Church. Number of schools, seventy-six.

### Religious and Benevolent Societies.

The people of California, and of San Francisco in particular, have ever been distinguished for a free and bounteous liberality—responding with an open-handed fullness to almost every appeal made to their sympathy or benevolence. None have ever given so munificently or with so little hesitation as they. Indifferent to the *éclat* that is apt elsewhere to prompt to good deeds, and often with scarce sufficient regard to the merits of the recipient, they bestowed their charities at first with a spontaneous and careless freedom not often practiced in older and more cautious communities. Having been for years without any organization to serve as the almoner of this princely and impulsive generosity, whereby it was frequently perverted and almost always shorn of half its efficiency, our citizens began to form associations and societies for rendering it more potent for good; the number of these institutions now in existence in San Francisco being larger, perhaps, in proportion to her population, than in any other city in the world; the most of them being liberally supported by popular contributions, aided in some instances by Municipal or State appropriations; a few also having, in part, permanent endowments to depend upon. In their character and aims, these institutions are both protective, educational, and eleemosynary; some being subject to a purely secular, while others are governed by an administration partly or wholly religious. It is but just to observe, however, that the latter are apt to be controlled by a broad and catholic spirit, the usual asperities of sectarianism being here toned down and softened by the cosmopolitan character of our population. Almost every leading nationality and order has in this city its hospital or asylum; many of the religious sects also having their own schools, cemeteries, and benevolent societies.

Foremost among the great philanthropies of San Francisco being untrammelled by considerations of creed, color, or nativity, stands the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, one of the earliest founded, and most efficient of all her public charities. The field of its labors is broad and diversified; its aid being extended to all worthy applicants, due care being taken to discriminate between the meritorious and the undeserving. The patrons and managers of this society belonging to a class naturally of warm

and active sympathies are apt to seek out and assist many, who though really needy, are restrained by a sense of delicacy from applying to others for gratuitous aid, but who, for this very reason most require it. In the cautious and economical application of its means, its prudent management and truly catholic spirit, the patrons of this institution have ample guarantees that their bounty will be wisely and effectively distributed. In the San Francisco Benevolent Association, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Ladies' Seaman's Friend Society, the charitable of all nationalities and sects can also find safe and capable almoners for disposing of all contributions committed to their charge.

The British Benevolent Society and the German General Benevolent Society, the French Benevolent Society, each fill a wide field of usefulness in its appropriate sphere, their operations being confined to the natives of the countries they severally represent.

The Scotch, Welsh, and Irish, as subdivisions of British subjects, have each their society for the protection and relief of the sick and indigent of their own race; the Russians, Scandinavians, French, Italians, Portuguese, Slavonians, Swiss, Mexicans, Colored People, and the Chinese, also having each a society or association dedicated to the performance of similar offices; the whole in connection with the various other benevolent and protective institutions of the city, such as the several Orphan Asylums, Woman's Hospitals, Magdalen Asylum, Lying-In and Foundling Hospital, Prison Association, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, etc., constituting a far-reaching and efficient system of charities highly creditable to the enterprise and humanity of its inhabitants.

The following annual appropriations to the Benevolent Societies of this city were made by the Legislature of this State at its session 1867-8: Orphan Asylum, (Protestant) \$9,000; Orphan Asylum, (Catholic) \$7,000; Foundling Home, (Catholic) \$2,250; Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, \$9,500; Magdalen Asylum, (Catholic) \$2,000; Prison Commission, \$1,000.

For complete list of the various societies, Religious, Benevolent, etc., see page 824.

### YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

This association, founded in 1853, has for its object the moral, mental, and social improvement of young men. It has, at its elegant building on Sutter Street, a fine reading room, library, gymnasium, lecture room, etc. It is also the design of the association to provide, so far as possible, employment, a place of social comfort and resort, and a local point of pleasant attraction for young men arriving here without other acquaintance than those made here. The library contains about three thousand volumes of well-selected and valuable works, embracing all branches of literature; and the reading room is supplied with the best newspapers and leading periodicals of the country.

The regular meetings of the association are held on the third Monday evening of each month, when the usual business is transacted; and when there is