The San Francisco Call

THURSDAY.....DECEMBER 26, 1895

AMUSEMENTS.

BALDWIN THEATER.—Rice's Big "1492."
CALIFORNIA THEATER—"The Widow Jones."
COLUMBIA THEATER—"At the French Ball."
MOROSCO'S OPERA-HOUSE—"Around the World in 80 Days."
TIVOLI OPERA-HOUSE.—"Ixion; or, The Man of the Wheel."
ORPHEUM.—High-Class Vaudeville.
GROVER'S ALCAZAR.—"The Black Crook."
SHOOT THE CHUTES.—Daily at Haight street one block east of the Park.
BAY DISTRICT TRACK.—Races.

AUCTION SALES.

BY G. H. UMBSEN & CO.—Real Estate, Saturday, December 28, at 12 o'clock noon at salesroom, 14 Montgomery street.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF.

Butte defeated Olympic yesterday at football; score, 14 to 12.

A successful balloon ascension was made at the chutes yesterday.

Bishop Nichols delivered the Christmas sermon at Grace Episcopal Church.

The severe illness is announced of the Rev. Joseph Cook, the eminent divine.

Mounted patrolmen reported for duty in the outlying districts of the Mission yesterday.

"Somewhat threatening but probably without rain," is to-day's official weather forecast.

Chinese lotteries are being run openly, and those patronized by whites are simple swindles.

Preparations have been completed to give all the children of the City a jolly time at Golden Gate Park to-day.

Street gamins make a very respectable living during the holidays selling mechanical toys on the sidewalks.

The members of the Mechanics' Institute are putting up their nominees for the coming election, and a lively fight is anticipated.

William Green Harrison has tendered his resignation as a member of the Bohemian Club. He assigns as a reason a desire for private life.

M. W. Fox, who has spent so much time suing the Hale & Norcross Company, has something to say regarding the Carson mint steals.

Manager Kirkpatrick of the Palace Hotel has invited the entire Golden Gate Park police force to be his guests at a dinner at his hotel on Friday night.

The Germans of the Emanuel Evangelical Church celebrated Christmas in true old country style, with Kris Kingle and all the customary accessories.

The alarm from box 274 at 11 P. M. was for a fire in the house occupied by N. F. Hubbard, 1133 Guerrero street. The cause was unknown; loss about $30.

There is considerable speculation in police circles as to the officers to be retired on the pension list at the next meeting of the Commissioners, on the first Monday in January.

Complaints were made to police headquarters yesterday by ladies who had been swindled by a man delivering packages to them containing straw and cobble-stones and charging freight.

W. I. House, hardware merchant, 14 Montgomery avenue, and Robert Armstrong, conductor on a Third-street electric car, were arrested yesterday morning for fighting on the street.

A trail of blood was left through the entire house of Harry Goodall, property man at the Baldwin Theater, by burglars who ransacked his residence after one of them had been cut in effecting an entrance.

Fully 8000 people witnessed the racing at Ingleside track yesterday. Two only of the favorites won. The winning horses were: Sir Richard, Ransom, imp. Santa Bella, J. O. C., Libertine and Jack Richelieu.

Mrs. M. H. Barkeley, of 322 Ellis street, has had a lot of trouble with contractors, labor unions and business men in regard to the construction of her house. She has decided to have the building finished under her own supervision.

The average daily number of fares collected by the Market street Railway Company is 150,000, though on some days it reaches 200,000. This, it is estimated, gives the company an annual income of $3,000,000, and indicates that San Franciscans are the greatest patrons of streetcars in the United States, if not in the world.

FIRE AT THE PALACE.

Mrs. Marceau's Christmas Tree Destroyed—Several Other Small Fires Yesterday.

There was considerable excitement about the Palace Hotel at noon yesterday. It was caused by a fire in the room of Mrs. Marceau, on the second floor of the building.

Mrs. Marceau, wife of Colonel Marceau, gave a Christmas tree in her rooms. It was decorated with the usual festal offerings. In some manner the illuminations set fire to the tree, and consternation followed. The Fire Department was called out, but fortunately its services was not required.

The flames were extinguished by the hotel force before much damage had been done.

There was a fire in the basement at 517 California street early yesterday. Lloyd Tevis is the owner of the building and A. Reponed & Co. occupy it as a wine and liquor store. The building was damaged to the extent of $100 and the contents to the amount of $1000. The cause of the fire is unknown.

At 1:46 o'clock Christmas morning an alarm was sounded from box 281 for a fire in a building at the corner of San Bruno avenue and Silliman streets, and occupied by Antoine Dubeher. The damage to the building, which is owned by Cereghino & Debenedetti, was $500, and the contents suffered to the extent of $100. The fire was caused by a defective chimney.

