

WASHINGTON SQUARE.—In the northern section of the city the Board of Supervisors have performed a most necessary and sanitary act in inclosing and beautifying Washington Square. This once unsightly spot, the disgust of all passers by, has at length assumed a look of cheerfulness, and it is a pleasant sight to see the children gamboling through its walks, their young frames strengthened and invigorated by the health-giving breezes fresh from the ocean.

COLUMBIA SQUARE.—This lung of the southern part of the city has also been improved, and from a piece of unsightly waste land has now assumed the appearance of a cultivated oasis in the desert of sand-hills abounding in that quarter and will prove a healthful place of recreation for the children of the neighborhood.

NEW MONTGOMERY STREET.—This street has been opened from Market to Howard streets, and will doubtless become a favorite locality for stores at least that portion next to Market Street; this will be an acceptable feature for the increasing population of the southern part of the city. It is contemplated by the company owning the property to build several first-class residences on that portion of the street near Howard Street as an inducement to respectable families to reside there; the proximity of the Grand Hotel and the removal of the palatial residences from Rincon Hill will doubtless make this quarter the Belgravia of San Francisco.

THE MONTGOMERY STREET EXTENSION.—When this contemplated improvement shall have been carried out, San Francisco can boast of a street affording a promenade of one and three-quarters miles long, from Vallejo to Channel streets, adorned with as handsome buildings as are to be seen in any city of the Union. This in connection with the Second Street cut will form two direct avenues for traffic between the southern and northern sections of the city.

New Buildings.

CHURCH BUILDINGS.—Several new and costly edifices devoted to religion have been erected and completed during the past year, the principal of which is the Calvary Presbyterian Church, having an outside measurement of one hundred and sixteen feet on Geary Street by seventy-six on Powell Street, erected at a cost of about \$90,000, exclusive of the lot valued at \$50,000. This church consists of two stories, the lower designed for lecture, class, library, and Sunday-school uses, and the upper for pastor's study and regular services. The building, which is surmounted by ten small towers, partakes of a combination of styles, the Grecian being predominant. Though massive and substantial it is not devoid of elegance, comparing favorably with the many handsome ecclesiastical edifices situate in that part of the city. . . . The new St. Patrick's Catholic Church, on the north side of Mission Street, between Third and Fourth, will, when finished, be one of the largest churches in the State. Its dimensions are one hundred and sixty by ninety feet in the clear. The style of architecture is Gothic. The walls are of great thickness, and the floor is supported by iron pillars, giving great strength and solidity to the building. The walls are thirty feet high from the basement, and from this point there is a clear story, making the height inside, from floor to ceiling, seventy-five feet. This will be surmounted by a tower two hundred and twenty-five feet in height. The building contains five aisles, and, to render it secure against earthquakes, the roof will be supported independently of the walls, by resting on two rows of pillars, which run the entire length of the building. From these pillars arms are thrown out, to support the side roof from which the clear story starts. The roof is firmly bound to these pillars, which are connected to each other by girders. The building is under the supervision of the Rev. Father Gray, with Mr. M. O'Brien as superintending builder. . . . The congregation of the Second Baptist Church are erecting a commodious and elegant edifice on Russ Street between Howard and Folsom. Its exterior is seventy by one hundred feet. The style of architecture is purely Gothic. The roof is surmounted by three spires, the center one being eighty feet in height, and the other two of lesser altitudes. The cost of the church and lot will be \$45,000. Wolfe & Sons are the architects. . . . The congregation of the Central Presbyterian Church have recently completed a very handsome edifice on Tyler Street near Taylor. It has a frontage of twelve feet, running back one hundred and thirty-one and a half feet, and is capable of seating five hundred persons. The building is of wood with a brick foundation, and is heavily bolted and firmly braced together. There are two towers in front, and on the westerly one rises a spire one hundred and twelve feet high. The style of architecture is the Norman of the eleventh century, somewhat modified. Altogether, it has a very imposing appearance. . . . The congregation of the Fifth Baptist Church, Rev. C. A. Buckbee, Pastor, have completed a neat structure on Twenty-second Street, between Howard and Capp, at a cost, including the lot, of \$13,000. . . . New church buildings have been also erected by the Third Baptist Church (colored), Rev. J. R. Young, Pastor, at a cost of \$10,000; the Bush Street M. E. Church, Rev. W. Hulbert, Pastor, and the South San Francisco M. E. Church, Rev. T. P. Williams, Pastor.

THE NEW U. S. BRANCH MINT.—This magnificent public edifice was commenced in the early part of the present year. It is situated on the northwest corner of Mission and Fifth streets.