

the official grade, excavating for, and building a first-class gasholder, having a capacity of over 400,000 cubic feet. The other works of the company consist of a substantial brick building 175 feet in length, containing still house, retort house, condensing chamber, exhauster, engine, boiler and meter rooms, and in the upper story, offices, photometric room, and engineer's apartments. The company has also erected two large reservoir tanks, capable of storing nearly 100,000 gallons of petroleum and naphtha, also a commodious coal shed. The works though smaller than those of the City Gas Company, on the Potrero, are very complete, and in consequence of the simplicity of this process, quite adequate to the manufacture of all the gas that is, or will be, consumed in the city for many years to come.

The holder was manufactured by Messrs. Hoy, Kennedy & Co., of the Atlantic Dock Iron Works, New York—the makers of the King Street gas holder and the gas holders of the City Gas Company. The columns and girders are on a new principle, recently patented by Mr. Kennedy, and first seen on this coast at these works, and are known as "lattice work". The holder is ninety-two feet six inches in diameter, and fifty feet high, in two lifts, being telescoped.

The company claims that petroleum gas is superior in lighting qualities and in purity to coal gas, and passes less swiftly through the consumers' meters. The Metropolitan gas works are on the point of completion, and the company promises to make gas, not later than the first week in April. The maximum price which it can charge under its charter is \$3.50 per thousand cubic feet. The officers are J. W. Stow, President; W. W. Montague, H. B. Williams and J. W. Stow, Trustees, and A. D. Bell, Secretary.

MAXIM GAS COMPANY.—Science and mechanical ingenuity continue their researches after some material, liquid or gaseous, that will afford a cheap and brilliant light, with the desiderata of safety, cleanliness and convenience of arrangement. Great advances have been made within the past twenty years in lighting our rooms, and the dim glimmer of the fish-oil lamp, and the faint flicker of the tallow dip, are almost banished from memory. The determination to rise above these was apparent, and every substitute was willingly tried. Camphene, phosgene and other burning fluid were introduced and extensively used, until the inventor prepared a lamp for burning petroleum, an oil that the rocks of several of the States of the Union supply in abundance, and cheaply. To burn it in perfection was the desired object. Gas makes the cleanest and pleasantest of all lights; but its manufacture from coal, in the usual manner, requires extensive and costly works, with most expensive distribution, and single houses or small towns cannot avail themselves of it. After noticing the great gas companies operating in this city, a reference to the Maxim Gas Company will not be out of place. This is founded on a patented machine and apparatus for making gas from the volatile products of petroleum which accomplishes its work in a very simple, efficient and inexpensive manner. The apparatus is peculiarly adapted for single buildings, or villages, and may be extended indefinitely. The machines are manufactured at the factory in this city, No. 417 Mission Street, the office being at 238 Montgomery Street. Quite a number of business houses, schools, manufactories and private residences are now lighted by this gas, and also many of the interior towns of the State. It is contemplated to light by this machine every town in the State. The gasoline of which the gas is made, can be placed at any convenient distance from the machine, to insure the most perfect safety, and is then drawn in constant supply, as needed, all of which is automatically regulated. The officers of the company, are among the best known of San Francisco's successful business men, J. O. Eldridge, being President; Wm. H. Ladd, Vice-President; Chris. Reis, Treasurer; James H. Clark, Manager; and Robert Day, Secretary.

CALIFORNIA SILK MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—In noting the progress of the city, mention of of such an establishment as the California Silk Manufacturing Company will not be inappropriate, although its statistics are given under another heading. The fact of the building was mentioned in the Directory for 1871, but it was only last summer that machinery was procured, and on the 1st of August, 1871, work commenced.

The company is an organization incorporated under the laws of California, with a capital stock of \$50,000. San Francisco capitalists venture but little in untried fields; and silk manufacture or production seemed an experiment, good to encourage in newspapers and agricultural society addresses, as one of the great sources of future wealth, but too unknown to be considered as a safe investment. In 1870, the company erected at South San Francisco, on the corner of Eleventh Avenue and P streets, a building of 50 feet front by 125 in depth, and two stories in height, each story comprising one