

ANNUAL DIRECTORY

Of the City and County of San Francisco.

ONCE A YEAR the publication of a Directory of the city is in order. Such a work is an acknowledged convenience to the general public in all large cities, while in cities like San Francisco, whose population is being augmented at such a rapid rate, and when the work of settling down to permanent places of business and residence is going forward, as in no other city on the continent, and changes of location consequent thereupon are so common, a frequently issued and reliable personal guide is a paramount necessity. The issuance to the public of works of this character should be made as soon as practicable after the completion of the canvass, or much of their value is lost. Pretenders to the science of Directory-making, without adequate facilities to issue their volumes before a large percentage of the population has re-established itself in new quarters, have deservedly been losing favor with the people during these latter years. The present volume is the result of a rigidly careful canvass, and is given to the public in an unprecedentedly short period of time since its inception. A more general use of abbreviations considerably increases the number of names on a page, preventing the expansion of the volume to an unwieldy size; thus, while the number of pages remains about the same as in previous issues, there is an increase of over six thousand names over last year. The readiness with which an appreciative public endorses genuine enterprise was fully manifested by a subscription list of nearly four thousand—double that which any similar work has enjoyed—thus largely enhancing its value as an advertising medium. The publisher desires to tender his acknowledgments, and at the same time invites comparison with other similar publications.

GROWTH OF THE CITY—PRESENT POPULATION.—In the absence of an authoritative census of the people, many difficulties arise in attempting an estimate which shall be able to stand the test which is sure to be applied by Federal authority every ten years, and (parenthetically), should be applied every five years or oftener, by the State or city. The population on the first of January, 1876, was 268,200. This estimate has been generally accepted as correct. If any fault can be found with it, it was a little too conservative—not claiming the full number which the city might be presumed to contain. At the school census (official and probably correct) taken in June, 1876, the number of children under the age of seventeen was found to be 71,436, an increase from June, 1875, of 6,527 of that class of the population—a fraction over ten per cent. A corresponding increase of ten per cent of the total population would show 295,117 as the total population of the city on the first of January, 1877. This estimate presumes the growth, from immigration and natural increase to have been approximately equal during the latter half of the year 1876 with that of the first half. Immigration to this port during the year shows an excess of arrivals over departures of 36,000. The increase of names in this Directory over the number in the last issue is 6,220, which would indicate an increase of 21,770 in the total population, very nearly the increase shown by the school census. When we consider that a portion of the gain, providentially not so large as in former years, is to be credited to the Chinese element, who have no children to include in the school census, it may be assumed that the figures given, 295,117, are within the limits, and that even 300,000 in round numbers may be safely claimed.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.—Owing to the impossibility of obtaining complete statistics pertaining to Finance and Trade for the year 1876, at the early date at which this work goes to press, we are compelled to omit important tables which it was our design to have incorporated as a portion of the current history of the city. It may be stated generally, however, that the year just closed has been one of a full average degree of prosperity. No serious financial complications or failures have checked the course of business, if we except such as may have occurred, in a few instances, as the result of unskilful guessing at the value, real, imaginary or prospective, of mining stocks. All the moneyed corporations of the city are on a firm basis—the volume of deposits has been maintained, and