The residence of H. Green, at 726 Golden Gate avenue, was damaged by fire to the extent of $50 yesterday afternoon.

The dwelling occupied by M. A. Hall and owned by Mrs. J. Poole, at 136 Laidley street, was slightly damaged by fire yesterday afternoon. The loss was covered by insurance.

JACK DEMPSEY'S BENEFIT.

A Great Entertainment for the "Nonpareil's" Widow and Orphans.

The final meeting of the different committees of arrangements of the Jack Dempsey benefit will take place in the parlors of the Windsor Hotel to-night. The following people have been chosen by the talent committee, who have taken special pains to strike out anything objectionable, so that ladies can attend:

Vaudevilles—Gilbert and Goldie, Cad Wilson, the Chortes, Frank Moran, Truly Shattuck, Lillian Leslie, Rose Clemance, Clarence Mason, Henley Sisters, the Two Macs, Peter Barlow, Cebellas, Joe Sutton, Harry de Lair, Mira de la Motte, Jaculine, Claire Stanley, Zamora, Zaupelles, Oscar Smith, the Blondells, Post and Ashley, Conrad Klare and many others.

The letter-carriers' band will contribute sweet music and the following boxers and wrestlers have promised to appear.

Young Mitchell, Tom Sharkey, Daniel Needham, Jack Kitchen, Alec Greggains, Gus Herget, Charles Reno, F. Rafael, A. Hoffman, Spider Kelly, James Wheelan, Kelly Marlo, Joe McAuliffe, George Green, Joe King, Billy Keanely, Billy smith, Billy Armstrong, Gus Muller, J. Marony, R. Mayrish, Dal Hawkins, J. W. Geogan, McQueenie.

Wrestlers—J. P. Casey, George Mertes, Joe Acton, V. P. White.

The splendid benefit entertainment will take place to-morrow in the People's Palace, Eddy and Mason streets, and the proceeds will go to the widow and orphans of Jack Dempsey.

Music for Children.

The special musical programme for the children's festival in Golden Gate Park to-day is as follows:

Bay State Commandery March.....Burrell
Overture, "Poet and Peasant".....Supe
Selection, "Ernani".....Verdi
"Violets Waltz".....Waldteufel
Popular selection, "Bric-a-Brac".....Masud
"American Overture".....Catlin
Selection "Robin Hood".....R. de Koven
"Chinese Patro".....Meyrelles
"Jolly Fellows' waltz".....Volstedt
A new march, by Roncovieri

In India, at the time of the British occupation, foliated rings were fashionable. They were so large that when worn on the second finger they covered almost all the outer portion of the hand.

MILLIONS IN FARES.

Revenue Derived From the Patrons of Street Railways.

FIGURES OF INTEREST.

The Annual Toll Collected by the Market-Street Railway Company.

MILEAGE AND ROLLING STOCK.

San Franciscans the Greatest Street-Car Riders in the United States.

San Franciscans are the greatest street-car riders in the United States. In proportion to her population San Francisco pays more fares, supports a greater mileage of street railways, and utilizes more streetcars than any other city in the Union, and perhaps in the world.

Few people have a clear conception to what an extent this is true and what it signifies. In the matter of fares collected daily by the Market-street Railway Company, which does not operate or control the Sutter, Geary, California, Presidio and Ferries, and the San Francisco and San Mateo lines, not one person out of a score or more who were asked to estimate their number came anywhere near the recorded figures. The estimates ranged all the way from 10,000 to 60,000, but the latter was only within two-fifths of the actual figures.

On ordinary days the average number of fares collected on the various lines of the Market-street Railway Company reaches no less than 150,000, while on extraordinary occasions, such as Sundays, rainy days and the present holiday season, 200,000 fares is not an unusual day's record. As a matter of fact the two days preceding Christmas are the most remunerative of the year. In other words, these are days when the number of fares paid the Market-street Railway Company are equal to half the population of San Francisco.

These figures mean that the annual income of this corporation reaches the handsome sum of $3,000,000.

The single-track mileage of the thirty roads operated by the company is 186 and the average number of cars in use daily is 330, and in addition three steam trains are in service.

