

occupied by the successive buildings for various Mechanics' Fairs, is now one of the most beautifully-improved and neatly-kept squares of the metropolis.

Nearer the northerly or north central portion of the city, Washington Square, bounded by Filbert, Stockton, Union, and Powell streets, supplies a sort of municipal lung for the denizens in that vicinity.

Besides these, Columbia, Lobos, Alcatraz, Lafayette, Jefferson, Alta, Hamilton, and Alamo squares relieve their respective portions of the city from undue crowding and suggest to the neighboring residents the beautiful meadows of their earlier homes, or the arid deserts of Arabia, according as their grassy or sandy surfaces attest the attention or neglect of the City Fathers. Liberal appropriations were authorized by the Legislature, at its session of 1876, for the improvement of several of the public squares hitherto neglected by our city authorities.

PROMENADES.—Montgomery Street is our occidental Broadway. On either side rise some of the largest and finest retail business houses. Three of the leading hotels are here, and four others within less than half a block. During the forenoon business occupies its area almost exclusively. Near its intersection with California Street, "the bulls and bears of Mammon's fierce zoology" frequently congregate in crowds so dense as to monopolize the side walks. Afternoons, fashion claims its place, and well-nigh crowds business, not exactly to the wall, but out upon the curbstone and occasionally into the gutter.

From three to five P.M. the tide of Mammon ebbs and that of fashion swells in at full flood. Noble and queenly women alternate with their fair and frail sisters, forms of beauty and faces which range downward from positive plainness to undisguisable ugliness, calicoes, silks, satins, velvets, broadcloths, beavers, and cassimeres, make up the motley throng, swaying, trailing, and jostling up and down the crowded thoroughfare. Many of the female faces are exceedingly fair, "as far as we can see," and the forms equally graceful, with the same qualification. Masculine faces, broad-browed, clear-eyed, firm-mouthed, or fully-bearded, irresistibly impress one with the dash, the drive, and the nerve which have tunneled the everlasting hills, spanned the continent with rails, and bridged the Pacific with steamships ere yet the full flush of manhood has fairly settled upon them. Too many show the full, uncertain lip, flushed cheek, and dewy eye that tell of excessive stimulants too frequently applied. Nowhere on earth is the temptation to drink as strong as here. Business is brisk, competition sharp, and the climate the most constantly stimulating anywhere to be found. Rivalry spurs them on every hand, and scores stand waiting to take their places the moment they step aside. So they drive till nature falters or weakens and calls for rest. But nature's rest they cannot or will not afford; an artificial stimulant is quicker; it is everywhere close at hand; it seems to save time; companions press; everybody does it, and they follow the fashion. Business men die suddenly; on the street to-day, tomorrow at Lone Mountain. Heart disease, apoplexy, congestion of the lungs, disease of the kidneys, or liver complaint, are the causes most generally assigned to that portion of the public which cannot afford even to stop long enough to inquire. The one great cause of all these causes few stop to ask, or dare to tell.

Kearny Street, parallel with Montgomery and but a single block above, or to the west of it, competes with its companion and rival, Montgomery Street, as a great avenue of business and pleasure. Though some single buildings along Montgomery Street may be finer, the average of the newer business blocks and buildings of Kearny Street, in some portions of its extent, falls but little behind that of the great central and more celebrated avenue.

California Street, at right angles with the two great thoroughfares mentioned above, and crossing them at right angles near their centers—the Wall Street of the Pacific—runs straight down from one of the highest summits within the city limits, to within two blocks of the water front, and there debouches into Market Street. Along the crowning heights of its upper portions several of our wealthiest citizens have planted their palatial residences, elsewhere noted, commanding most extensive views of the city beneath, the bay, Oakland, Brooklyn, and the bounding hills of the Coast Range, which slope up toward, and finally culminate in, Mount Diablo. Farther down, St. Mary's Cathedral, the Safe Deposit Block, and leading telegraph offices; thence, from Montgomery Street to Battery, the finest array of business blocks and banking buildings which the city presents.

Market Street is the broad, dividing avenue which separates the older city from the newer, offers a rare architectural medley to the eye of the exploring artist. This great central highway is the longest and widest of the city streets. Starting from the water front at the western margin of the bay, whence it slightly ascends through eight or nine blocks, it runs thence southwesterly, on a nearly level grade beyond the city limits. Its surface presents nearly every conceivable variety of natural conformation ingeniously varied with artificial distortion. Plank, rubble, Macadam, cobble, Nicolson, gravel, stone foundation, deep sand, and, finally, undisguised dirt, offer their successive and pleasing variety to the exploring eye. Stately blocks, grand hotels, massive stores, common tenements, and tumble-down shanties form its varied and picturesque boundary on either hand. When the high, summer winds sweep easterly down its broad avenue laden with clouds of flying sand from vacant lots along its either margin, it sometimes becomes a decidedly open question whether some of the marginal lots really belong in the department of real estate, or should properly be entered in the catalogue of movable property. We have dwelt thus long upon this street, not only on account of its central position and superior dimensions, but because it is, in respect to many particulars, a representative street.

STEELE'S Glycerine Lotion cures Tan, Sunburn, Eruptions, etc.

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