

**THE PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO.**

BY PROFESSOR KNOWLTON.

The Palace Hotel occupies the entire block upon the southwest corner of New Montgomery and Market streets; rearing its huge fronts 120 feet, extending 275 feet westerly up Market and Jessie, and stretching its vast flanks 350 feet southerly along New Montgomery and Annie, this architectural monarch lifts its colossal bulk above the very business and social centres of the Pacific metropolis.

Lines of horse cars connecting directly with all principal streets, business centres, leading places of amusement or resort, and all notable localities, constantly traversing the entire city, even to its remotest suburbs, run directly by or within a minute's walk. At the neighboring foot of the city's grand central avenue, which passes directly under its northern front, are the stations and docks of the great overland railway terminus, with the piers and slips of the principal steam ferries, which swiftly bridge the broad bay in every habitable or pleasurable direction. A few blocks south lie the immense docks and basins of the P. M. S. Co., with their grand fleet of trans-Pacific mail steamships for the Sandwich Islands, China, Japan, Australia, India and the nations of the Orient.

The great building was commenced nearly two years ago. It originated in the enterprise, foresight and liberality of the great Pacific banker, the lamented William C. Ralston, and his financial peer, Senator Sharon. Enlisting the ablest architectural talent of the continent and summoning to their aid the acknowledged chief of hotel managers, Warren Leland, from the scenes of his Atlantic triumphs, they committed to his superintendence the inception, the progress, the completion, and the subsequent management of the vast building. When about one year since, the throng of other and still more gigantic enterprises caused the withdrawal of the great banker from this, Senator Sharon became, and has since remained, the sole proprietor.

The general style of architecture, within and without, is almost severely simple. Amplitude, solidity, strength and permanence reign in every part of the imposing exterior of the stately structure, with myriads of bay windows diversifying its four immense fronts, from top to bottom, and partially relieving the oppressive massiveness which must otherwise characterize it; of its literally stupendous proportions, and its absolute immensity, one gains an excellent idea from an admirable photograph from the studios of Messrs. Bradley & Rulofson, the celebrated gold medal photographers, not only of the Pacific coast, but of the United States, whose magnificent new art palace most appropriately graces the right foreground.

Ninety-six thousand two hundred and fifty square feet or nearly two and a quarter acres underlie the stupendous structure itself, while the sub-sidewalk extensions increase the basement area to upwards of three acres. Its general form is an immense triplicate, hollow quadrangle, including one grand central crystal-roofed garden-court, flanked by a lesser and parallel court on either side. Seven lofty stories surmount the deep and airy basement, and through a considerable portion it has eight. The lower story has a height of over twenty-seven feet, the uppermost sixteen. The deep foundation wall is twelve feet thick; stone, iron, brick and marble are the chief materials. Of the brick alone, its construction consumed 31,000,000. All outer and inner and partition walls, from base to top, are of solid stone and brick built around, within and upon a huge skeleton of broad wrought iron bands, thickly bolted together, and of such immense size as to have required 3,000 tons for this purpose alone. Thus the building is really duplex—a huge self-supporting frame of iron, of enormous strength, within massive walls of firm-set brick and solid stone. The outer and visible walls are proof against fire; the inner and invisible frame secures against earthquake. The supporting columns, within and without, are iron; the cornice of iron and zinc. Four artesian wells, having a tested capacity of 23,000 gallons an hour, supply the great 630,000 gallon reservoir under the central

court, besides filling seven roof tanks, holding 130,000 gallons more. Three large steam fire-pumps force water through 45 in. wrought iron upright fire mains, reaching above the roof, and distribute it through 327 2 1/2 in. hose-bibs, and 15,000 feet of five-ply carbolized fire hose, thus doubly and trebly commanding every inch of the vast structure from roof to basement, within and without.

Five patent safety catch hydraulic elevators, running noiselessly within fire-proof brick walls, ascend even to the roof promenades. Electric fire alarms, self-acting, instantly report at the office the exact locality of any fire, or even extraordinary heat in any parlor, bedroom, closet, hall, passage, stairway or storeroom. Special hotel watchmen regularly patrol all parts of the building every thirty minutes, day and night. A self-acting and self-registering tell-tale indicator instantly reports at the office any neglect or omission of their duty. Besides all these precautions a fire-proof iron staircase, inclosed in solid brick and stone, and opening through iron doors upon every floor, ascends from basement to roof. Every floor has its exclusive annunciator, and its own tubular conductor, carrying all letters for the postoffice directly to the main letter box in the general office. A pneumatic dispatch tube instantaneously conveys letters, messages or parcels and from any point on the different floors. Two thousand and forty-two ventilating tubes opening outward upon the roof from every room, bathroom and closet, insure constant purity and thorough sweetness of air in every part. The grand central court, 144 feet by 84 feet, has a carriage and promenade entrance through the east front on New Montgomery street, of 44 feet width, expanding into a circular driveway 52 feet in diameter, surrounded by a marble-tiled promenade, and a tropical garden of rare exotics, with choice statuary and artistic fountains. Within this court, opposite the main entrance, is the music pavillion, in which the instrumental band, exclusively attached to the Palace, render choice selections, at stated intervals, during every afternoon and evening.

