

by Washington, Sansom, Jackson, and Battery streets, commonly known as the Post-office Block, stands, or has begun to stand, the new United States Appraiser's Building. Its length, on Sansom Street, is two hundred and sixty-five feet and six inches; its depth from west to east, along both Washington and Jackson streets, one hundred and twenty feet and six inches; its height is to be three full stories above a lofty basement. The material is what is known among the builders of this coast as Napa stone, from the locality of its most abundant quarries. It appears to be a kind of metamorphic granite. Only the basement and the first floor are to be used as appraiser's stores; the two upper stories are intended for occupation by the United States courts. The basement, nine feet and three inches in the clear, and first and second stories, are already completed, or are so nearly so that the third floor is fully laid. The basement wall rests upon a bed of solid concrete, five feet wide and as many deep. The material is broken rock firmly bedded in the best Rosendale cement. This was laid in courses about eight inches thick or deep, and each course was thoroughly tamped down into the utmost obtainable solidity. The first floor consists of arches of brick turned between deep and strong iron beams. Among the closing acts of the last Congress was the passage of a bill appropriating \$150,000 for the continuation of work upon this building. The progress of this immense and valuable building has been greatly delayed by the unexpected, yet almost imperative, necessity of changing the material of the outer walls from stone to pressed brick with granite sills, a very considerable modification of the original design. Gen. Samuel McCullough, Superintendent of Construction of United States Buildings in California, the same who completed the United States Mint for \$50,000 within the appropriation therefor, has charge of this. Under his economical administration, masterly management, and watchful care, it bids fair to rank among the most faithfully and substantially-constructed Government buildings ever erected.

NEW U. S. SUB-TREASURY.—A building is now being erected on the site of the old Mint, on Commercial Street, of the same style of architecture as the U. S. Appraiser's Building, of pressed brick, with granite sills, at an estimated cost of \$90,000, of which a small appropriation, \$35,000, has already been made. It was the original intention to repair the old Mint, but on examining the building, it was found so defective, and that the cost of repairing it would have exceeded the cost of a new building, that it was finally determined to pull it down and erect the new building, of which the basement is completed.

THE POST-OFFICE still occupies its old, insufficient, and inconveniently-located quarters on the eastern half of the block, bounded by Washington, Battery, and Jackson streets. Here it is horizontally sandwiched between the basement and upper story, both of which the Custom House appropriates. The Postmaster, Gen. Coey, with his customary zeal and efficiency is still multiplying all possible conveniences for the accommodation of the two hundred and thirty thousand people to whom his is by far the most important of all the Federal offices. His small army of employes, already numbering one hundred and twenty, can hardly be recruited fast enough to equal the constantly-increasing demand upon their indispensable services. Between forty and fifty find ample employment in the in-door service; upward of thirty are postal clerks or stage agents, and forty-two are employed in the distribution and collection of written and printed mail matter throughout the city. The number of letters and postal cards delivered during the year 1875 was four million seven hundred thousand; collected, five million six hundred thousand. Newspapers delivered, one million two hundred thousand; collected, eight hundred and twenty thousand. The multiplication of the iron postal boxes, placed at convenient intervals within and to even beyond the corporate limits of the city, proves an indispensable public convenience, and, in fact, an almost inestimable public benefit in saving to our citizens the thousands of daily journeys to the Post-office, which, under the former system, they were necessarily compelled to make several times a day. Yet, although the service of the carrier department is so frequent and efficient, the two thousand three hundred post-office boxes still used, directly or indirectly, by upward of sixteen thousand persons, show that a very considerable portion of our citizens still prefer their conveniences. The number of letters dispatched daily by the regular Overland Mail is between three and four thousand, while the State and Coast Mail is nearly five times as great. The mails to China and Japan carry six thousand letters a month; those to Australia, five thousand; to the West Coast of Central and South America, four thousand; to the Sandwich Islands, four thousand; to British America and Alaska, two thousand. Thus, the grand aggregate of letters annually dispatched from the San Francisco Post-office rises to between *seven and eight million!* These figures, the reader will remember, make no account of the almost equally immense number of letters received; nor of the hundreds of tons of papers and other mailable matter which the successive relays of day and night forces of clerks annually handle. Among the more particular statistics of letters, may be specified the two hundred dead letters which form the daily average sent hence; registered letters, nearly one hundred; money orders, one hundred and thirty per day; of the latter, about two hundred and twenty-five a month, for sums averaging about \$35 each, go to Germany. The value of stamps sold during 1875 was \$400,276. Besides the making up and forwarding of the immense mails already described, the San Francisco office receives all the surplus money order funds of the other Post-offices upon this coast, averaging over \$30,000 a week. It also sends out to other offices about \$10,000 a month, to enable them to cash postal money orders drawn upon them. Gen. Coey's right-hand man is Assistant Postmaster William C. Dougherty,