

NEW MINT.—The construction of this grand and most useful public building has so far progressed as to exhibit its proportions and give some idea of its character and architectural appearance. The style of architecture is a composite, being of the Doric-Ionic order. The new mint occupies the 100 vara lot forming the northwest corner of Mission and Fifth Streets. The lot was purchased by the United States Government for the sum of \$100,000 and work was commenced in the latter part of 1869, and the foundation laid. The ground plan of the building embraces an area fronting 221½ feet on Fifth Street by 166½ on Mission Street. Over the entire area an excavation of seven feet in depth was made and filled with a solid bed of concrete, even with the surface. When this was perfectly hardened, the basement, with outer walls of granite and partition walls of brick, was laid upon it. The basement forms a noble story by itself, being all above ground, is 13½ feet high, and is built of granite ashler from the Penryn Quarries, on the Central Pacific Railroad in Placer County. This had so far progressed that on the 24th day of May, 1870, the corner stone was laid with imposing ceremony by the Masonic Order, for which purpose many gathered from all parts of the country. From this basement the building rises two stories of 18½ feet each, constructed of freestone from Newcastle Island in the Gulf of Georgia, from the possessions of our Northern neighbor. This is a very handsome gray rock, and is quite easily cut and polished to a smooth surface. A broad flight of granite steps leads to the front entrance on Fifth Street. The vestibule will be graced with six magnificent pillars, each of a single block of freestone, 27 feet high by 5½ feet in diameter at the base and 4½ at the top. From the pavement to the crown of the roof will be 70 feet. Above the roof two chimney stacks, built as towers, will rise to the height of 150 feet. The roof will be of copper, the floor beams of rolled iron, and the floors of marble tiling so that no wood except wainscoting, doors, and furniture of offices will enter the building, making it perfectly fire-proof. The wood used will be of California laurel, in keeping with the general elegance of the establishment. The granite ashler dressed for laying cost \$2.70 per cubic foot, and the freestone cut plain is furnished at \$2.50 per cubic foot, and the entire building without machinery and furniture is expected to cost \$1,500,000. The architect is A. B. Mullett, architect to the Treasury Department, and W. P. C. Stebbins is superintendent of the work.

NEW BUTCHERTOWN.—The necessities and growth of the city demanded the removal of the slaughtering establishments from the Butchertown of Brannan Street, and for the accommodation of this business the Legislature of 1868 granted to William Dunphy and associates the area bounded on the northeast by First avenue, on the southeast by I Street, on the south and southwest by the natural shore line of the bay, and on the west by Kentucky Street or Railroad Avenue, comprising about fifty blocks of submerged land. Islais Creek Canal runs along the North of this tract and India Basin is at the extreme southeast. This valuable plat is devoted to slaughtering purposes and is the locality of the New Butchertown. During the past year extensive improvements have been made, principally on First Avenue, and altogether near one hundred buildings erected. These comprise extensive slaughter houses, stables, boarding houses, restaurants, saloons, offices, etc. The new town and streets are built on piles over the water of Islais Creek Bay, thus, apparently, giving quick drainage of offal, but the rising tide carries the same towards shore, lodging much upon the shallow places from which, at low tide, arises the offensive effluvia of decaying animal matter. The filling up of these places and the construction of sewers will obviate this difficulty and accomplish the object of locating the slaughtering establishments here. The Potrero and Bay View street railroad passes through Butchertown, as does also the adopted route of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO.—South of Islais Creek is the growing and pleasant suburb of South San Francisco. This occupies a ridge of land running into the bay and terminating at Hunter's Point. During the year a number of private residences have been constructed, several stores and public buildings. Conspicuous among all is the new Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, a large wooden structure, fronting on Connecticut street and from its elevation commanding an extended view of city and bay and surrounding country. Here, on the corner of Eleventh Avenue and P Street, the California Silk Manufacturing Company has erected a building of wood, two stories in height, having a front 50 feet, and a depth of 125 feet for a factory, intending to add this noble branch to the many industries of the State.

On the corner of Railroad and Twelfth Avenues, Messrs Bowen Brothers, the extensive grocers, have erected a block of stores nine in number. These are of wood and one story in height. The Potrero and Bay View Railroad gives easy and ready access to this Southern portion of the city.

THE WHITE HOUSE.—This name applies to the elegant building owned by Messrs Lazard Frères, on the corner of Kearny and Post streets, a building of three stories high and basement, fronting 87½ feet on Kearny Street and 108 feet on Post. This fine structure is built of brick and iron so combined as to be considered safe against all earthquake shocks with which San Francisco is threatened. The style of architecture is of the light, airy, ornamental order of which iron enables the construction, and is coming in vogue in this city, and which may properly be styled "San Franciscan." The budding of this order can be seen in the few iron front buildings, or those of partial iron erected within the past two years, and which the architectural genius of the Pacific Coast is called upon to perfect. The White House takes its name from its color, being painted white in most pleasing contrast to the dingy sand hill color generally prevailing, but which seems now to be changing, as many of the old, as well as new houses have recently exchanged the sombre hue to the cheerful white. This fine structure is occupied as dry goods stores, the corner, with fifty feet front on Kearny Street, by J. W. Davidson & Co., and the balance by Rosenblatt's Palace of fashion.