The various lines include eleven cable roads, the same number of electric lines, six roads that are still operated with horses and two steam lines. The mileage and rolling stock of the different cable, electric and horse lines are as follows:

CABLE LINES.	Double track. Mileage.....	No. of cars.....
Jackson	3.5	17
Sacramento	5.	21
Powell	2.5	12
Oak	3.	7
Post	3.	10
Howard	4.5	17
McAllister	4.	16
Hayes	4.	12
Haight	4.	15
Castro	4.18	15
Valencia	4.08	20
Electric lines—		
Ellis and O'Farrell	4.	15
Turk and Eddy	4.	10
Sixteenth and Fillmore	4.	12
Sixteenth and Fillmore Exten'sn		3
Mission	8.	40
China avenue and Race track		10
Third and Kearny	3.	17
Kentucky	3.5	10
Brannan	.25	1
Broadway	1.	3
Carl	2.	1
Horse lines—		
Fourth	2.5	20
Fifth	1.	8
Sixth	2.5	8
Eighth	2.	1
California	1.	3
San Bruno	4.	6
Totals	84.51	330

From this it will be seen that the shortest is the Brannan-street electric road, which runs along that street from Third street to the Pacific Mail wharf, a distance of a quarter of a mile, and that the longest is the Mission-street electric road, which extends from the ferries out to the new Ingleside racetrack, a distance of eight miles.

In addition to the lines above specified, the same company also operates two steam lines to the Cliff House, one at the Haight-street entrance to Golden Gate Park and the other with its eastern terminus at Central avenue and California street. The former is known as the Cliff motor road, and two trains are operated, one leaving each terminus at intervals of half an hour. The other, known as the Cliff and Ocean road, has but one train in service, which leaves one terminus or the other every forty-five minutes. Each of these roads is about four miles long.

Quite recently a new departure has been inaugurated in the matter of paying all men employed on the cars, those on the cable, electric and horse lines receiving their respective wages daily. Those on the steam lines are paid monthly, as has been the practice heretofore. But no man receives pay until he has been employed at least three days.

In an interview with General Manager Vining of the Market-street Railway Company on the riding propensities of the San Francisco people he spoke as follows:

"That the people of this City are so given to riding in the streetcars is attributable, I believe, to the many grades and to the good service that is always at their disposal. We carry every year more people than there are in the United States. Some idea of the traffic on our various lines can be gained from the fact that we issue 1,000,000 transfers each week."

"Is it not the ultimate intention to convert all the lines that it is deemed worth while to retain into electric roads, and to abandon some of those that have been made unprofitable by recent additions or improvements?" was asked.

"As to the conversion of all lines to the electric system, that is something that has not been considered, but I can state that none of the lines are to be abandoned. They all meet a public need. Some of the horsecar lines are not profitable, but we deem it proper to keep them running, even if we make no money out of them. They afford an accommodation to the public, and as long as we do not lose any money by continuing to operate them we are satisfied to keep them going."

Referring to the mileage of the combined lines Mr. Vining stated that when he came out here to take his present position he made it his first duty to ride over every mile of the system, and that it required steady traveling for a week to accomplish the task.

On the subject of accidents he said: "No company in the United States has fewer accidents on its lines in proportion to mileage than ours, and this is the more remarkable in view of the fact that we have so many steep grades to pass over, and when the tracks are wet the danger is increased by their slipperiness. Great care is also exercised to prevent delays to our patrons. Take the Market-street roadway for instance. Here the wear and strain on the cable is something terrific owing to the way the cars are bunched on it from Valencia street to the ferry. Only new cables are used here and these are in service on the line only two or three months. After that they are used in some other road where the traffic is much lighter."

HARRISON RESIGNS.

Bohemians Startled at the Sudden Withdrawal of the Poet, Critic and Playwright.

The Bohemian owl winks and the wise man shakes his head.

The cause of this disturbance is the resignation of William Greer Harrison, poet, critic and playwright, as a member of the Bohemian Club. The reason of this sudden determination on the part of Mr. Harrison to sever his connection with one of the leading social institutions of the City is not known.

It is this very uncertainty, however, which causes the hubbub in club circles. For an active and popular member of Bohemia to withdraw from the circle without apparent rhyme or reason is a most unparalleled thing. It is not to be wondered at, then, that club associates whisper among themselves matters, some pleasant and some enigmatical.

The average club man is silent when it comes to communing with the outside world, but he is full to overflowing with little tidbits of interesting gossip when once ensconced behind the big double doors which guard the entrance to Bohemia. As for Mr. Harrison himself his explanation is simple and to the point. He is tired of club life, that is of Bohemian Club life, and has emphasized that weariness by handing in his resignation.

"I love Bohemia as much as ever," declared Mr. Harrison last night, "but I have made up my mind to withdraw from club life and that is all there is to it. I do not mind saying that there is a reason behind my longing for a quiet life, but in justice to my club associates it is only proper for me to say that my course is not dictated by any personal differences.

