

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 one of the largest theaters 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 one of the first-class theaters of this city, and stands second to none on this continent.

**WADE'S OPERA HOUSE**, on Mission Street, between Third and Fourth streets, opened its doors on Monday, January 17, 1876, and is one of the most magnificent theatres in the United States. The auditorium is similar in plan and construction to that of Niblo's Garden in New York, and like that has a wide corridor wholly encircling it. The lighting and acoustic arrangements are equal to any public place of amusement in the world, and far surpass many both in Europe and America. 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 of both the corridor and the vestibule is a mosaic of black and white marble. Three galleries rise above the orchestra circle. The lower of these, the dress circle, will seat over five hundred persons; next is the family circle, which has about five hundred and fifty seats, and the third or upper will accommodate about six hundred. The orchestra circle and parquette will seat eight hundred and twenty, while the boxes will accommodate one hundred more, thus giving a total seating capacity of over two thousand five hundred. All the seats are upholstered in an elegant and luxurious manner, and the gallery fronts and other prominent features artistically decorated. The stage is eighty-one feet deep by one hundred and six in width, including the wings. Only the latest and most approved stage machinery and effects are used, and the most ample provision made for scene-shifting arrangements for the production of the spectacular drama. 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 lessee and manager is Mr. Frederick W. Bert, with an executive force consisting of Mr. James J. Bartlett, stage manager; Mr. William Voegtlin, scenic artist; Mr. Dohrman, conductor of the orchestra; Mr. Rogers, treasurer; Mr. E. G. Bert Jr., box bookkeeper; Mr. Abrams, master machinist; Mr. Greenlock, property master; Mr. Laury, costumer; and Mr. Howard Morrison, gas engineer. The Theater is principally devoted to spectacular plays and opera, produced in the most elaborate and perfect manner.

**BALDWIN'S OPERA HOUSE**.—Baldwin's Opera House constitutes part of the hotel building at the junction of Market and Powell Streets, mentioned elsewhere. The hotel portion is incomplete, but the theater has been finished and thrown open to the public, under the auspices of Thomas Maguire, who has for so many years catered to the San Francisco public in a most acceptable manner. Mr. Baldwin has not been sparing of money in the fitting up of this theater, and it is one of the most elegant in the United States. It has seats for one thousand seven hundred persons, and, when the standing room is occupied, two thousand five hundred persons can command an unobstructed view of the stage. The auditorium is sixty-five by seventy-five feet in size; depth of stage forty-five feet; height of the dome from the parquet, sixty-five feet. The gas jets are all lighted by electricity, and there has been every known precaution against fire and accident. Particular attention has been given to ventilation, which is thoroughly secured, and without the usual unpleasant accompaniment of a disagreeable draft. The embellishments are most expensive and elaborate, and though the theater is not the largest in the city, it is second to none of them.

**MAGUIRE'S NEW THEATER**.—This, among the latest and most deservedly popular houses of public amusement, which bears the name of California's veteran manager—almost the pioneer caterer for public entertainment—stands on Bush Street, on the south side. It occupies a lot one hundred and thirty-seven feet deep by sixty-eight feet front, and can accommodate one thousand six hundred spectators. About two years since, Mr. Thomas Maguire, its sole proprietor and manager, rebuilt and opened this theater, which is one of the most elegant and