

MISCELLANEOUS.—Besides the ferries already mentioned as making regular trips each way daily, are others running to San Rafael, Antioch, New York, Martinez, Benicia, and Vallejo. To some of these places, these ferries, running once a day, furnish the only regular means of public conveyance; to others they merely supplement the more important and regular lines which take these places merely as way stations, on their passage to other and generally more important sections.

Hotels, Etc.

Having learned something of the general facilities for reaching this city from all parts of the world, the traveler and business man, or the capitalist who contemplates a visit to, or, it may be, a permanent residence in San Francisco, naturally desires, in the next place, information concerning her hotels. Long celebrated for the number and excellence of her accommodations for the traveling public, or for that large class of residents whose tastes incline them rather to hotel living than to the maintenance of a private home establishment, the Pacific metropolis is now adding to her famous hotels a mammoth structure, which not only incomparably surpasses any hotel previously known in San Francisco, but also upon the entire continent and, indeed, throughout the civilized world.

There is probably no city on earth, not even the French capital itself, that presents as many and as great facilities for carrying on a strictly first-class hotel, as San Francisco. The leading hotels of this city now in successful operation, are hardly surpassed and very rarely indeed even equaled, in their manifold excellencies, by those of any metropolitan city of the world. We have in full abundance all those peculiar requisites that a first-class hotel needs, or that its guests could possibly desire. The climate, almost uniformly mild; a temperature singularly equable and agreeable; markets abounding with the finest of fish, flesh, and fowl—domestic and wild; vegetables and fruits of both temperate and tropical climates, in a perfection and profusion which fairly astonish the newly-arrived visitor. If any city this side of Paris can justly lay claim to be called the Sybarite's Paradise, San Francisco may confidently present that claim. Excellent and ample, however, as our hotels have hitherto proved, the greatly-increased influx of pleasure-seeking and business visitors, not only from the eastern and southern portions of our own country, but from Europe and even Asia, made it plainly apparent more than a year since, that all the metropolitan hotels then existing, numerous and ample as they were considered at the time of their erection, had already begun to prove very appreciably and increasingly insufficient for the annually swelling throng of guests. Realizing this already existing deficiency, and fully assured that each successive month would only witness its increase, on the first of March, 1874, Messrs. Ralston and Sharon, two of the heaviest capitalists and most public-spirited citizens who ever contributed to build up the fortunes of any metropolis while successfully accumulating their own, commenced the erection of a mammoth hotel which has thus far been known by the most undemocratic name of the

PALACE HOTEL, and by the constant employment of a literal army of the most skillful mechanics to be obtained in this State, or imported from the East, they have steadily pushed the gigantic structure toward completion with a rapidity, and at the same time a substantiality, unprecedented in the history of great building enterprises. Occupying the southwest corner of New Montgomery and Market streets, this architectural monster rears its huge front for two hundred and seventy-five feet along the south side of Market Street, from New Montgomery to Anna, and stretches its vast flank three hundred and fifty feet along New Montgomery and Anna streets to Jessie. It covers ninety-six thousand two hundred and fifty square feet, or nearly two acres and a quarter. Its form is that of an immense hollow quadrangle. Its main front and entrances are on New Montgomery Street. Commencing two stories underground, it rises seven full stories above, and through a considerable portion has eight. Stone, marble, iron, and brick are the chief materials. Of the latter, twenty-six million were used in its construction. The lower story has a height of twenty-five feet in the clear, while the uppermost is fourteen. The walls and partitions are built of stone and brick, laid in cement, and everywhere made as nearly earthquake proof as possible by broad, iron bands of such immense size as to require nearly three thousand tons for this purpose alone. The building incloses three inner courts, connecting with the adjoining streets on either side, and with each other by broad, arched doorways through separate walls of massive masonry. Within these courts large gardens and parterres of tropical plants and rare exotics, roofed with glass, beautified with statuary and made delicious by the constant playing of sparkling fountains, will charm and delight the guests. Around these gardens, on a level with each story, broad galleries or arcades, brilliantly lighted at night, will afford most inviting promenades for all the transient guests or more permanent residents of this truly palatial home. In this latter particular, indeed, it will quite closely resemble the Palais Royal in Paris, and the Hotel Iturbide in Mexico. Seven hundred and fifty-five suits of rooms and guest chambers, besides immense reception rooms, public and private parlors, dining and breakfast halls, both public and private, with spacious dining rooms for children and servants, music pavilion and ball room, ladies' drawing rooms and parlors, three hundred and seventy-seven bath and toilet rooms, are a few of the more prominent statistics, from which the observant reader may infer the rest. From the lower or garden floor of the bazaar or promenade galleries, rear entrances will admit guests directly into the elegant stores which are to occupy the lower floors along Market and New Montgomery streets. Each of these stores will have a show window facing upon the prome-

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