

himself by a peculiar whistle the peacocks and other wild birds which he fed with peanuts and crumbs from his pocket. This trifling incident shows the simplicity and tender refinement of his nature.

In 1878 San Francisco was passing through the stormy days of "Sand-lot Excitements," when the strongest men were needed in the department of police. Mr. Alvord was appointed police commissioner at this time and rendered the city most efficient service in the department for a period of twenty-one years. Notwithstanding the important public service which Mr. Alvord rendered the city, he was a very much engaged business man and gained for himself a high reputation as a safe, strong and conservative financier. He was one of the original incorporators of the Bank of California in 1864 and became a director in the bank in 1871, the year in which he was elected Mayor. For many years this bank has been the largest and best known on the Pacific Coast. At a time when there was a great crisis in the bank and financial circles of San Francisco Mr. Alvord was one of the first to come forward to save the credit of the city by securing the credit of the bank. He was later elected president of the bank and held the position at the time of his death. Some conception of his wide spread business interests may be gathered from the following: he was president of the Alaska-Treadmill Gold Mining Co; president of the Alaska-Mexican Gold Mining Company; president of the Alaska-United Gold Mining Company; president of the San Francisco Clearing House; president of the Spring Valley Water Company; president of the Pacific Club; president of the Loring Club; president of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific; chairman of the local board of directors of the London, Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company; director of the Selby Smelting and Lead Works; director of the United Railroads of San Francisco; director of the Spreckels and Western Sugar Refining Companies; director of the Security Savings Bank, and director of the California Title Insurance and Trust Company.

Any biographical sketch of William Alvord that spoke merely of his career as a business man or in the field of politics would be incomplete indeed. He had by nature a genuine scientific and artistic spirit and devoted much time and energy to its cultivation, contributing liberally for the advancement of both science and art. He was elected president of the San Francisco Art Association in 1871 and re-elected for several terms. He early became a member of the American Forestry Association of Washington, D. C., serving as its