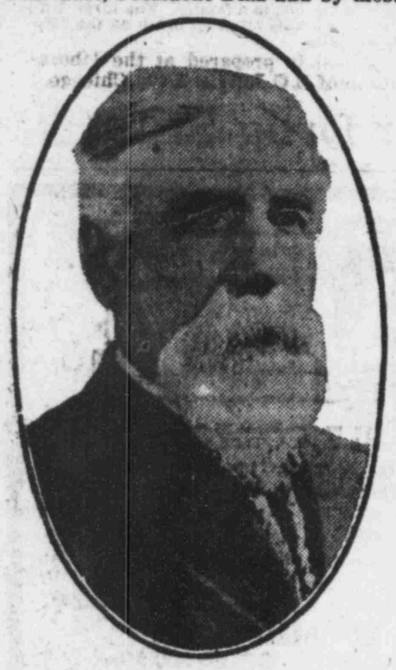
Frisco's Big Celebration Plans For Her Festival

To celebrate the rehabilitation of the city and to commemorate the discovery of its harbor by Don Gaspar de Portola, first Spanish governor of California, in 1768, the citizens of San Francisco will hold the Portola festival Oct. 19 to 23. To accord with the herculean task of the rebuilding of the city the festival will rival any of the great public celebrations of the world.

Plans for the festival have been on a most extensive scale, for the nations of the world will be the guests of San Francisco during Portola week, and they will be entertained with true California hospitality. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent for decorations, illuminations, parades and pageants, balls and banquets and in prizes for tournaments on land and sea and in the air. On Oct. 19 toasts to the city will be proposed by President Taft, President Diaz and by most



NICHOLAS A. COVARRUBIAS, IMPERSONATOR OF PORTOLA.

of the crowned heads of Europe. At noon on the opening day of the festival millions of school children throughout the United States will salute San Francisco.

All the nations of the world will take part in the Portola festival. England, Germany, France, Holland and Italy will send warships to participate in the celebration. Cruisers will come from China and Japan bearing princes of the royal blood with messages to the people of San Francisco and the United States from the sovereigns of the orient. A large fleet of American cruisers, monitors, torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers will be gather-

MISS VERGILIA BOGUE, QUEEN OF THE PORTOLA FESTIVAL.

ed in the bay during the Portola festival. Thousands of Uncle Sam's infantry and cavalry will participate in the parades, and the coming of the foreign warships will be signalized by roars of welcome from the big guns that guard the Golden Gate.

The feat of rearing in three years a modern city of marble and granite and steel out of acres of desolation, smoldering ruins and twisted debris has challenged the admiration of the world. This twentieth century miracle has fairly startled Europe, where the course of life runs slower than in this country and the people are not accustomed to the marvels of American energy and skill. Charles C. Moore, former president of the San Francisco chamber of commerce, went abroad as an emissary of the Portola festival armed with credentials from the state department at Washington. In every capital his arrival awakened intense interest, and throngs crowded to see the photographs that showed the rehabilitation of the city. The great European powers were only too glad to participate in the Portola festival. Besides warships, each ruler will be represented by an emissary, who will convey to the people of San Francisco his sovereign's appreciation of their labors.

In the latter part of April, 1906, San Francisco's business, manufacturing and industrial sections were but memories. They were deserted save by lonely sentries and skulking ghouls; they were silent save for the muffled roar of falling walls.

Three thousand acres of the business center of the city had been scourged by fire while the world looked on aghast. Twenty-eight thousand buildings had been destroyed, and the loss reached the appalling total of $300,000,000. Hundreds of thousands were homeless. There were no churches, schools or other public buildings. Sessions of the courts had to be held in private residences, and ministers assembled their flock in squares and parks. The money, bonds and securities of the inhabitants were in vaults and safes buried deep in the ruins. There were no stocks of merchandise because there were no stores; there were no stores because there were no buildings. The work of years had been swept away in a day, and thousands lost everything except the clothes on their backs.