"At the proper time I may have something to say, but until events shape themselves I prefer to be stated as a retiring member, whose only wish at present is to be left alone."

AT THE CITY PLAYHOUSES.

Large Numbers of People Spend Christmas Evening at the Play.

Fine Presentation of "Ixion" at the Tivoli—Fanny Rice and May Irwin Make Great Hits.

Long before 8 o'clock last evening the warning "Standing room only" was hung outside the entrance to the Tivoli. It seemed, however, to be unavailing as a preventive to the entry of the hundreds who poured through the doors intent upon witnessing the magnificent Christmas performance of "Ixion." The holiday "spectacle" has become a fixed institution in San Francisco, and "Ixion" is one of the finest things of the kind yet seen here.

In the first act the trio between Ixion, Acropolis and Mercury was admirably rendered, while the ascent of the three to Olympus on the back of a gigantic eagle was portrayed with striking vividness. Miss Alice Carle, albeit a thorough artist, is far too delightfully womanly to take a man's part, though she carries the exacting role with grace and spirit. Ferris Hartman as the court poet was even gayer than usual last night, bringing into his part a number of topical songs which won him much applause.

The second act, at least last night, was by far the best. The butterfly ballet was the very poetry of motion, unimpeded by superfluous drapery, while the choruses were given with fire and precision. Lulu Ward as Venus and Laura Millard as Juno were very good, though their parts give them little chance to shine. Miss Millard had an opportunity to render one of her charming solos, and Miss Ward had a little opening for a bit of fine acting, and made the best of it. Martin Pache as Appollo made a grand hit, his magnificent high barytone soaring above chorus and orchestra in his opening number, with an effect as pleasing as it was artistic.

The gem of the production was the duet between Gertie Carlisle, as Cupid, and Pearl Landers, as Hebe, both of the little ones evincing a vocal range and dramatic power far in advance of their tender years. Mabella Baker, as Minerva, in her ridiculous costume of green and red, with an owl perched above her corkscrew curls, carried the house by storm more than once. The other characters are, as a rule, well sustained, and where there appears to be any uncertainty or weakness in the vocal parts the defect is artfully smoothed over by the well-trained orchestra. The transformation scene at the end had some new features last night, and was exceedingly effective.

At the California.

May Irwin continues to delight her audiences. In "The Widow Jones" she has found a role in which she shines, while her bright, catchy songs never fail to take. John C. Rice and Joseph Sparks were bright, as usual, while Ada Lewis, as Felicity, made good use of her opportunities. "The Widow Jones" will run through this week and next.

At the Alcazar.

"The Black Crook" shows no signs of improving. The same waits and hitches and the same wild methods which marred the opening night still hold sway. Yet the piece has its redeeming features. Miss Gassman's singing is really good, while Miss Lillian Clayes, as Queen of the Amazons, carries herself with charming grace. As for the Amazons themselves they may be well enough, but their costumes are so fantastically ungraceful that even bloomers would be preferable.

At the Baldwin.

Packed houses continue to greet "1492" at the Baldwin. The quaint antics of the tramp, Miss Bonehill's catching songs and Harlow's splendid impersonation of the "Daisy Queen" were enjoyed by an appreciative audience last night. The burlesque will run until Saturday night inclusive, and on Sunday night Hermann, the magician, promises a sensation. He has a new trick, in which he catches six bullets fired from the same number of guns. At the Baldwin the guns will be fired by six privates from Fort Mason, under command of Sergeant Patterson.

The Columbia.

"Nancy," Miss Fanny Rice's effective play, attracted a crowded house last night. The title role suits Miss Rice to perfection, and her support has apparently improved somewhat, though some of the characters are still a little stagy.

At Morosco's.

"Around the World in Eighty Days" is a fine holiday spectacle, and last night the opera-house was crowded. The piece is admirably staged and for the most part well acted, so it is sure of a successful run. It is said that this theater is making preparations for introducing some new and striking specialties in the near future.

At the Orpheum.

A fine vaudeville programme, faithfully and efficiently carried out, secured a large audience at the Orpheum last night. Next week the "grotesques," Caron and Herbert, will appear in a special performance, and the De Bolien brothers are also billed to give some of their famous acrobatic specialties.

The Amoor, the great stream of China and Siberia, is 1500 miles in length, but for nearly nine months in the year is icebound.

ALONG THE WATER FRONT.

Christmas Day Celebrations on Deep-Water Ships in the Bay.

THE C. H. WATJEN'S BRASS BAND

Heavy Weather Delayed the Steamer China—The Baltimore in a Hurricane.

