

store rooms, etc. The laundry, another long, narrow building of about the same dimensions as the kitchen, contains the linen room, mending room, washing room, property room, and dead room. The buildings are constructed without extravagant or useless ornamentation, and are models of simplicity and substantiality, reflecting great credit upon superintendent, architect, and builder.

THE ARMY, NAVY, ETC.—The military and other offices of the Federal service, numbering several scores in all, are not accommodated in any government building especially provided for them, but occupy rented offices in the most convenient locations available.

STATE BUILDINGS OR OFFICES.—Although several state officials necessarily have their offices in this city, the State has not yet provided any special building for their accommodation. The various Commissioners, Inspectors, and Agents, rent offices as convenient as possible to the respective locations of their several occupations. Should the reader have any special desire to know where these are he can easily ascertain by referring to the proper place in the general directory.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.—Of these the most important as the local capitol and seat of the municipal offices, is the City Hall. In respect to this, her governmental building, San Francisco is just now in that transition state in which she partly has two, and completely has none.

THE OLD CITY HALL, long familiar to every resident for any considerable time, occupies the southwest corner of the block bounded by Washington, Montgomery, Clay, and Kearny streets. It is of brick, stuccoed. For inconvenience of arrangement and insufficiency of accommodation it stands pre-eminent. Several of the entrances are blind and roundabout, and few, if any of them, are broad or light enough. Many of the important offices are exceedingly bad in themselves, both with regard to their situation relatively to each other, as well as for ready access by the general public. In addition to these objections, they are ill-lighted, and poorly ventilated.

THE NEW CITY HALL.—This Municipal Elephant occupies, or has begun to occupy, the site formerly known as Yerba Buena Park, at the junction of Market Street and Van Ness Avenue. The irregularly, triangular lot, though centrally located, presented peculiar difficulties in the adoption of a suitable plan. The Commissioners, however, chose one whose remarkable blending of all possible forms make up a composite geometrical aggregate whose outline, like the probable cost of the finished structure, is "one of those things that no fellow can find out." Commenced in September, 1871, in three years and a half the building has not yet reached the second story, while the cost has already risen far above the roof. The expense of grading and fencing the lot, excavating "about" two hundred and three thousand five hundred and forty-seven cubic yards of sand, and laying the concrete bed, was only \$201,726.56. As the law authorizing the erection and completion of the building limited its total cost to \$1,500,000, it will be seen that it was found possible to spend *one seventh* of that entire and immense sum before even laying a single stone of the foundation of the building proper. Among the interesting minor items, it is pleasant to know that the corner stone with its "dressings," cost but \$736.42; much less, probably, than it costs many a citizen to "dress" his wife for the entire year. This is a mere bagatelle. A city of such immense wealth, and, above all, of such unlimited possibilities, could easily afford to build the whole structure of similar stones, especially if they could all be had at a similarly low rate. Unless in the most unlikely event of a serious rise in the price of stone, it is probably, speaking within bounds, to say that at the present rate of progress, and ratio of cost, the whole structure can be completed in ample time for the Second Centennial celebration of the foundation of the city, and that, without reckless extravagance in some departments, its cost need not exceed the comparatively trifling and insignificant aggregate of ten or a dozen billion of dollars, more or less. In a matter which so largely involves the credit of the city, and appeals so directly to the pride, and so deeply to the pocket, of every present and prospective citizen for the next four or five hundred years, it is to be hoped that no considerations of niggardly economy will prevent, or even delay the worthy completion of the structure, or in any way embarrass the operations of the public-spirited and economical citizens having it in charge. In marked contrast with this stands the erection and cost of the New Mint, whose contractor actually performed the modern miracle of completing and delivering it over to the Federal Government at a cost of some \$50,000 less than the original appropriation. By a remarkable coincidence, the originally estimated cost of construction was the same for both buildings, that is, a million and a half of dollars. It is hardly necessary to remark, however, that the coincidence suddenly ends at that point.

THE JAIL, upon the north side of Broadway Street, between Kearny and Dupont, now quite convenient to the Old City Hall. If not removed until the completion of the New City Hall it will probably occupy its present site at the arrival of the Millennium. As in most of the larger American cities petit larceny, misdemeanor, and vagrancy, with assault and battery, or others of the minor offenses, constitute the causes for which fully five sixths of all convicts find their way within its walls. Inclemency of weather and lack of food, which statistics have demonstrated to be so considerable an element in causing crime among the destitute poor of some of our northern and eastern American cities, become hardly appreciable in this land of equable temperature and abundant food. Reason upon total depravity as we may, the police and criminal records of large cities prove that many of the minor crimes, as well as quite an appreciable ratio of the graver offenses, primarily result from a famished stomach more than from a depraved heart or an uncultivated conscience.