

P R E F A C E.

THE publication of a Directory involves so many delicate considerations that are not absolutely requisite in works of ordinary character, that it was only after much hesitation we applied ourselves to the task. The expense attending the compilation of such a book is far greater than usual, as a large corps of assistants must be employed to collect facts, and they must be men of the ability and intelligence which will command a fair remuneration for services rendered. The first quality in point of importance is ACCURACY, without which a Directory would be valueless. Next to this is FRESHNESS, especially in a new and rapidly growing city like San Francisco, where changes in business firms, in private residences, and in the marts of trade, are frequent, and where a large number of new buildings are being constantly erected.

The method of arranging and classifying the contents of a Directory is a prominent feature, saving much time to the inquirer, and simplifying his search for information. Another valuable consideration is clearness of TYPOGRAPHY, a point that has been too frequently disregarded in works of this character, and one we have striven to accomplish with credit to ourselves, and benefit to the public. Without COMPLETENESS of details a Directory loses much of its value, and we have, therefore, endeavored to fill that want with as much care as it was possible to bestow.

There is nothing perfect under the sun, but by the proper and considerate use of care, diligence and fidelity to details in its various departments we have endeavored to make this work as nearly perfect as circumstances would permit. It was undertaken not as a mere venture of temporary character, but with the determination to continue it throughout the coming years, and, if possible, render it a permanent and valuable reference on all subjects coming within the scope of its legitimate sphere. To effect the full and satisfactory accomplishment of this purpose we have made arrangements for producing a much better and more complete Directory than any other city of the Union can present. Our