

it extends 550 feet, and on McAllister 650 feet. In 1871 work was commenced; a deep excavation was made, and a monolith of broken stone and cement laid six feet in thickness, covering the entire base of the building, and involving an expense of \$600,000. Upon this incomparable foundation the massive walls of brick were laid, and the superstructure arose, solid and strong as a casemated fort. The heavy expenditures in the early part of the construction admonished the public of the errors in the estimates, and a halt was called. The original design of the building was altered in order to reduce the cost, the architect removed from the superintendency of construction; the Board of Commissioners was abolished—no charges, however, being made against them—and the property taken in charge by the Board of Supervisors. The expenditures by the first Board of Commissioners was \$1,366,000, and by the Supervisors, \$203,720. In 1876, an Act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the Board of Supervisors to levy and collect, annually, for four years, a tax of 15 cents on each \$100 of valuation, to create a fund to be called "The New City Hall Fund," to carry on the work of construction. The Act made the Mayor, Auditor, and City and County Attorney a Board of Commissioners, each to receive a salary of \$100 a month, and with power to appoint an architect at \$300 a month, a superintendent at \$200 a month, and a secretary at \$150 a month. Under this Commission the expenditure—up to the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879—has been \$1,167,835. The estimate, from the same date, to complete the building, is \$1,750,000; making, should the estimate prove correct, the total cost of the structure \$4,487,555. The monolith foundation, the massiveness of every wall, the immensity of its iron girders, and its exterior ornamentation of towers and columns, have added greatly to the cost over ordinary buildings, but have secured it strength and durability to defy the throes of the earthquake, the terrors of the flames, or the ravages of time. When completed, it will be one of the largest, handsomest, and most durable edifices of the kind in the United States. The main entrance will front on City Hall avenue, a broad opening into Market street, opposite Eighth. A flight of steps, extending in a semi-circle of one hundred feet diameter, ascend to a broad portico surrounding the base of the principal tower, which rises to a height of two hundred and seventy feet. From the portico numerous doors open into a grand vestibule, or rotunda, eighty feet in diameter and one hundred and five feet high. From the rotunda lead corridors to the various halls and offices. On the McAllister street front is a broad and elegant approach, now completed and used as the principal entrance to the building. Twelve large iron columns, six feet in diameter and eighty feet in height, stand on the portico and support the pediment, above which rise two towers, each one hundred and fifty feet high. The Larkin street front is similarly ornamented by portico, pillars and towers, but contains no grand entrance. On the southeast wing of the main building is a high, square, campanile tower, a fine architectural feature. The original design contemplated a mansard roof, adding a high story, but for the sake of lessening the expenditure a low roof was substituted, leaving the building rather flat in comparison to its ground area and the loftiness of its towers. The basement is a story of twelve and a half feet in height. The first story has a height of twenty feet. On the second story the halls have an elevation of twenty feet, but the Court rooms and chambers of the Board of Supervisors extend in height to the roof, a distance of thirty-four feet. The third floor has an elevation of eighteen feet. In the basement are located the offices of the Superintendent of Streets, License Collector, Registrar of Voters, Commissioners of Insanity, and Grand Jury rooms. On the first floor the Mayor, Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor, Tax Collector and Surveyor. On the second floor, the Clerk's office, and chambers of the Board of Supervisors, and Court-rooms of Departments 9 and 10 of the Superior Court. On the third floor, the City and County Attorney, and office of the Board of Education. From either end of the McAllister street front will extend wings, each one hundred and forty feet in length, inclosing the entrance in an oblong square. The Hall of Records is detached from the main building, as an extra safety from fire, but is connected with it by an arcade, describing an arc of a circle. This Hall is a circular edifice, ninety-five feet in diameter, and surmounted by a dome, rising to the height of one hundred and thirty-four feet. It will be surrounded by an arcade, which will increase the external diameter of the building to one hundred and thirty-two feet. The Hall of Records was completed for occupancy in May, 1877; and so much of the main building is completed as to supply rooms for the principal city officers.

**INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.**—This is a reformatory institution to which ungovernable boys are committed, either on complaint of the officers of the law, or, as it often happens, at the request of the parents or guardians of the refractory youths. It is located on the San José Road, about six miles southwest of the City Hall, and is designed to accommodate two hundred and fifty boys. The ages of the inmates range from children of nine years to lads of eighteen, the greatest number being from ten to seventeen. The boys at the institution are compelled both to work and study, four hours per day being devoted to the former, and four and a quarter hours to the latter. Some are taught various useful trades, and a large number are employed in farming and gardening—seventy-five acres of the one hundred and thirty which compose the grounds being under cultivation. The school-room will seat two hundred boys. The Magdalen Asylum connected with this institution has about seventy-five inmates. Fifteen dollars per capita per month is appropriated for their support.

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