

use of the Baptist Chapel, then standing on Washington Street near Stockton, (and still occupied by the Primary Department of the original School.) On the 26th of December, 1849, three children having been gathered, the first Public Free School in this State, or indeed on the Pacific coast, was commenced. This School was continued free to pupils from the first, and was sustained several months entirely by the voluntary and gratuitous services of Mr. and Mrs. Pelton, aided, in paying the incidental expenses of the School, and procuring the services of extra teachers, who were soon required, by the contributions of citizens who had become interested, in what had at first appeared to them an enterprise as strange as it was new. The names of those contributors having been preserved, we take pleasure in giving them a permanent place in this record of the early benefactors of San Francisco:

Theo. Payne, Friedlander & Co., Wm. Meyer & Co., M. E. Gould, J. C. Palmer, S. Otis, I. C. Woods, Wm. T. Coleman, J. D. Hutton, B. F. Sherwood, B. Davidson, Wm. D. M. Howard, Talbot Green, F. Vassault, Newton & Co., Hussey & Bond, Henry M. Hale, E. Dunbar, Dunbar & Emerson, John Wilson, Jacob B. Moore, T. J. L. Smiley, A. A. Selover, John Middleton, R. S. Dorr, David Paige, C. V. Gillespie, Wm. Burling, J. H. Coghill, Burgoyne & Co., Adams & Co., Wm. Hooper, Nathaniel Lane, Capt. Tibbs, C. L. Ross, S. R. Bolton, D. Gibb, Moorhouse & Whitehead, E. Mickle & Co., J. D. Stevenson, Capt. King, R. M. Sherman, Wm. Sherman, Geo. H. Hudson, Wm. Greene, Thos. Hayes, S. Brannan, Eugene L. Sullivan, Capt. Folsom, Capt. Tieden, J. L. Little, Wm. Vischer and F. C. Ewer.

On or about April, 1, 1850, the School had greatly increased in number; and had in every way prospered beyond the expectations of its most sanguine friends. It had become an ornament to the city, a blessing to the children and youth—then rapidly gathering in from every habitable part of the globe. It was appreciated and referred to with pride and satisfaction by San Franciscans, who had now commenced to feel some interest in her, other than felt for a place only of business and turmoil—the field of adventure; for there were those who thought to make here a future home for themselves and for their children; accordingly, the Ayuntamiento or City Council adopted the School then formed, (by ordinance passed April 10th, 1850,) and undertook its support as a free Public

School, employing Mr. and Mrs. Pelton, to continue it at a nominal salary of \$500 per month, for the services of both, and by them it was taught till the fall of 1851, (uninterrupted except by occasional fires and short vacations); when, to meet the then greatly increased demands of the youth of the city, a new school ordinance was matured and adopted, (not differing materially from the one now in force,) and a new Board of Education and Superintendent elected. Under this new Board of Education, acting under the provisions of this new ordinance, the following Schools were organized, viz.:

No. 1. Washington Street School, now Powell Street. . . . .	established Dec.	1849
No. 2. Denman Grammar	"	Sept. 1851
No. 3. Rincon	"	Jan. 1852
No. 4. Spring Valley	"	Feb. 1852
No. 5. Union Street	"	June, 1852

Under the circumstances attending the establishment of the first school in 1849—and not less under those attending the re-organization of the schools in 1852, nothing but true zeal and a devotion to their interests could have overcome the difficulties that opposed their progress. Neither of these requisites were wanting on the part of Mr. Pelton, who gave the schools their *first existence*, or those who have succeeded him.

The history of our Public School department is full of interest; but the facts and circumstances connected therewith being within the recollection of most of our present citizens, no more than a cursory glance will be expected from us to *complete* this sketch, which up to this time has been dwelt upon somewhat in detail.

#### RESOURCES.

Our Public Schools are supported partly by a special School-tax, and partly by semi-annual appropriations of State School Funds. The School-tax this year is 35 cents on each \$100 of assessment. From this source about \$100,000 *should* be realized annually. The appropriations from State funds now amount annually to about \$15,000. These united sources, therefore, should yield an annual fund of about \$100,000.

The following comprises a list of the Public Schools, as at present organized. Much improvement, in the way of building school-houses and the reorganization of several schools, is anticipated during the present year.

#### SAN FRANCISCO HIGH SCHOOL.

Situated (temporarily) Powell Street, between Clay and Sacramento streets. Principal, E. H.