Christmastide held full sway on the water front yesterday. At noontime all the crews of the deep-water ships had their dinner and then there was a general exodus. At 2 P. M. there was not a sailor to be seen on East street, and the whole front was given over to the saloon-keepers, who, finding their occupation gone, closed up their places temporarily and followed the sailors uptown.

Even the steamers and sailing vessels bound here did not seem to care to come into port on Christmas day, and the only arrival recorded up to 5 P. M. was the steamer Eureka from Fields Landing and Arcata. The Willamette Valley sailed for Mexican ports, the State of California for Portland and the Mexico for southern ports. These were the only movements that broke the Sabbath-like calm of the day.

The only vessel in port on which there was anything like a celebration was the German ship C. H. Watjen at Union-street wharf. There is a fine brass band in the forecastle and the men are clever performers. They have fourteen instruments and Captain Brunnings says his band is the equal of most of those to be found on men-of-war. Last night there was a party on the ship and at midnight the band turned out and played Christmas carols for half an hour. First thing yesterday morning the entire crew headed by Captain Brunnings and the band assembled in the poop. The band played a prelude and then everybody sang in German:

All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all.

Then the German national anthem was given with a will and everybody went to breakfast. Captain Brunnings is a great favorite with his men and there has not been a half dozen changes in the crew of the Watjen in three years.

All the coasters that have arrived during the past forty-eight hours have tales of head winds and heavy seas to tell. The Topgallant had the worst experience of any of them, but, nevertheless, the ships Spartan and Louisiana did not escape. Both of them came in with lists to port, and with considerable damage about the decks and upper works. The storm was heaviest off the Columbia River, and it was there that the cargo shifted in both instances. The Louisiana was thirteen days and the Spartan fifteen days from Seattle with coal.

The contractors for the Pacific-street wharf are making good progress with the work, which, when completed, will be the most solid pier on the water front. After the piles are driven a large iron cylinder is put over them, and the space between the pile and the cylinder is then filled with cement. This, it is expected, will make the piles teredo proof, and the life of the wharf will thus be indefinite. The work is in the nature of an experiment, which the Harbor Commissioners are watching very closely.

The steamer China encountered her first really heavy gale during the last voyage. It blew a hurricane and for twenty-eight hours the vessel was hove-to. The United States cruiser Baltimore was in the same storm, and when the officers of the China last saw her she was making heavy weather of it. Commander Impey of the United States steamer Monocacy came over on the China, and will report for duty at the Brooklyn Navy-yard. He says that everything was quiet in China, and that in Japan the war spirit had disappeared and the people returned to mercantile pursuits.

The British ship Drumlanrig, 166 days from Dunkirk, and the Ross-shire, fifty-nine days from Newcastle, N. S. W., got in last night. They report stormy weather, and the Drumlanrig, like other late arrivals, had some narrow escapes from icebergs when rounding the Horn.

The missionary schooner Robert Logan, which left here last month for the South Seas, has arrived in safety at Honolulu. Among the passengers who went away on her was Hugo Fisher Jr., brother of one of THE CALL artists, and in a letter which he sent by the China he says the little missionary yacht behaved splendidly and made good time during the trip. Fisher will remain in Hawaii, but the Robert Logan will proceed to the Marquesas and Gilbert islands.

THE WELSH TO CELEBRATE

Introduction of an Old Institution, the Eisteddfod, in This City.

Novel and Interesting Musical and Literary Event for New Year's Day.

On New Year's day the Welsh residents of California will assemble at Union-square Hall to hold an "Eisteddfod," a literary and musical festival that is very popular in the Eastern States. The greatest eisteddfod yet held in the West was at Salt Lake City a few weeks ago, when the Tabernacle was crowded at the three meetings.

It is a very old institution among the Welsh, and is supposed to have been instituted by Maelgwyn Gwynedd about the year 540. It is held annually, and the best talent in Welsh literature and music takes part in the proceedings, which consist of competition in music, poetry, prose and art. At the World's Fair Eisteddfod the Welsh supplied the only musical sensation of the exposition.

At the last National Eisteddfod in Wales Sir Joseph Barnby, perhaps the greatest authority on choral singing, said, in adjusting the competitive chorus of 250 voices from different parts of Wales: "I have just heard some of the most wonderful music that it has ever been the lot of any human being to listen to. Why was this not more widely known?" He had generally understood that the Germans had the copyright in male voice singing, but he had never heard any choirs singing abroad or anywhere else that came within easy distance of this.

