

attractive places of amusement in the city. Here he rapidly presents one class of performances after another in a variety and to an extent which includes the whole range of his managerial experience. All parts of the house have a clear view of the stage, while in acoustic properties it is surpassed by no theater on the coast. The auditorium has the usual divisions of dress circle, parquet, and balcony, to which the prices of admission are, respectively, \$1 and fifty cents. The company generally includes from forty to fifty actors of all grades of ability.

OPERA HOUSE.—On the north side of Bush Street, opposite the new theater just described, stands this popular place of public recreation. Capable of seating one thousand two hundred people, it has proved through over two successful years that it knows how to send its guests home in the best of humor. Its interior, like that of the theater, is divided into dress circle, parquet, and family circle, to which patrons are admitted at corresponding rates. The range of performances presented keeps pace with all the varieties of the public mood, and affords the most ample scope for the uttermost versatility of the actors who take part in them. In all capacities the Opera House employs from thirty to thirty-five persons.

WILSON'S AMPHITHEATER occupies the southwest corner of New Montgomery and Mission streets. Originally erected during the closing months of 1873 by John Wilson, who inaugurated it with a grand opening on the eighteenth of the ensuing January, it immediately presented a combination of equestrian talent which attracted paying houses for one hundred and eighty-three consecutive performances. The building covers about one hundred and twenty-five feet on Mission Street, by one hundred and sixty feet on New Montgomery. Devoted to equestrian and variety entertainments.

BELLA UNION THEATER is located on Kearny Street, between Washington and Jackson, an extensive and conveniently arranged theater, under the management of Samuel Tetlow; a well established and successful place of entertainment, where the best class of minstrel and variety entertainments are presented every evening.

In addition to the regular theaters, there are several halls and concert-saloons devoted to musical and variety entertainments, the most prominent of which are Platt's New Music Hall, Pacific Hall, Union Hall, and the Mechanics' Pavilion.

Working hard, earning money easily, and spending it freely, Californians and, especially San Franciscans, furnish a more liberal support to a larger number of first-class theaters and places of public amusement than any equal population on the continent. Though critical in taste they are yet very ardent in their likings, and an actor who once has the good fortune to establish a hold upon the affections of our theater-going public, is sure of a generous support and may count upon the warmest welcome at each successive return.

Parks, Gardens, Drives, Promenades, Etc.

Our parks are three; the Yerba Buena, Buena Vista, and the Golden Gate.

GOLDEN GATE PARK.—It is as important for a large city to maintain a public park as it is to have a city hall and school houses. There must be a place where the rich and the poor can equally find seclusion from turmoil and confusion; where, to some extent, the scenery and quiet of the country can be reproduced within the limits of a city. Golden Gate Park lies in the western, or possibly northwestern margin of the city. Its length, lying east and west, is about six times its width. From Fulton Street, its northern boundary, it extends southerly some eight blocks to Franklin Street, which bounds it in that direction. The eastern limit of the park proper is the west line of Stanyan Street. From a little north of the center of this eastern end the entrance drive, or grand avenue of approach, with its bordering greenery, shrubbery, and meandering paths, occupying the full block between Oak and Fell streets, stretches eight blocks eastward to Baker Street. Westerly it extends to the shore of the Pacific, where its "Grand Drive," running nearly north and south, lies along the line of what would be Fiftieth Avenue, were it completed. It is fifty-six blocks long and nine blocks wide. The original surface was largely composed of small hills, sparsely covered with low shrubs, with here and there a few stunted trees, and toward the ocean end hills and banks of wind-blown sand. Much of it is nothing more than barren sand-doons. After careful study the most approved plans of covering, protecting, and fencing these sands by the cultivation of such trees and shrubs as have been most convenient for that purpose in similar situations along the coasts of France and Holland have been adopted and their successful adaptation and execution entered upon. The area of the park includes seven natural lakes or ponds. Avenues, rides, drives, and walks; groves, greens, and grottoes, arbors, terraces, mounds, and valleys, gardens, lawns, base-balls, and cricket grounds, embankments, cuts, tunnels, and bridges find place among the multiplied improvements and adornments already completed or contemplated in the present, immediate, and ultimate plans. Since the establishment of the Park very great results have been accomplished by an outlay of money not extravagant, and by the zealous and intelligent efforts of the gentlemen composing the Board of Commissioners—E. L. Sullivan, President, William Alvord and Louis McLane. Their biennial report to the Legislature presented at the close of the year 1875, together with the report of the engineers, gives a satisfactory exhibit. The Park is approached by an avenue two hundred and seventy-five feet wide and three quarters of a mile long. The Park is three miles long by about half a mile wide, and its area is about one thousand acres. The reports we mention are for the