Yet hardly had the smoke cleared away and even before the ruins had cooled the work of rebuilding the city had begun. With the indomitable spirit of their forefathers San Franciscans buckled down to their task. Manicured aristocrat and horny handed son of toil sweated and strained at the task of moving the debris. Railroad tracks were laid along the streets to facilitate the work of clearing the ruins. The city's inhabitants swarmed like ants over the mountains of twisted steel and demolished masonry. By day and by night the work went on. Masons worked by electric light, and even in the midnight the sounds of clanging steel and the pulsations of the riveter resounded throughout the city. In forty months the city has rebuilt itself out of itself. The building permits show that structures have been erected costing more than $50,000,000 in excess of the total value of the buildings destroyed in the great fire.

In October the visitors to San Francisco at the time of the Portola festival will be greeted by miles of streets gorgeously decorated and glowing with myriads of electric lights. He will see the thoroughfares lined with handsome buildings representing the height of architectural skill. Speedy electric cars will whisk him about from place to place. He will be housed in the most modern hotels with every convenience and luxury at his call. He will be the guest at their revels of the city's inhabitants to whom the great fire is fast becoming only a memory. The new hotels of San Francisco have

BUSINESS STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO AT THE PRESENT TIME.

become famous throughout the land. The records show that the city now boasts of 136 hosteiries, with a capacity of 15,300 rooms. Five large hotels, including the famous Palace, will soon be furnished and will accommodate thousands of guests.

The Portola festival is expected to rival any of the world famous carnivals and fetes. California has been famous for its fiestas. The best features of these will be incorporated in the coming celebration, and the rollicking carnival spirit handed down from early Spanish settlers will be rampant in San Francisco Portola week.

The huge pageants have been arranged as part of the program for the festival. The first of these will occur on the opening day and will inaugurate the festival. It will be the entrance of Don Gaspar de Portola into the city. To impersonate Portola, Nicholas Covarrubias of Santa Maria, Cal., has been chosen. He is one of the most expert horsemen and picturesque characters of the state. In the olden days he was king at all of the fiestas, and he will make a truly regal Portola. Portola will be accompanied by a troop of dragoons to typify the soldiers who accompanied him on the famous march that resulted in the discovery of San Francisco bay. These dragoons are to be recruited from San Francisco's handsomest men and most daring riders, and thousands of soldiers and sailors will follow the cavalcade lead by Don Gaspar de Portola.

There will be many brilliant social affairs during Portola week. Big balls and banquets are being planned, which will be gay with the brilliant uniforms of the officers of the army and navy and the diplomats of foreign countries. Miss Vergilia Bogue has been chosen queen of the Portola. She is the daughter of Virgil Bogue, chief engineer and vice president of the Western Pacific, and very prominent in society. She is one of the most beautiful women in the state and will be attended by a bevy of the beauties of California.

Swept Over Niagara

This terrible calamity often happens because a careless boatman ignores the river's warnings—growing ripples and faster currents—nature's warnings are kind. That dull pain or ache in the back warns you the kidneys need attention if you escape fatal maladies—dropsy, diabetes or bright's disease. Take Electric Bitters at once and see backache fly and all your best feelings return. "After long suffering from weak kidneys and lame back, one $1.00 bottle wholly cured me," writes J. R. Blankenship, of Belk, Tenn. Only 50c at Banner Drug Store.

FOR FEMININE FLIERS.

Costumes That Are Now Designed For the Lady Aeroplanist.

"Madam, your airship awaits you."

"Very well, James. I'll be there just as soon as I get my new aviation hat on straight."

THE AEROPLANE HAT.

No, gentle reader, this is no joke. So interested have the fair sex become in aerial navigation and such progress has been made by the airship inventors that it begins to look as if the prediction made two years ago that milady would do her shopping by airship in 1910 might come true. At any rate, the big London and Paris dressmakers seem to think so, for they have included in their latest styles some new and striking aviation costumes for the feminine fliers. No doubt there will be a demand for them, as a number of women have sailed in aeroplanes recently.

When going up in an airship the greatest danger is of taking cold in the throat or ears, and a hat has just been placed on the market which protects both organs.