Wales has fostered many able literary and musical men, prominent among these celebrities being Sir Lewis Morris, the poet; Ben Davies, tenor; D. Francon Davies, barytone, and Mrs. Mary Davies, soprano. The three Davieses, though not related to each other, are among the most prominent vocalists in Great Britain today, and owe their success in no small degree to the Eisteddfod.

The poetry on the New Year's day programme is limited to a stanza on "The Golden Gate" and poetical translations from Welsh into English.

The essays are on "The Beautiful and Useful in Nature," and "Paul at Athens," and "What Has Christianity Done for Women?" On these subjects there are a great many competitors.

The test musical piece for mixed voices of about forty in number is "Y Blodenyer Olaf"; for male choruses, Dr. Roger's Welsh airs; for the quartets, "The Stars Outpeep" (Brooms), and "Good-night, Beloved" (Pinsuti). Then there are competitions on solos, duets and a chorus for children.

Robert Lloyd, D. P. Hughes and R. J. Burness will adjudicate the musical part of the Eisteddfod. Among the adjudicators on the literature subjects are Dr. W. D. Williams, Professor R. R. Lloyd, Rev. R. V. Griffith, Moses Williams and D. A. Griffith.

Professor Thomas Price will occupy the chair at the afternoon meeting, while Attorney Hu Jones will be the conductor. The evening meeting will be presided over by Attorney Howell Powell, the conductor being Dr. H. L. Jones.

The vocalists engaged for the occasion include J. C. Hughes, the well-known basso; Mrs. Hope Jones, contralto, a recent arrival from Wales, and T. H. Evans, tenor, of Nevada.

SENATOR HEARST'S GIFT.

The Sum of $5000 Is Paid to the San Francisco Girls' Union.

The board of directors of the San Francisco Girls' Union received yesterday, through Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, a check for $5000 as a bequest from the late Senator Hearst to the union.

During his late illness Mr. Hearst expressed his continued interest in this home for self-supporting girls and requested Mrs. Hearst to make a contribution for him at such time as his estate should be settled.

Fell and Broke His Neck.

Francis Oliva, a gardener 40 years of age, was accidentally killed Tuesday afternoon in front of his residence at the corner of California street and Twenty-ninth avenue. Oliva was standing on the wheel of his wagon, loading vegetables, when his foot slipped and he fell to the ground, breaking his neck.

LIVELY ELECTION FIGHT.

Members of the Mechanics' Institute Putting Up Their Tickets.

The Regulars First in the Field. Phillips and Healy Expected to Come Forward.

The annual election at the Mechanics' Institute is some time off, but preparations have already been made for as lively a fight as ever. The ins have taken the precaution to name their ticket well in advance, to prevent a scattering of their forces, and several of the smaller forces on the outside have made their preparations and some of them may unite, so as to get as much as possible in the way of minority representation through the proportional preferential system of voting. Last week notices were sent out to 150 of the oldest and most influential members, many of whom are ex-directors, for a meeting to be held at the Palace Hotel. About sixty were present, including most of the members of the present board of directors.

It was determined to choose seven candidates for directors to succeed those whose terms are about to expire.

A. S. Hallidie, who has been a director for sixteen years off and on and ten years president of the Mechanics' Institute, which position he now holds, positively declined to run again. So did George Cumming, and the following were nominated: Joseph Leggett, Henry Root, B. E. Garratt, Joseph Cumming, G. Howard Thompson, George H. Wallace and Oscar Lewis. Messrs. Leggett, Root and Garratt are members of the present board.

George H. Wallace is superintendent of the Washburn-Moen Manufacturing Company; G. Howard Thompson is in the Bank of California; Joseph Cumming is a son of George Cumming, one of the present directors and a member of the firm of George Cumming & Co., engineers; Oscar Lewis is one of the contractors building the dome of the new City Hall, and is one of the most active members of the Institute.

The ticket is a strong one and representative of those who have been most active in behalf of the welfare of the Institute.

At the last quarterly meeting of the members held on the 7th inst., P. J. Healy and Attorney Phillips made an attack on the present management, and resolutions were offered by Phillips asking for an investigation into the affairs of the Institute. They were defeated by a vote of 80 to 3. However, both these gentlemen have made strong fights for representation in the board before, and they and others will probably have tickets in the field. The system of voting makes minority representation possible, and a lively fight may be expected.

There are seven directors to be elected, and all nominations indorsed by at least twenty-five members must be in the hands of the secretary by the first Tuesday in January. The election will take place in February.

CHINESE HARD TO TEACH.

Experiences of a Kentucky Girl in the Old Walled City of Soochow.

PROGRESS OF THE SCIENCES.

