

### The Public Squares

Of the city, of which there are several, are convenient of access to the people, but have as yet been permitted to remain almost wholly in a state of nature. A movement is on foot looking to a general system of improvement of these miniature parks. The city is becoming so thickly settled in many sections that the adornment and utilization of the public grounds for the public benefit is a matter of interest to the community. A moderate amount expended annually would soon render them attractive places of resort.

The grounds of the Oakland Base Ball Association, on the corner of Center and Fourteenth Streets, have been enclosed with a high fence, and a stand capable of seating several hundred spectators erected. Buildings for an office, refreshment and waiting rooms have also been provided. Altogether several thousands of dollars have been laid out, and as a result Oakland can boast the largest and best appointed baseball grounds on the Coast. Match games are played weekly. Clubs visiting this city from all parts of the State.

### Street Market.

An ordinance establishing a free street market went into effect in May, 1878, and a regular and largely attended market is held every Wednesday and Saturday. The line of wagons and stands extends from Eighth street to Fifth, on the east side of Broadway. Producers from the country find this market a great benefit, and the city residents a great convenience. Producer and consumer are brought together.

### The Central Pacific Railroad Company

Are constructing at Oakland Point a steamer of colossal proportions. It is designed as a freight and passenger boat, to ply between Benicia and Carquinez Station, and will be the vehicle of transportation for the overland trade and travel. Its dimensions are: length, four hundred and twenty-five feet over all; breadth, one hundred and fifteen feet; depth of hold, sixteen feet. It will accommodate at one time twenty-four passenger cars, or forty-eight freight cars. Over one and a half millions of feet of lumber will be used in its construction. This will undoubtedly be the largest

steamer for ferry purposes in the world. Its cost will approximate \$375,000.

### The Narrow Gauge Railroad.

A franchise has been granted by the City Council to A. C. Dietz, for the right of construction of a narrow gauge steam railroad, from San Antonio Creek northward along Lake Merritt to the northern limits of the city. This road is designed to penetrate the San Pablo Range by means of a tunnel, to run thence northward, by the most advantageous route, to Oregon, with an ultimate contemplated terminus on Puget Sound. Work will probably be commenced immediately upon the completion of the final survey and the establishment of the grades through the city. We give the text of the ordinance conferring the franchise.

### The Dietz Franchise.

An ordinance granting to A. C. Dietz, his associates and assigns, the right to lay down and maintain a steam railroad in the City of Oakland.

The Council of the City of Oakland do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. The said A. C. Dietz, his associates and assigns, is hereby granted for the term of fifty years the right to lay down and construct and operate a steam railroad with double or single tracks from a point beginning at the boundary line between the City of Oakland and the Town of Alameda, fifty feet east of the easterly line of Fallon street, projected to such boundary line, thence running northwardly through the marsh land and east of said Fallon street crossing Seventh and Eighth streets to Twelfth street, now called Central Avenue; thence crossing Central Avenue; thence to where the same would intersect Fourteenth street, extended 430 feet from the easterly line of Oak street; thence to a point to where the same would intersect Lake street, extended 200 feet from the easterly line of Oak street; thence crossing the western arm or portion of Lake Merritt to the northeasterly margin of said Lake, with the right of constructing a bridge across said arm of said Lake of sufficient dimensions for the purposes of said railroad, and also sufficient for a roadway for all vehicles, and a footway for pedestrians, to