Besides the aviation costume shown in the illustration, which was designed in London, one is being shown by the Paris dressmakers. It is rather advanced, but then the woman who goes aeroplaning is an advanced woman. The costume consists of a waterproof hood, a heavy woolen sweater, canvas knickerbockers, army puttees and stout shoes. A pair of automobile gauntlets and, if desired, goggles complete the rather bizarre costume.

During his stay in Europe Wilbur Wright took up at various times six women—his sister Miss Katherine; Mrs. Leon Bollee Mrs. Lazar Weller Countess Lambert and Mrs. Har O'Berg, wife of hi business manag on the other side.

THE AEROPLANE COSTUME.

The Wright brothers confess rather proudly that their sister knows almost as much about aeroplanes as they do and is competent to handle one in flight alone. During the recent remarkable demonstration of airship possiblities at Rheims, France, the women spectators were even more enthusiastic than the men. Every indication points to a continuation of this enthusiasm among the more daring of the sex, to the point of actual ownership and personal operation of flying machines.

Imperfect Digestion

Means less nutrition and in consequence less vitality. When the liver fails to secrete bile, the blood becomes loaded with bilious properties, the digestion becomes impaired and the bowels constipated. Herbine will rectify this; it gives tone to the stomach, liver and kidneys, strengthens the appetite, clears and improves the complexion, infuses new life and vigor in the whole system. 50 cents a bottle. Sold by all druggists.

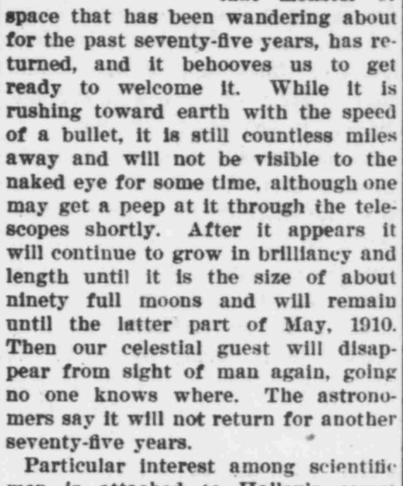
The Return Of a Famous Comet.

WATCHING FOR THE COMET.

From now on we must take care of our eyesight and get the family telescope in good working order, for there is to be be a free show in the heavens that we do not want to miss. Halley's famous comet, that monster of space that has been wandering about for the past seventy-five years, has returned, and it behooves us to get ready to welcome it. While it is rushing toward earth with the speed of a bullet, it is still countless miles away and will not be visible to the naked eye for some time, although one may get a peep at it through the telescopes shortly. After it appears it will continue to grow in brilliancy and length until it is the size of about ninety full moons and will remain until the latter part of May, 1910. Then our celestial guest will disappear from sight of man again, going no one knows where. The astronomers say it will not return for another seventy-five years.

Particular interest among scientific men is attached to Halley's comet because it is the first one to reappear as predicted. Prior to the time of Halley, comets were supposed to be only occasional visitors. But Halley found that by calculating that the comet traveled in a closed curve it would return to the solar system at intervals of about seventy-five years.

After his observations of the comet in 1682 he calculated that it would return in 1758 or 1759. He was right. The comet was again seen in 1835 and has been absent since that date. When first sighted the comet was very



A COMET CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA.

large and brilliant. Since then it has been smaller and less bright. In 1835 it was only about half as large and brilliant as in 1759.

Halley's comet is so called not because Halley discovered it, for it had long been known, but because he was the first to calculate its orbit and to predict its return. Halley was born in 1656 and was educated at St. Paul's school and Queen's college, Oxford. He was a notable astronomer, traveled much on the continent and was a friend of Sir Isaac Newton. In 1720 he was made astronomer royal, and, besides predicting the return of the comet in 1682, he recommended the use of the transit of Venus for obtaining the parallax of the sun. He died in 1742 with a European reputation as an astronomer.

