

tion of guests. This building has a frontage of three hundred and fifty feet on New Montgomery Street, two hundred and seventy-five feet on Market, three hundred and fifty on Annie, and two hundred and seventy-five on Jessie, covering an area of ninety-six thousand two hundred and fifty square feet, or a trifle more than two and one-fifth acres. There entered into the construction of this building thirty-one million bricks, fifty-six thousand barrels of lime and cement, ten million feet of lumber, and three thousand three hundred tons of iron. It is seven stories high, and is probably the grandest and most elegant hotel in the world. It is the property of Wm. Sharon, United States senator from Nevada. The land cost \$1,000,000; the building about \$2,000,000. The cost of the furniture is upwards of half a million dollars additional. A volume of very respectable dimensions might be filled with interesting information about this marvel, a city in its completeness. Nothing is wanting that wealth can command or that can be obtained from the resources of science and art.

Next in importance is the building of the Safe Deposit Company, on the southeast corner of Montgomery and California streets, having a frontage of one hundred and thirty-seven and one half feet on Montgomery and six hundred and eighty-three feet on California Street. The value of the ground, building, and vaults is in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000. The great steel vault is twenty-seven feet wide, thirty-two feet long, and twelve feet high; it weighs eight hundred thousand pounds, and is the most complete work of the kind in the world. It contains four thousand six hundred safes, of various sizes, rented at prices ranging from \$2 to \$20 per month. The cost of all the safes and vaults was \$207,000. The security against fire and thieves is as nearly perfect as it can be made by human ingenuity. With every known appliance it is estimated that it would require three weeks to make an opening through one of the walls of the great vault. Its top, bottom, and sides can be readily inspected. There is a thoroughly organized patrol, and telegraphic connection with the police headquarters at the City Hall.

The Nevada Block, owned by Flood & O'Brien, is on Montgomery Street, between Pine and Summer, having a frontage on Montgomery Street of one hundred and twenty-five feet. The principal story is occupied by the Nevada Bank and the First National Gold Bank. The building has been erected in the most substantial and elegant manner, equally capable of resisting fire and earthquake, at a cost of about \$500,000.

Wade's Opera House, on Mission Street, near Third, is a brick and iron building, having a frontage of one hundred and ten feet, and a depth of two hundred and seventy-five feet, and with the land and fixtures cost upwards of \$500,000. There are three front entrances to the theatre, one of them twenty-four feet wide, and each of the others thirteen feet wide. The auditorium is eighty-four feet in diameter, and it is sixty-eight feet from the ceiling of the dome to the floor of the parquet. There are seats for two thousand five hundred persons, without crowding. The stage is eighty by one hundred feet in size, and the distance from floor to roof is ninety-six feet. It is one of the largest and most elaborately constructed in America, and there are few, if any, theatres this side of the Atlantic, more complete in all of their appointments.

E. J. Baldwin is finishing a building at the junction of Market, Powell, and Ellis streets, having a frontage of two hundred and seventy-five feet on Powell Street, two hundred and ten feet on Market, and one hundred and thirty-seven and one half feet on Ellis Street. It is six stories high, and the value of the property is estimated at \$800,000. A portion of the structure will be used as a hotel, having five hundred rooms. It contains a theatre, now open, having seats for one thousand seven hundred people. The auditorium is one hundred and twenty-five by seventy-five feet in size. From the floor of the parquet to the ceiling of the dome the distance is sixty-five feet. In fitting up the theater there has been a lavish expenditure of money, and in the furnishing of the hotel elegance and convenience, not the cost, will be the ruling considerations.

William Hood has erected, at a cost of about \$200,000, the Commercial Hotel, a four-story structure, at the junction of Montgomery Avenue, Kearny and Pacific streets.

Some exceedingly valuable improvements have been made upon Market Street, notably by the Cunningham estate, near Second, and the imposing brick block of D. O. Mills, near Third. At the corner of Sutter and Kearny streets, Milton S. Latham is completing a magnificent brick and Frearstone structure, at an expense of \$310,000, to be named Thurlow Block. The bonanza millionaires have thrown a boldness and energy in building operations that has resulted in a great change in the appearance of the business part of the city. Men whose fortunes have been of slower growth would have hesitated about taking what seemed to be such great risks, and would never have built such splendid structures as are now rendering the city famous.

The high land on Russian Hill has become the favorite locality for the costly residences of San Francisco millionaires. Ex-Governor Leland Stanford, President of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, has erected, at the corner of California and Powell streets, the most costly and magnificent dwelling in San Francisco, at a probable expense of nearly a million dollars. Charles Crocker, a director in the same company, has for some time been engaged in the erection of a house as valuable as that of ex-Governor Stanford, directly opposite the residence of General Colton.

The number of dwelling houses ranging in value from \$10,000 to \$40,000, is very large, and the number of buildings of more moderate cost, erected during the year, is unprecedented.