

will accommodate three hundred and forty-eight; orchestra, one hundred and ninety-eight; balcony, four hundred and thirty-eight; gallery, four hundred and fifty; total, one thousand four hundred and thirty-four. The twenty-two boxes will accommodate at least one hundred more. There are four exits from the stage, four from the dress circle, five from the balcony, and two from the gallery. There are three fire plugs in the building, and each are provided with one hundred feet of hose; also two Babcock's extinguishers. The facilities for extinguishment of fires are the most efficient that can be devised. Electric fire alarms are placed in the dress circle, balcony, gallery, and each of the dressing rooms, which work automatically upon any undue increase of temperature. The Academy was opened to the public March 6, 1876.

CALIFORNIA THEATER.—Is located on Bush Street, between Kearny and Dupont. Recently the interior wall, which surrounded the dress circle, has been taken away, which gives better ventilation, improves the acoustic qualities, and also the general appearance of the inner building. Noticeable improvements have also been made in the matter of doors for egress in case of fire or earthquake. The dress circle will seat four hundred and fifty; orchestra, three hundred; balcony, four hundred and fifty; gallery, about five hundred; total, one thousand seven hundred. There are ten private boxes, seating at least five each, making a grand total of one thousand eight hundred. The stage is seventy-two feet wide by seventy deep. During the year a new drop curtain, by Voegtlin, in his best style of art, representing a "fête champêtre of the reign Louis the Fourteenth," has been added to the charming ensemble of this theater. This theater was opened in 1869. It cost \$125,000.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—On January 17, 1876, this elegantly-appointed establishment was opened as Wade's Opera House, but its name has been changed to that of the Grand. It is a three-story building, substantially built of iron and brick. It fronts one hundred and ten feet on Mission, with a depth of two hundred and seventy-five feet. There are four "circles." The orchestra will seat about eight hundred; dress circle, five hundred; family circle, five hundred, and the gallery about five hundred. The boxes will seat another one hundred, making a total of two thousand four hundred. The theater is noted for possessing the largest stage and most complete stage appointments of any theater in the United States, and is especially adapted for the production of spectacular and allegorical dramas requiring complicated mechanical contrivances. Its facilities for escape in case of fire are also of the most perfect order; doors open outward from all parts of the house into broad vestibules, in which no jam or crush could hardly arise. It is estimated this theater could be emptied in five minutes. In the second story, and in front of the theater proper, is a large hall designed for, but which has not been used as, an art gallery. The theater is owned by a joint stock company, and cost \$325,000. It is located on Mission, between Third and Fourth.

THE BUSH STREET THEATER (formerly the Alhambra) is on the south side of Bush, near Montgomery. The dress circle has a seating capacity of about five hundred, and the orchestra circle probably as many more. The inner building has been remodeled and considerably improved, and gives the spectator an unobstructed view of the stage, and a free egress.

EMERSON'S OPERA HOUSE is just on the opposite side of Bush. It is similarly arranged as that of the Alhambra Theater, and has a seating capacity of about six hundred.

THE BELLA UNION, corner of Kearny and Washington, is devoted to variety entertainments. It will accommodate about one thousand.

In addition to the above, there are Platt's, Pacific and Union Halls, the Mechanics' Pavilion, and various other halls where public entertainments are frequently given. Our five theaters have an aggregate seating capacity of about seven thousand five hundred. An average attendance would turn out about four thousand amusement-seekers nightly. Owing to our pleasant weather and cool evenings, our places of amusement keep open the year round. To sustain these public resorts, without the usual summer season "intermission," speaks well for the liberality of our amusement-loving people.

Public Squares.

There are twenty-two public parks, or squares, in this city, varying in size from two hundred feet to the great Ocean Park of one thousand and thirteen acres. Ocean, or Golden Gate Park, lies in the northwestern portion of the city, bordering on the ocean. It is fifty-six blocks long and nine blocks wide—or six times as long as it broad; or, in linear measure, it is three miles long and a half mile wide. A beautiful avenue, or drive, about three-quarters of a mile long and one hundred yards wide, leads from the city proper to the park. There are seven lakelets in this park; also arbors, grottoes, mounds, rustic benches, etc., which gives it rather a picturesque and romantic appearance. Up to November 30, 1875, the Park Commissioners had received from all sources \$447,705.62, of which \$413,177.67 had been expended, leaving a cash balance of \$34,527.95. From November 30, 1875, to November 30, 1877, the receipts have been as follows: From the sale of Rustic Lumber, \$40.80; from the General Fund, \$15,000; from Taxes, \$40,636.83; from sale of Disabled Horses, \$161.50; from Police Court fines, \$1,520; from Pound fees, \$518; making a total since their last report of \$57,885.13; with balance on hand at that date, \$34,527.95—\$92,413.08.

The amount expended during the past two years is \$91,066.35, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$1,346.73. Since its organization the Board of Park Commissioners has disbursed