

SAN FRANCISCO SOCIETY.

SOMETHING of the pioneer lingers in the manners of all communities that have grown suddenly into wealth and greatness. It is the same in San Francisco, though there is less of the frontier element in our social composition than we might expect when we remember our small beginnings and our rapid progress. We are the result of the mining camp, and of such rude force and skilled energy as commonly seeks fortune in untried regions. Our social life is rich in its coloring, but tropical in its rankness. Our earlier and our later life are sharply contrasted. When California became part of the nation, San Francisco was a wilderness of sand and chaparral, with a few respectable adobe houses and scattering huts dotting the peninsula at wide intervals. The population was Spanish, with a few adventurous traders from the East and from European countries. The De Haros, the Valencias, the Noes, and the Guerreros, lived in the little village that clustered about the Mission. The Castros, the Estudillos, the Vallejos, the Ainsas, the Bandinis, and the Noriegas, maintained rural state on ranchos scattered about the bay and at points in the interior. The social amusements were bull-fights and fandangos. Daily life was like the drowsy existence of the lotus-eaters. There was little more labor than was needed to procure the two essentials, food and shelter. This silence was rudely disturbed by the advent of noisy, fortune-seeking, gold-hunting Americans, who began to come in large numbers in 1849. Few women came with them. Those in pursuit of gold scattered to the mountains; those who desired to obtain wealth without delving for it, estab-