Uphill Work Because of Prejudices. Fighting Against Malaria and Fevers.

Miss Alice G. Waters, a young missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who has been for three years laboring among the Chinese at Soochow, eighty-five miles from Shanghai, is at the Occidental.

Miss Waters' health has become much impaired, owing to the malaria of Soochow, and she is returning for recovery to her old home at Murray, Ky.

She says Soo Chow is one of the most aristocratic cities in China. The people are, as a rule, pretty well off, are educated after their own way, and are for these causes not as easily reached as those in many other localities of the empire.

"The city has between 500,000 and 800,000 inhabitants," she said, "and has a wall extending for twelve miles around it. The wall is very old, having been built before the time of Christ.

"There are between thirty and forty missionaries of the various denominations there, including Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist. Schools have been established there, with scientific studies, and in them the Chinese may pursue mathematics as far as calculus.

"Hitherto the Chinese have known nothing of the sciences, except a little astronomy. Their reasoning powers were not developed. They can memorize anything, but in reasoning, owing to their purely literary instruction, they could not reason at all. Their education we would not call education at all.

"While the people are difficult to reach they are in no wise dangerous. We have had no massacres as they have had north of us.

"It is rather unhealthful about Soochow for the reason that the country is very flat and wet. It is the center of the rice-growing district, and that kind of a region is apt to be productive of malarial diseases and fevers.

Miss Waters is anxious to return to Soochow. In the three years she has been there she has learned considerable Chinese—enough, in fact, to teach in it. As soon as her health improves she will as she now expects, return to the old walled city, which is soon to be opened as a port. Among those who returned on the same steamer with Miss Waters was Mrs. L. J. Woodhull, the widow of the late Rev. Dr. Woodhull, who died of typhoid fever at Osaka two months ago. Mrs. Woodhull is accompanied by her two children. They are going to San Diego, where Mrs. Woodhull's relatives live. Miss Waters is at the Occidental.

BAY DISTRICT OPENING.

Excellent Programme Offered Race-Goers by the Old Jockey Club.

To-day the Bay District track will open again for a two weeks' spell of racing. The California Jockey Club has prepared an excellent card of events for the opening day, the feature of which will be the G. H. Mumm handicap for all ages at six furlongs. The track has been harrowed and will be in good condition.

Judge Joseph J. Burke will officiate in the stand, assisted by Charles E. Trevathan and Edwin F. Smith. The scales will be in charge of Martin Wathanson, who recently arrived from Chicago.

For Saturday the attraction of the programme will be the Elinwood stakes for two-year-olds, worth $1850.

On New Year day the Rosemeade stakes for fillies and the Del Monte steeplechase, in addition to two purse handicaps, will be decided.

The club has decided upon January 4 as the date for the deciding of the Pommery Sec handicap, and the Palo Alto stakes will be run January 8.

NEW TO-DAY.

"Pure and Sure."

Cleveland's BAKING POWDER.

Biscuit, cake, pot pies and buns,
Dumplings, puddings, Sally Luns,
Muffins, waffles, griddle cakes,
The very best it always makes.

NEW TO-DAY—AMUSEMENTS.

Grover's ALCAZAR

—MATINEE TO-DAY!—
BLACK CROOK!
A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO EVERY ONE—Big, Little, Young or Old.
TOYS and Christmas Things for All!
A $20 Gold Piece, a Ladies' or Gents' Gold Watch, Stem-winder Waltham, 14-karat cases, Christmas Books, Ornate Vases, solid Silver Knives, Forks, Spoons, Napkin Rings, Rogers' Most Elegant Plate, Jewelry, Chains, Rings, Lockets, Bracelets, Ear Jewels, Elegant Clocks, Pictures, Christmas Cards.
AND, OH, THE TOYS!
Dolls, Laughing Dolls, Crying Dolls, Pretty Dolls, Ugly Dolls, Trumpets, Guns, Drums, Flags and everything for the WAR WITH ENGLAND.
And Best Candy for Everybody.
Absolutely Grand Production of THE
Black Crook.
200 Artists and Specialists in Line.
Prices—10c, 15c, 25c and 35c.
Night Prices—10c, 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c.
Matinees To-day, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

BALDWIN THEATRE. AL HAYMAN AND CO. INCORP'D PROPS.

—ONLY 3 NIGHTS MORE!—
—LAST MATINEE SATURDAY!—
LAST TIME SAT. NIGHT
RICE'S BIG "1492!"
With Its Array of Novelties.
Remember—Good-by Performance on Saturday Night.
—NEXT SUNDAY NIGHT!—
The Sensation of the Season,
HERRMANN the Great
—In His Marvelous—
—BULLET-CATCHING FEAT—
Catching a Volley of Bullets fired at him by a squad of U. S. Regulars from Battery I, Fifth Artillery, Fort Mason,
And His Complete Entertainment of MAGIC, MIRTH AND MYSTERY.
Seats Ready To-day.

