

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.—Of these the most important as the local capitol and seat of the municipal offices, is the City Hall. In respect to this, her governmental building, San Francisco is just now in that transition state in which she partly has two, and completely has none.

THE OLD CITY HALL, long familiar to every resident for any considerable time, occupies the southwest corner of the block bounded by Washington, Montgomery, Merchant, and Kearny streets. It is brick, stuccoed. For inconvenience of arrangement and insufficiency of accommodation it stands pre-eminent. Several of the entrances are blind and roundabout, and few, if any of them, are broad or light enough. Many of the important offices are exceedingly inconvenient in themselves, both with regard to their situation relatively to each other, as well as for ready access by the general public. In addition to these objections, they are ill-lighted and poorly ventilated.

THE NEW CITY HALL.—This will be by far the largest building in San Francisco, and also the most substantial. Situated upon the triangular plot of ground enclosed between Larkin Street, McAllister Street, and City Hall Avenue, its outline is so arranged as to conform in a great measure to the ground. The principal front faces City Hall Avenue, and measures eight hundred feet in length, including the Hall of Records, which is an almost detached circular building erected upon the eastern extremity of the triangular site. The main building consists externally of a succession of pavilions adorned with Corinthian pilasters and columns forty-eight feet in height, and connected with curtain walls treated in a different manner, yet still classic in design. One of these pavilions occupies each end of the principal front, in the centre of which is the nearly semi-circular portico of the principal entrance. The Larkin Street front will measure, when completed, five hundred and fifty feet in length, and the McAllister Street front six hundred and fifty feet. In the center of the Larkin Street front will be a portico one hundred and twenty-two feet long, the pediment of which will be flanked by two towers, each more than a hundred and fifty feet high, to the finial. The McAllister Street front will be recessed; a wing some one hundred and forty feet long projecting at each end, and thus enclosing three sides of an oblong square. In the center of this front is a porticoed pavilion similar to that on Larkin Street, yet differing in the disposition of the columns, and this also will be surmounted by towers like those on Larkin Street. The towers just mentioned, are, however, the small towers of the building, and are dwarfed in height, and still more in area, by the square tower which rises high above the circular entrance hall of the principal front. This tower will measure about two hundred and seventy feet in height, and seventy feet square. A sixth tower, thirty-two feet square, is situated at the east end of the building, near the Hall of Records. The principal portico facing City Hall Avenue leads to a grand circular entrance hall, eighty feet in diameter, and one hundred and five feet high, from which corridors seventeen feet wide, spanned at intervals by arches, lead to the various courts and offices. Below the main order of the building is a rusticated basement, enclosing a story twelve and one half feet in height; the next or ground floor, to which the main entrance gives access, is over twenty feet high, and above this is the principal floor, containing the Courts of Justice, each of which will be thirty-four feet in height. Those portions of this floor not occupied by the courts are used as offices, and will be only fifteen feet high, the remainder of the height forming a fourth floor, also occupied by offices. The City Prison will be situated in the basement. The Hall of Records, which will soon be ready to receive its valuable contents, is itself one of the largest edifices in the city. It consists of a circular hall eighty-six feet in internal diameter, and ninety-five feet in external diameter, surrounded by a wide arcade which increases the diameter to one hundred and thirty-two feet over all, and crowned by a dome one hundred and thirty-four feet in total height. The interior of the hall, which is one hundred and eleven and one half feet from floor to crown of inner dome, is surrounded by two tiers of galleries twenty feet wide. Work is at present progressing on the Hall of Records, and on the portion of the main building adjoining it. The former is fitted up substantially with cases, desks, etc., of black walnut, and is nearly completed. It is probable that the interior of this hall will ultimately be frescoed. The eastern portion of the building in course of erection will contain four law courts with their offices, and ample prison accommodations. The portion of the City Hall now commenced does not include the wings on the McAllister Street front.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—This reform school, for refractory children, is on the San José Road, about six miles southwest from the City Hall. It has accommodations for about two hundred and fifty boys. It now contains one hundred and sixty-two. The ages of the boys range from nine to eighteen years, the greatest proportion being from twelve to seventeen years. Probably three-fourths are committed for leading an idle and dissolute life. The Industrial School grounds consist of one hundred and thirty acres, of which seventy-five acres are under cultivation, in farming and gardening. This work is done by the boy inmates. Others are also employed at tailoring, making shoes, etc. The exercises are: Work, four hours; school, four hours and fifteen minutes; sleep, nine and one half hours; meals and recreation, six hours and fifteen minutes. The main school room will seat about two hundred. In this room the boys are assembled every evening for prayer. The library consists of about one hundred volumes, chiefly donations.

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION.—For some years past there has been a growing necessity, on account of the increase of crime, for a reformatory prison, where prisoners would be required

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