

THE CROCKER ORGAN.

Mrs. Alexander's Memorial  
to Her Parents.

MAGNIFICENT INSTRUMENT.

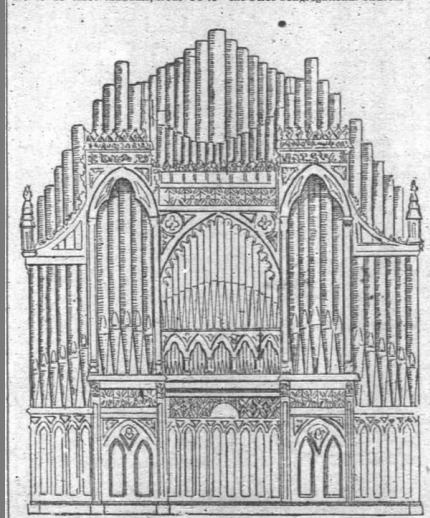
The First Congregational Church  
of This City the Re-  
cipient.

The members of the First Congregational Church of this city have long desired to have a new organ which should be at once an instrument worthy of their accomplished organist, Samuel D. Mayer, and an ornament to the church. Through the liberality of Mrs. Harriet C. Alexander their wishes are about to be gratified, and the 1st of next June will see erected in their church an organ which will be undoubtedly the finest on the Pacific coast. At the same time the interior of the church will be redecorated. While welcoming the advent of the new organ, the congregation parts with regret from the old. The First Congregational Church was organized in 1849, and the next year it ordered from Stevens of Cambridge the instrument which is doing good service to-day. This organ was originally set up in the old church at the corner of California and Dupont streets. In 1872 it was removed to the new church, and a reversed action was put in for Mr. Mayer's accommodation.

The cost of the new organ is to be over \$10,000, and it is presented to the church by Mrs. Alexander as a memorial to her father and mother. A bronze tablet on the front of the organ will bear this inscription: "To the praise of God and in loving memory of Charles and Mary A. Crocker. Presented by their daughter, Harriet C. Alexander, 1890." The case of the instrument is to be of black walnut; it will be thirty-four feet high by twenty-five wide. The pipes will be arranged into a central portion, two towers and two wings. The decorations of the pipes in the towers and central portion will be of aluminum leaf and gold, and in the wings of copper bronze. There are to be three manuals, from C to C,

61 sixty-one notes, and pedals from C to F, thirty notes. A reversed action will be added at the expense of the congregation, so that the organist may continue to play, sing tenor and direct the choir as he does at present. There are seven mechanical registers, operated by thumb-pistons, three mechanical accessories and fourteen movements, including a grand crescendo pedal operated on an entirely new principle. This crescendo is to be automatic in its action, being controlled by a balanced pedal standing in its normal position at an angle of forty-five degrees. By a very slight pressure from the toe the stops will be so arranged as to come, one after another, from softest to loudest until all are on. The reverse movement will be produced by a pressure of the heel, withdrawing all the stops or as many as may be desired, with any degree of rapidity, the position of the stops being shown by an indicator. The arrangement of the vox humana is noticeable. It is to be placed upon an independent windchest, situated within the swellbox back of the swellchest, thus enabling the organist to use the stop for solo work from the choirboard and to play his accompaniment upon the swell. By this means the same shading will be obtained for both solo and accompaniment.

In the voicing of the organ the builder, George S. Hutchings of Boston, has followed no particular school, but has adopted the best points of the English, French and German methods. The diapasons are to be of the full, smooth, tone peculiar to the English builder, while the strong tones will be distinctively German. These, added to the filling quality of tone of the wood and harmonique stops, with the brilliant reeds, will produce a majestic and sonorous effect. Especial pains are being taken to obtain perfect and characteristic equality throughout each register and perfect blending in all. The total number of stops will be sixty-three and of pipes 2500. The motive power to blow the organ will be a Backus water motor, located in a building separate from the church. The action of the water motor will be automatic, working only when the air is being drawn off and then in proportion as it is used. The organist has nothing to do but to draw a stop and the motor will take charge of the business. As the motor is never absent and never asleep, its advantages over the average organ blower are evident. Samuel D. Mayer, who will preside over the magnificent instrument described above, is well known as the accomplished grand organist of the Masonic order. He has resided in San Francisco twenty-four years, for eighteen of which he has been organist of the First Congregational Church.



The Crocker organ.