

PRINT OF THE UNITED STATES
AT SAN FRANCISCO.

PREFACE.

The Twenty-seventh Volume of LANGLEY'S SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY is now before the public. It represents the same careful compendium of the city's present condition as has marked its former editions.

To the advertisers, the more suitable and better methods of display adopted will, we trust, speak for themselves.

The history of Directory publication in the twenty-nine years of Langley's San Francisco Directory, presents an experience which is shared by every first-class and well-established Directory in the United States.

Langley's Directory has expended since its inception over \$400,000 and the volume as presented to-day is the result of the experience acquired by and through this large expenditure. And it follows that no expenditure, however liberal, no corps of compilers, however skillful, could produce such perfect results unassisted by the prior issues of this work, and prior experience made and acquired in this city itself.

These conclusions have always been thoroughly understood by ourselves and accepted by the people of San Francisco, as is evidenced by the unwavering support and patronage which has made this publication continuous and assured. They are only mentioned here as a justification for the warning which we again give to our business community to beware of the assaults which are periodically made by a species of guerilla and pirating publishers who are continually springing up and who generally only live through but one publication. In their canvasses and prospectuses they flood the city with representations that their works will supersede and give information more fully and complete than "Langley's Directory," it being always *Langley's Directory* that is to be dethroned. In other instances the baser and more reprehensible method is taken, in representing their works as the "City Directory," leaving the public to infer that it is "Langley's."

A few years ago it was "Gilman's Business Directory," in 1884 it was "Bowser's Business Directory," and during the season just passed it was "McKenney's Pacific Coast (?) and Business Directory of San Francisco," which was to dispense with any further need of Langley's. How far any of them fulfilled their promises those of our community who patronized them can best attest.

In the years to come, others of the same ilk may be confidently looked for, and we are only discharging our duty in this warning. Hence the public, for its own security, must look with the closest scrutiny upon proposals asking Directory patronage.

Very respectfully,
W. H. L. CORRAN, COMPILER.