Off the central court open the main entrance to the hotel office, 65 by 55; entrances to the breakfast room, 110 by 55; the grand dining room, 150 by 55; the music and ball room, 65 by 55; the ladies' lower reception parlor, 40 by 40; reading room of the same size; billiard room, 65 by 40; barber shop and bath rooms, 40 by 40; committee rooms and other general apartments, devoted to the pleasure or convenience of guests and patrons.

On the second floor are private dining rooms, children's dining hall, and the ladies' drawing room, 34 by 40. The total number of rooms exclusively for guests, above the garden floor, is 755. Most are 20 feet square, none less than 16 by 16. They are equally well finished and furnished throughout. The heavy carpets of most artistic and beautiful designs were manufactured exclusively for this hotel. The massive furniture, original and unique in design, was made by special contract in San Francisco, of the finest and most beautiful native woods, at an aggregate cost of over half a million dollars. The rooms are expressly arranged for use either singly or in suites of two or more. Their connections and approaches are such that an individual, a family, or a party of any size, can have a suite of any number of rooms, combining the seclusion of the most elegant private residence, with the numberless luxuries of the most perfect hotel. Every outer room has its bay window, while every parlor and guest chamber has its own private toilet, ample clothes closet and fire-grate.

All the rooms have wide approaches or entrances from the broad arcades surrounding the three inner courts, through which fresh air and bright sunlight have free access to even the most interior rooms.

From the spacious arcade promenade surrounding the lower or garden floor, broad entrances admit guests directly into the bazar fronts of the numerous elegant stores occupying the lower floors along New Montgomery and Market.

Each of these stores has a show-window facing upon the promenade, along which, completely sheltered from all exposure, and without even the necessity of covering, lady guests may indulge in "shopping" to their heart's content.

The capitals of the columns along the upper corridors are crowned with elegant urns and vases of rare and beautiful flowers and plants, whose twining tendrils in luxuriant growth gracefully festoon the balconies, while the delicious fragrance of this tropical conservatory pervades the air of the court as well as that of the neighboring rooms with delightful perfumes. Independent of outward atmospheric changes this crystal-roofed garden enjoys its own local, sub-tropical climate of perpetual summer, where, as in some charming nook of fairy-land, the balmy breath of incense-laden air may at once refresh and recreate its delighted guests. Classic statues of the four seasons also adorn the corridors of this aerial tropical conservatory.

From broad walks and observatories, surrounding the lofty roof, and readily accessible by the elevators, the guests enjoy a panoramic view unsurpassed in breadth and beauty.

Within and without, in all approaches, appointments and belongings, the kingly structure, far surpassing, not only in size but in grandeur, all the hotels of Europe or America, richly justifies the propriety of its happily chosen name—The Palace Hotel.

And fittingly throned within its royal halls, easily governing and guiding all, reigns the world-renowned king of hotel managers—Warren Leland, prince of good fellows and king of genial hosts, whose thousands of former guests have spread his enviable fame quite around the globe. Of no one may it more truly be said that every guest becomes his friend and every friend but multiplies his guests.

**THE PALACE VILLA.**

A wholly novel and an immensely popular idea in the history of hotels is the original and excellent decision of Senator Sharon to attach to the Palace Hotel proper, the magnificent country residence and estate of the late Mr. Ralston at Belmont as a kind of country extension or rural duplicate of the central Palace itself. Easily and quickly accessible by rail, charmingly located among the beautiful hills, and groves, and vales of a delightful country retreat; ample and commodious beyond comparison, lavishly endowed by nature and enriched by art, its broad acres of fertile lands, fruitful orchards and graperies, tropical hot houses and conservatories; its artistic ferneries and lovely gardens, ample stables for princely studs of horses, with its unlimited ranges for riding, driving and picnicking, make it a thoroughly royal adjunct of the great Palace itself.

Within the noble mansion, so long renowned for its hospitality, palatial suites of apartments, parlors, guest chambers, dining rooms, ball rooms, billiard rooms and music rooms, and art galleries, with accumulated wealth of choice pictures and rare statuary, combine to make it a rural elysium set in the midst of a country paradise.

Guests of the hotel may choose between it and the villa, alternating from city to country, and combining at will the choicest pleasures of both.

Old Californians, and the myriads of eastern and European celebrities who have enjoyed its boundless hospitality, will find it hard to know it as any other than the Ralston Villa, or to see in the grand Palace Hotel itself aught but the memorial and the monument of the dead banker, whose kingly brain and royal heart and master hand have wrought into and stamped themselves upon the grandest public works and the noblest private enterprises which have beautified and glorified his chosen home—the Golden West.

**WOMEN AND DEVILS.**—Old Winston was a negro preacher in Virginia, and his ideas of theology and human nature were often very original.

A gentleman thus accosted the old gentleman one Sunday:

"Winston, I understand you believe every woman has seven devils. How can you prove it?"

"Well, sah, did you never read in de Bible how seven debbels were cast out'er Mary Magalin?"

"Oh, yes; I've read that."

"Did you ebber hear of 'em bein' cast out of any odder woman, sah?"

"No, I never did."

"Well, den, all de odders got 'em y'at."

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H. D. CONVERSE. CALVIN KIRK. L. I. GREENEWALD.

Ophir Mining District, Sept. 29th, 1875. w36