

entire block, extending from Sutter to Post streets, with a depth of from one hundred to two hundred feet. It is excellently finished, and luxuriously furnished throughout, while its cuisine, as attested by its numerous guests and patrons, is not excelled by any institution of its kind. While enjoying such an enviable reputation for its creature comforts, it is justly and widely celebrated for its elegantly elaborated, highly ornate, and most artistically-finished dining hall, which is the finest on this continent, and, it is said, is not surpassed by any in Europe. Among the many valuable and really beautiful results of the dinner's art which adorn the walls are to be seen several most living and natural views of the wonderful Yosemite Valley, by eminent California artists.

In point of numbers, size, and excellence of its hotels, San Francisco is not exceeded by any city in the Union, and very probably by none in the world. Aside from those already designated and partially described, may be mentioned the Russ House on the west side of Montgomery Street, between Sutter and Pine; the American Exchange, corner of Sansom and Halleck streets; the Brooklyn Hotel, on Bush Street, between Montgomery and Sansom; the International Hotel, on Jackson Street; the once-famous What Cheer House, on Sacramento Street, so long, well, and favorably known to all old Californians, as the point of departure either to the "States" or to the mines. These, with some sixty or seventy others, any one of which in its grade cannot be excelled, if equaled, in any city of the civilized world, go to make up the hotel accommodations of the city.

BOARDING AND LODGING HOUSES.—As a supplement (if any were required) to the large list of hotels, there are in the city about eight hundred houses occupied wholly or in part as lodging houses, or for the accommodation of the United States, one may enjoy all the comforts of a home.

Theaters.

Worshippers at the Thespian Shrine have ample opportunity to indulge their passion here, as theaters and other places of amusement are numerous and well patronized. The class of performances enacted at these houses, whether tragic, dramatic, comic, or tragi-comic, is generally of a high order. Indeed, so fastidious are the San Francisco public in this respect, and theater patrons and newspaper critics so hard to please, that the manager who is so rash as to produce anything that is not fully up to the standard is sure to lose money by the operation, while the actor or actress who cannot stand solely upon his or her own merits, independent of newspaper puffs and printers' ink, cannot achieve a success. Nowhere in the world will an actor or an actress sooner find his or her true level than in San Francisco. Some of the brightest ornaments of the American stage either made their *debut* or took their first upward step upon the ladder of dramatic or theatrical fame before a California audience.

THE CALIFORNIA THEATER, located on the south side of Bush Street, between Kearny and Dupont, is the largest theater now in operation in the State. Its frontage on Bush Street is one hundred and sixty-five feet, with a depth of one hundred and thirty-seven and one half feet. The stage is seventy-two feet wide by seventy deep, and the auditorium sixty-two feet wide by seventy deep. The house will comfortably seat upward of eighteen hundred persons. The dress circle and parquet furnished with softly-cushioned, comfortable arm chairs; the boxes luxurious in their upholstery and hangings; the mechanical appliances complete, and the scenery and drop curtains beautiful specimens of artistic skill. The building was erected in 1869, at a cost of about \$125,000. Under the successful management of that king of the Pacific stage, John McCullough, who is also proprietor, the class of performances, the merit of the actors engaged, and the public patronage bestowed, it has become in all respects the first-class theater of this city, and stands second to none on this continent.

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—After many vexatious delays and discouragements, this magnificent temple of the drama, now building on Mission Street, between Third and Fourth, is rapidly approaching completion. The front section of the edifice is already roofed in and the façade is now being plastered. The intention, according to the original plan, designed by S. C. Bugbee & Son, was to make the Grand Opera House, in general convenience of plan and completeness of equipment, one of the finest in the United States. That this plan has been well carried out, few persons, after an adequate comparison of notes, will be inclined to question. The theater is owned by a joint-stock company of over five hundred shareholders, the most of whom are citizens of wealth and position. The capital stock is \$300,000; the entire cost of the building about \$250,000. The frontage on Mission Street is one hundred and ten feet, and the depth toward Market Street two hundred and seventy-five feet. The structure, three stories high, is composed entirely of iron and brick, and is so constructed as to render it as nearly as possible both earthquake and fire proof—the roof of the auditorium resting, not upon the walls, but on timbers independent of the walls to which they are "tied." Between the auditorium and the corridor there is also a thick wall of brick. The architecture is of the Romanesque and Italian styles, in which heavy ornament has been carefully avoided, so that the entablature, together with the window cornices, is more chaste than elaborate. For ingress and egress the most ample provision has been made. The main entrance is twenty-five feet wide, and there are two side entrances each twelve feet wide at the extreme ends of the elevation. The principal corridor is seventy-five feet in length, and of the same width as the door. Behind this is the vestibule or central hall, thirty-five by eighty-one feet, with a beautiful fountain in the center. The flooring

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Baths! Baths!! Baths!!! Go and Bathe at Central Baths, 113 Geary.