

The Argonaut -San Francisco

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The Cliff House.

From a woman of taste and public spirit, a devoted daughter of California, we have a letter, to be found on another page, which is worth the attention of everybody who is interested in seeing something beautiful and really worth while grow out of the ashes at the cliff which borders the Golden Gate. Our contributor does not too severely characterize the architectural monstrosity of which a kindly accident has relieved us. Like everything else fashioned by the mind and taste of the late Mr. Sutro, it was a thing of complicated and amazing ugliness. There is now the opportunity to create on this sightly and historic cliff something worthy of one of the most noble building sites in the whole world. Already, we are told, it has been determined to construct a new hostelry in the place of the old; and before the scheme is fully developed we hope that the suggestion of our correspondent will meet with careful consideration.

A structure modeled upon classic lines would, as somebody has already suggested, be a vast improvement over the building just destroyed; but better still, we think, would be a characteristic structure after the Mission style, as suggested by our correspondent. Not only is the Mission architecture preëminently characteristic of California, but it lends itself to the purposes essential in a renewed Cliff House. A red-tiled roof would make an especially charming addition to a landscape which, for the larger part of the year, lacks the vivacity which color alone can give.

The Cliff House is something more than a private enterprise; it is essentially a public institution. It is a thing so connected with the life and sentiment of the city as to justify suggestions which, in the case of an ordinary private building, might appear misplaced or impertinent. The owners of the Cliff House site, we are sure, will not resent, but on the contrary will welcome suggestions which illustrate the interest of the public.