No one need hide under the bed or seek a cyclone cellar because we are to have a visit from this comet, however. There is not the slightest danger of its colliding with the earth or in any way disturbing us, as all comets are looked upon with scientific curiosity rather than fear. Not so with the comets of the past, however.

The appearance of the comet in 1456 spread terror all over Europe, and in all the churches people prayed to be delivered from the Turks and the comet. Three years earlier Constantine, the last emperor of Byzantium, had died the death of a hero on the Sandjakdar Yokushar, the Sultan Mohammed had entered the city, and the Church of St. Sophia had become a mosque. The crusades were over, and Christianity seemed fated to succumb to Islam, for nothing was able to stop the conquering Moslems. Then, in 1456, the comet appeared in the heavens, and Europe saw in it the scimitar of Othman, foretelling the subjugation of Christendom.

As to the appearance of Halley's comet on its return, it depends entirely upon its position with regard to the earth and sun. If the earth happens to be near the comet about the time of its passage round the sun, when the comet's light is necessarily greatest and the train most extended, then we shall have a splendid view of the glorious spectacle. At its return in 1759 the comet had a train of 50 degrees in length and was best seen in the southern hemisphere—that is, the train of the comet extended to a distance equivalent to a little more than halfway from the zenith to the horizon.

At its next return, in 1835, it was somewhat short of its splendor, for its train was but 15 degrees in length. How the comet will look now it is impossible to conjecture, but it is to be hoped that it will treat us to a display worthy of its former reputation.

THE NEWEST STAR.

Elsie Ferguson's Great Success in "Such a Little Queen."

When those much criticised and much overworked gentlemen, the dramatic critics, remain to see the last act of a play on the opening night and then unanimously agree that a certain actress in the show has made a decided hit we may put it down as a fact that such is the case. In "Such a Little Queen," now playing in New York and soon to tour the country, Elsie Ferguson in the leading role does work that ranks her among the real stars of the American stage, and the critics are entirely justified in the unstinted praise they have accorded her.

The newest star has risen with unusual rapidity, but many of those who saw her last season in "The Battle"

MISS ELSIE FERGUSON.

predicted just such a success for her as she has won. In consideration of her acknowledged triumph her name has been emblazoned on the electric sign in front of the theater at which she is playing, and in other ways the world has been given notice that Miss Ferguson is now a star.

Miss Ferguson is a native New Yorker. Her father died before she was born, and she has had to depend largely on the advice and guidance of her elder brother. Now she conducts herself much like a woman thoroughly able to take care of herself and manage her own affairs.

The play in which the actress has won such marked success, "Such a Little Queen," is a stirring romance by Channing Pollock. She takes the part of the little queen of Herzegovina, a role that gives her a splendid opportunity to display her ability. Miss Ferguson employs a delightful German accent, not a dialect, in her part, and many people have wondered how she acquired it.

"My mother is German," she explained, "and I learned the language when I was very young. But my German has fallen into disuse, and when I got this part I employed the summer months in studying the language according to an up to date system. Then in Chicago I paid close attention to Lena Abarbanell, whose German accent is perfect. If I were giving advice to young actresses I should say, 'Work hard and be observant.'"

For a clear head, a stout heart and strong mind, DeWitt's Little Early Risers, gentle, safe, easy, pleasant, little pills. DeWitt's Carbolized Witch Hazel Salve is unequaled for anything where a salve is needed, and is especially good for piles. Sold by Banner Drug Store.

Scottish Marriage Custom.

Many quaint marriage customs still survive in some old English and Scottish families. One notable tradition of this sort still kept green by the Dukes of Atholl and their heirs, says the London Lady's Realm, is that of the bridegroom carrying the bride across the threshold of Blair castle, it being in accord with an ancient tradition that it is unlucky for a bride who enters the castle for the first time to walk in the ordinary way. This is only one of the many quaint old feudal customs that are observed upon this estate, which the Duke of Atholl holds from the crown by one of those strange tenures which are occasionally to be found in Great Britain. Upon fear of forfeiture the owner has to present his sovereign with a white rose whenever he or she visits the castle.