

NEW BUILDINGS. During the past year, notwithstanding the general depression existing in almost every department of business, a considerable number of buildings, several of which of an extensive character have been erected, and active operations continued upon the several public buildings in the course of construction. The number erected from January, 1871, to March 1st, 1872, fourteen months, is estimated at 920,* of which 40 are of brick. About ten per cent. of this number replaced old or worn out structures and those damaged by fire. The most important improvements are the works of the City and Metropolitan Gas Companies, Potrero; Levison's building, Sutter Street; Olympic Club building, New Montgomery Street; Tattersalls', Sanson Street; Wormser's and Keyes' buildings, California Street, and the new Church edifices of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic, Mission Street; First Congregational, corner Post and Mason streets; First Methodist Episcopal, Powell Street; St. Peter's Episcopal, Stockton Street; Baptist Mission, Tenth Avenue near I, and the Memorial Presbyterian, Eighteenth Avenue. In addition to these, there are a number of elegant and costly private residences, several of which have been erected or nearly completed at an expense of from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This enumeration does not include the New United States Branch Mint, the new City Hall and the new City and County Hospital now being constructed.

Important additions to our city improvements have been made by several of the co-operative associations recently formed in this city. The Real Estate Associates, Rondel's Homesteads and the Building and Improvement Union have erected during the past year an aggregate of 45 private dwellings for the accommodation of those who prefer to own their residences by the payment of a stated sum monthly than to rent them in the usual way.

It is gratifying to notice an improved style and finish of the exterior and the many additions to the interior arrangements of the private residences erected during the past year, which must secure for their occupants increased comfort and convenience.

NUMBER OF BUILDINGS. Total, December 31st, 1869, 18,659; erected during the year 1870, 900; of this number, 100 replaced old buildings. Total, December 31st, 1870, 19,459, of which 4,380 are of brick and 15,079 are of wood. Total, March 1st, 1872, 20,287, of which 4,420 are of brick and 15,867 are of wood. The Federal Census, August, 1870, returns the total number at 25,266. (See article on Population, page 11.)

CHURCHES—ST. PATRICK'S.—In our report of last year we remarked upon the general lack of architectural beauty, or grandeur, in the ecclesiastical edifices of this city; buildings which in all countries claim the first attention, and to construct which the highest genius has been engaged and countless treasure lavished. Then the great St. Patrick's on Mission Street was in course of construction, and is now nearly completed and will be dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, on the 17th of March of this year. The finishing of the interior is now—March 1st—progressing. This is a vast space of 82 feet in width, by 120 in length, and 75 feet high, to the crown of the ceiling of the nave. The nave comprises the main hall, each is 44 feet in width and on each side are aisles of 19 feet in width separated from the nave by rows of 16 crystal columns, 8 on a side, from which spring the upper walls of the main building. The ceiling is a succession of groined arches and is beautifully frescoed in a ground of blue. The light will be ample, there being 36 large windows in the wings and tier and five in the chancel, all filled with stained glass. The windows of the chancel will represent St. Patrick, as a center piece, with historical pictures representing scenes in the life of the patron saint of Ireland. Rows of niches are in the walls, between the windows, twelve of the most conspicuous of which will hold statues of the twelve Apostles.

At night the church will be lighted by gas, a large number of burners springing from the pillars, rather than from chandeliers pendant from the ceiling. A mammoth organ, which is intended to be the largest on the coast, is now making in Germany, and will soon be placed in position. The lofty belfry, 100 feet from the ground, will contain a chime of bells, the present to the church of Peter Donahue Esq., of San Francisco. The total cost of this great structure is about \$175,000, and

* The San Francisco *Evening Bulletin* of March 12th, 1872, reports the number of buildings erected during the year 1871 at 311, and at a cost of \$1,618,700. Our estimate has been made upon information obtained during the canvass for the *DIRECTORY*, and compared with the returns of the leading architects of this city. The returns of the Spring Valley Water Works Co. show that during the year 1871, 830 new taps were made, and it is believed that the number of new buildings from which no orders were received will more than overbalance the orders from old ones. The great difference between the estimates herein referred to renders this explanation necessary.—COMPILER.