CALIFORNIA THEATRE. AL HAYMAN & CO. INCORP'D PROPS.

—TWO WEEKS ONLY!—
Crowded Every Performance!
EVERY EVENING, INCLUDING SUNDAY,
—MATINEE SATURDAY—
TRIUMPHANT SUCCESS
Of Everybody's Favorite Comedienne,
MAY IRWIN
Supported by JOHN C. RICE and Her Big Company of Comedians, in
THE WIDOW JONES.
Seats now Ready for 2nd and Last Week.

TIVOLI OPERA-HOUSE
MRS. ERNESTINE KRELING Proprietor & Manager
—EVERY EVENING—
A WORLD OF NOVELTY!
A HEAVEN OF DELIGHT!
The Gorgeous Holiday Burlesque,
"IXION"
Or, THE MAN OF THE WHEEL.
—Bring the Children.—
GREAT CAST!
GRAND BALLET!
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY!
OSCAR L. FEST'S
—Wondrous Transformation—
"SEA SHELLS."
Popular Prices—25c and 50c.

MOROSCO'S GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.
The Handsomest Family Theater in America.
WALTER MOROSCO, Sole Lessee and Manager
EVERY EVENING AT EIGHT
And Special Christmas Day Matinee,
Gorgeous Production of Jules Verne's Superb Spectacular Success,
"AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS!"
100—People on the Stage!—100
Easily the Best Show in Town!
EVENING PRICES—25c and 50c.
Family Circle and Gallery, 10c.
Usual Matinees Saturday and Sunday.

ORPHEUM.
O'Farrell Street, Between Stockton and Powell.
TO-NIGHT AND DURING THE WEEK,
AN OVERTOPPING HOLIDAY BILL!
MANHATTAN COMEDY FOUR,
CLIFFORD AND HUTH,
BERNARD DYLLYN,
3 DE BOLIEN BROTHERS,
NEWELL AND SHEVETTE.
ALL NEW! ALL NEW!
Reserved seats, 25c; Balcony, 10c; Opera chairs and Box seats, 50c.

Columbia Theatre.
FRIEDLANDER, GOTTLOB & CO. LESSEES AND MANAGERS.
TO-NIGHT—The Hit of the Week,
Fanny Rice
As "NANCY!"
In Her Latest Success,
—"AT THE FRENCH BALL!"—

AFTER YOU HAVE YOUR FUN IN THE PARK THIS AFTERNOON
SHOOT THE CHUTES
FROM 1 TO 11 P. M. DAILY
(Weather Permitting).
CONCERT AT 8 P. M.
ADMISSION——10 CENTS
Children (including a Merry-Go-Round Ride), 10c.

RACING! RACING! RACING!
CALIFORNIA JOCKEY CLUB.
—WINTER MEETING—
Beginning Thursday, December 26,
BAY DISTRICT TRACK.
Racing Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Rain or Shine.
FIVE OR MORE RACES EACH DAY.
Races start at 2:00 P. M. sharp.
McAllister and Geary street cars pass the gate.
R. B. MILROY, Secretary. THOS. H. WILLIAMS JR., President.

NEW TO-DAY.

THE MERCURY
....Souvenir
Sunshine, Fruit and Flowers... NOW READY.
Contains 325 pages, 9x12 inches, and is ILLUSTRATED FROM 939 PHOTOGRAPHS. Hundreds of beautiful half-tone engravings, showing the aspect of the county from January to December.
The Fruit Industry Illustrated
And described—the most valuable treatise upon the Santa Clara County Fruit Industry that has ever been published, giving details of the business from nursery to market, with crops, prices and profits.
A Work of Art,
Suitable for the center-table, and a most appropriate Christmas present. There is scarcely a question that could be asked concerning Santa Clara County and its resources that is not fully answered.
The MERCURY Souvenir will be sent, expressage prepaid, to any part of the United States at the following rates: Bound in Bristol board, 75 cents per copy; bound in leatherette, $1.25 per copy. Sent to any part of the United States, postage prepaid, at the following rates: Bound in Bristol board, 80c per copy; bound in leatherette, $1.35 per copy. The Souvenir is sold over the counter at the MERCURY office at the following prices: Bound in Bristol board, 50 cents per copy; bound in leatherette, $1.00 per copy.
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