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## PREFATORY.

It is an accepted fact that a reliable Directory is a trustworthy indication of the growth and prosperity of a city, generally, as well as the increase or decrease of its population. Comparing, then, the data of the past year's growth, as exhibited in the pages of the present volume, with that of the year 1874, a very remarkable progress in the different departments of commercial wealth, and an increase of population will be observed, unparalleled in former years of this city's history.

The number of references contained in the present volume is 127,692, as follows: General Register, 87,192 (of which 77,206 are names of male residents); Business Directory, 25,000; Appendix, 15,500. The number of names in 1874 was 65,092; in 1875, 77,206; increase 12,114, or nearly twenty per cent. The population of the city is estimated at 230,132, a gain since March, 1874, of 29,432, or about fifteen per cent. At this rate the population in 1880 will be 462,875. Estimating the population on the basis of the number of names in the present volume, 77,206, and assuming that each name represents three in the population, it would give 231,618 as the result. These figures may be regarded as a reasonable estimate when the fact is stated that this ratio is much less than generally accepted in Eastern cities. In Chicago it is three and one half, in St. Louis four and one half, and in New York five. These figures may answer for the localities to which they refer, but for this city where so many peculiarities surround the different elements which compose our population, they would be undoubtedly too high. The article on population, on page 58, contains valuable data on this subject to which attention is respectfully invited.

The number of buildings erected during the year ending February 28, is 1,389, of which 71 are of brick, at a cost of \$4,411,000, and 1,318 wood, \$4,933,800; total, \$9,344,800. If the amounts disbursed in improving the water front and public streets and in beautifying our parks and private residences be added, the aggregate amount for improvements of all kinds for 1874-5, will exceed \$10,000,000. In addition to several extensive blocks for business purposes completed during the year, an unusual number of elegant and commodious private residences have been erected that greatly exceed in beauty and cost those of former years. The total number of buildings comprised within the city limits is 23,700, of which 4,300 are brick.

The expense of maintaining the Municipal Government for the year ending June 30, 1874, is \$3,830,406, including the expenses of the Street Department. The Bonded Debt of the city, March 10, 1875, is \$3,725,000, exclusive of the Montgomery Avenue Bonds, \$1,500,000.

The Introductory and General Review present a diary of interesting local events of the year, brief notices of Schools, public and private, descriptions of Public Buildings, Hotels, Public Parks, and the operations of the different Railroads and Steamship Lines, together with references to several other subjects worthy of special mention, and historical data of present interest, well calculated to make the book a valuable work of reference to future generations. But the most interesting features of this department are valuable contributions on the Population of the City; Meteorology and Climate of San Francisco from 1851 to 1875, by Henry Gibbons, M.D.; the Current History and Progress of the City; a Review of its Manufacturing interests, and operations of the Public Schools, 1874-5, by Prof. E. Knowlton; Hospitals, public and private, by Henry Gibbons, Jr. M.D.; and a statement of the cost and number of buildings erected during the past year and the aggregate number within the city limits.

The Appendix contains a variety of valuable information connected with the history of the city, and the Consolidation Act with the amendments thereto, to which are added a number of important laws adopted by the Legislature of the State (Session 1873-4), including those regulating the Fire Department, abolishing the City Hall Commissioners, regulating the levying and collection of taxes, organizing a Board of Health, providing for public Water Works, the new Senatorial and Assembly Districts, Compulsory School Law, etc., each of which is arranged under its appropriate head, to which has been added an Analytical Index of the whole, which will facilitate reference thereto. There will be also found in this department of the work a large number of references to the different organizations in this city, embracing lists of the Federal, State, and Municipal Officers, notices of local Societies and Associations, Churches, Military Organizations, Incorporations, etc. Attention is invited to a new and corrected Map of the City and County of San Francisco, which for reliability and beauty of execution has never been equaled on this coast, and a revised Street Directory, including the new system of numbering the buildings, thoroughly revised, and carefully compared with each street and locality named therein.

The present volume of THE SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY has been printed from new material, cast expressly for the purpose, by Miller & Richard, Edinburgh, and supplied through their agents in this city, Messrs. Read, Brand & Co. A simple glance through its pages is only necessary to direct attention to a style of type which for beauty and symmetry it would be difficult to excel. The arrangements for the future publication of the work are on a scale commensurate with its important character. An extensive and well-appointed Composing Room has been established, with abundant resources for the rapid execution and prompt publication of future issues.

The compiler respectfully tenders his acknowledgments for many favors extended by the different public officers, and other gentlemen who have been applied to for information for the work. To his numerous friends or their liberal patronage, and to Messrs. Francis & Valentine by whom the typographical department was executed, he would especially tender his thanks. The seventeenth volume of THE SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY will be issued in March, 1876.