

CURRENT HISTORY.*

IN briefly referring to the current history of the city and State for the past year, it is gratifying to state that that year was, on the whole, the most prosperous yet experienced in the annals of both. Some, with the remembrance of the prosperity of the early days of placer mining; some, with the remembrance of the early days of Washoe mining, and some, with the remembrance of the real-estate excitement and rapid money-making era of 1868-9, will be inclined to peremptorily contradict this assertion; yet, that the past year was the most prosperous this city and State have ever witnessed, all things considered, is susceptible of unmistakable proof from the statistics of wheat, gold, and wool production, and from the unexampled activity in building operations here, and consequent plentifulness of work for all classes. The elements of that which is enduring and that which is transitory must be given an important place in this connection. We undoubtedly have had years in which the apparent prosperity was much greater; but those years and that prosperity was due, in many cases, either in whole or in part, to causes that were purely speculative—often to the verge of gambling—or to industries that were neither lasting or reliable. The progress of the past year, however, had nothing in it either speculative or unreliable. It was a progress to which there can be no retrogression, because it was advancement all along the line of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and healthy city growth, as well as increase of population and development of general resources.

Despite the want of late rains in March, April, and May—which greatly reduced the grain crops in the San Joaquin Valley—and the heavy frosts in the early portion of April—which blighted the grape blossoms and greatly reduced the grape yield—the crops of 1873 proved to be exceptionally large. Of gold and silver the product of 1873 exceeded that of the previous year by nearly \$10,000,000. The dividends from the mines were in excess of those of 1872 by nearly \$6,000,000. Of wheat, wool, and other home products over \$10,000,000 worth more were exported in 1873 than in the previous year.

The increase of home manufactures and population is shown by the fact that, while our mines yielded \$10,000,000 more in 1873 than in 1872, we sent away nearly \$2,000,000 less in treasure. The gain in population was equally gratifying. The total arrivals from all quarters exceeded the total departures by thirty-four thousand seven hundred and forty-seven. This is an increase for 1873 of sixteen thousand. Of the first-mentioned increase nearly twenty-one thousand came by the overland railroad. The arrivals by that route were composed mostly of mechanics, farmers, working girls, and invalids. The latter class came to California to enjoy the salubrious climate of our Southern Coast. That portion of the State is now almost universally recognized as one of the most desirable and beneficial resorts in the world for consumptives and other invalids suffering from atrophic diseases. The rush thither is so great that the hotels and private boarding houses in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Diego, and San Bernardino are now nearly always full to overflowing at all seasons of the year.

The value of the climate and scenery of California, in a pecuniary point of view, are only now beginning to be realized. It is no exaggeration to say that the tourists who come to see the one, and the invalids who come to be benefited by a residence in the other, spend \$1,500,000 yearly in the State, and the numbers coming, and the amounts they will spend, are both increasing rapidly.

The city and State are also making satisfactory progress in the culture of influences that are both refining and elevating in a social and aesthetic sense. The State University has been most liberally endowed. The reputations of several of its professors are national, while the advantages offered by the institution have been placed within the reach of the children of those of limited, no less than of those of ample, means. The era when people looked upon this city and State as places of temporary sojourn in which to make money has passed away; and, in

* We are indebted to the politeness of Mr. Thomas Magee, the editor of the *Real Estate Circular*, for this valuable and interesting record of the city's progress during the year 1873.—COMPILER.

The Income of the FETINA INS. CO. of Hartford amounts to nearly \$17,000 per Day, Henry Carlton Jr., Agent, 14 Merchants' Exchange, S. F.