

lecturers often come here with a very mistaken notion of the intellectual status of the audiences before whom they are to appear. The result is that the visits of many such turn out complete failures, as far as any additions to either their fame or their purse are concerned, and they leave our shores thoroughly disgusted with the experience involved in their lack of power to please people so critical as Californians generally are. On the other hand, it not unfrequently happens that a San Francisco-made actor or actress, who has played here for years comparatively unnoticed, perhaps, at one of our minor theaters, goes East and is suddenly transformed into a public pet and a star of the first magnitude. These somewhat erratic differences in public judgment on either side of the continent can perhaps best be reconciled by those who make such matters their study. We merely record the fact.

THE CALIFORNIA THEATER.—This is the largest theater in the State, and in the class of performances, the merit of the actors engaged, and the average public patronage bestowed upon it, is, comparatively, second to no theater in the Union. It was built in 1869, at a cost of about \$125,000. It is located on the north side of Bush Street, between Kearny and Dupont, and covers a lot one hundred and sixty-five feet front by one hundred and thirty-seven and a half feet deep. The stage has a depth of seventy feet by a width of seventy-two feet; the auditorium is seventy feet deep and sixty-two feet wide; two thousand two hundred people can be comfortably seated in the house at one time. The management is under the charge of Mr. John McCullough, proprietor, and Mr. Barton Hill, manager. The interior is divided into dress circle, parquette, family circle, and gallery; \$1 is charged for seats in the two former, and fifty and twenty-five cents for seats in the two latter.

In addition to the above well-known places of public amusement, San Francisco is well supplied with minor theaters, melodeons, concert halls, lecture rooms, etc., more particular mention of which is not requisite. These are all well patronized in the respective uses to which they are devoted.

THE OPERA HOUSE.—This favorite theater occupies a large lot on the north side of Bush Street, between Montgomery and Kearny. It has been open for public performances a little over a year, and is capable of comfortably seating twelve hundred people. It is owned and controlled by Mr. Thomas Maguire, the well-known California pioneer manager, whose career in that capacity and the theatrical history of the Pacific Coast are almost identical. His business tact and knowledge of the tastes of our theater-going public ranks him as the most successful theatrical manager we have ever had in California. The interior of the Opera House is divided into dress circle, parquette, and family circle; \$1 is the price of admission to the two former, and fifty cents is charged for seats in the latter. The people engaged at the Opera House, in all capacities, generally averages from thirty to thirty-five persons. The range of performances presented is almost as versatile as the various actors who take part therein, and embraces opera, comedy, extravaganza, minstrelsy, etc., in uninterrupted succession during the whole year.

MAGUIRE'S NEW THEATER.—This popular house of public amusement is also situated on Bush Street, directly opposite the Opera House. It stands on a lot sixty-eight feet front by one hundred and thirty-seven feet deep, and is capable of seating sixteen hundred spectators. Mr. Thomas Maguire, its sole proprietor and manager, has recently rebuilt and opened this theater, which is one of the most elegant and attractive places of amusement in the city, and it is his intention to present a class of performances which will include the entire range of his managerial experience. The view of the stage from all parts of the auditorium is uninterrupted, and the acoustic properties are unexcelled by any other theater on this Coast. The auditorium is divided into dress circle, parquette, and balcony, and the prices of admission are one dollar and fifty cents, respectively. From forty to fifty people of all grades of ability generally constitute the strength of the company engaged at this theater.

"OPERA HOUSE AND ART BUILDING ASSOCIATION."—The structure thus designated is situated on Mission Street, one hundred and fifteen feet west of Third. It covers an area of one hundred and ten feet in front by two hundred and seventy-five feet in depth. Its erection