

POTRERO SCHOOL (location southwest corner Kentucky and Napa streets).—Pupils registered, 101; average attendance, 88; percentage of attendance, .95 4-10; number to each teacher, 44; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$2.00.

PINE STREET SCHOOL (location north side Pine Street between Scott and Devisadero).—Pupils registered, 87; average attendance, 77; percentage of attendance, .91; number to each teacher, 38; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$2.04.

TYLER STREET SCHOOL (location north side Tyler Street between Scott and Pierce).—Pupils registered, 232; average attendance, 190; percentage of attendance, .89 7-10; number to each teacher, 47; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$1.49.

WEST END SCHOOL (location near Six-mile House).—Pupils registered, 40; average attendance, 34; percentage of attendance, .89; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$2.44.

SAN BRUNO SCHOOL (location San Bruno Road near Toll-gate).—Pupils registered, 105; average attendance, 87; percentage of attendance, .92; number to each teacher, 46; monthly tuition to each pupil, \$1.71.

OCEAN HOUSE SCHOOL (location near Ocean House).—Pupils registered, 21; average attendance, 18; percentage of attendance, .95; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$4.62.

LAGUNA HONDA SCHOOL.—Pupils registered, 31; average attendance, 28; percentage of attendance, .93; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$2.94.

FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL (location Fairmount Tract).—Pupils registered, 137; average attendance, 73; percentage of attendance, 87.5; number to each teacher, 36; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$2.00.

COLORED SCHOOL (location northwest corner Taylor and Vallejo streets).—Pupils registered, 70; average attendance, 60; percentage of attendance, .89 5-10; number to each teacher, 30; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$3.04.

CHINESE SCHOOL (location north side Powell Street between Jackson and Washington).—Pupils registered, 31; average attendance, 25; percentage of attendance, .83; monthly tuition of each pupil, \$3.20.

Historical Sketch.

Ex-Superintendent Denman, in his Annual Report, 1870, gives the following brief history of the first schools established in San Francisco:

The first American school in San Francisco was organized in April, 1847, in a small shanty on the block between Broadway and Pacific streets, west of Dupont Street. Here were collected from twenty to thirty pupils, which then comprised nearly all the children in the city. It was a private institution, supported by the tuition fees from the pupils, and the contributions of the citizens.

It was taught by Mr. Marsten, who is entitled to the honor of being the first Yankee school-master upon the Pacific coast. Although he continued his school but a few months, yet he performed an important part in the early history of our schools, which should entitle his name to be held in grateful remembrance by every friend of education.

Late in the fall of 1847, active measures were first taken by the citizens of San Francisco to organize a public school, which resulted in erecting a comfortable one-story school house on the southwest part of Portsmouth Square, fronting on Clay Street where it now joins Brenham Place.

An engraving of this first public school house in San Francisco has been preserved in the "Annals of San Francisco" as one of the most valued relics of the past. The history of this old building is cherished by the early pioneers with many pleasing

associations. Every new enterprise here germinated into existence. Here the churches held their first meeting, and the first public amusements were given. After the discovery of gold, it was deserted for school purposes and dignified into a court house, under Judge Almond. It was again degraded into a police office and used as a station house until demolished by the city in 1850. It is to be regretted that this first public school edifice of San Francisco, unpretending as it was, could not have been preserved so that the future citizen might contrast this humble commencement with the beautiful school edifices which will yet adorn every hillside and valley of our expanding city.

On the 28th of February, 1848, the first town meeting for the election of School Trustees was held, which resulted in the choice of Messrs. C. L. Ross, J. Serrine and Dr. J. G. Townsend. These gentlemen, with the characteristic energy of our pioneers, immediately commenced the organization of a school.

A census of the town was soon afterwards taken by C. L. Ross, a gentleman to whose energy and liberality in the early history of our city the cause of education and benevolence will ever be greatly indebted. This enumeration showed that the entire population of the town, including the Indians and Mexicans, was about eight hundred, fifty of whom were children of suitable age to attend school.

On the 3d of April following, the school was opened in the building I have described, under the instruction of Rev. Thomas Douglas, a graduate of Yale College, and an able and zealous pioneer in the cause of education.

Although it was regularly organized as a public school, under the control and management of the trustees, yet it was mainly supported by private tuition fees from the pupils. The success and usefulness of this school was soon paralyzed by the great discovery of gold, which rapidly depopulated the town, leaving the teacher minus scholars, parents, trustees, or tuition and salary. The teacher therefore closed school, and joined in the general scramble for the new El Dorado of untold wealth. In the general excitement and confusion which followed the first rush to the mines, the school enterprise was for a time abandoned.

The education of the children, who were rapidly increasing from the flood of immigration pouring into San Francisco from every part of the world, was entirely neglected until the 23d of April, 1849, when the Rev. Albert Williams opened a small select school, which he taught for a few months.

In October, 1849, Mr. J. C. Pelton and wife opened a school in the basement of the Baptist Church on Washington Street, near Stockton. It was at first commenced as a private enterprise, being supported by such compensation as the "friends of the school were disposed to contribute;" but on the first of April following, it was made a public school by an ordinance of the Common Council, and Mr. Pelton and wife were employed as teachers at a salary of \$500 a month.

This school commenced with only three pupils; but under the popular instruction of these early pioneers, it rapidly increased in numbers and popular favor until it was broken up by the disastrous fires of 1850 and 1851, when Mr. Pelton left the city to engage in other occupations.

In July, 1850, the "Happy Valley School" was opened in a little dilapidated building in what was then a beautiful little valley in the suburbs of the city, near the corner of Second and Miuna streets. It was first taught by Mr. Samuel Newton, who remained but a short time, when he was succeeded by Mr. Rogers, a teacher of energy and ability, who also soon abandoned the school for a more lucrative occupation.

The school was next taught by Mr. Cooley, a gentleman of great earnestness in his profession, who