

Others are like it as far as they can be. Did length, width, and direction permit, they would resemble it still more closely. It is fast becoming the great business street of the city, and, spite of the roughness and crudeness necessarily attaching to most of the streets of a new and fast-growing city, it unmistakably possesses all the requisites of the future "Grand Avenue" of the Pacific metropolis.

Dupont Street. Authority has been given to the Board of Supervisors, by act of the Legislature, 1876, to widen this street from Market to Filbert, an improvement earnestly desired by those living in the district affected thereby.

DRIVES.—The Cliff House Road stretches westerly from near the end of Bush Street to the Pacific Ocean beach. Originally a mere trail over the sand hills, it has become the broadest, smoothest, hardest, and longest track in the State. If the visitor wishes an idea of California horseflesh and California turnouts, let him drive out this road almost any day. The roadway is a fine, smooth, hard surface, wide enough in places for twenty teams abreast, and is often nearly filled from side to side with the smooth rolling of friendly racing teams, from the natty single buggy to the elegant coach, or hack, and the stately four-in-hand. A million dollars' worth of legs and wheels flash by a man in a very short time on this fashionable drive, especially on a racing day. Along this road are two or three road-side inns, which, like the majority of California inns, are chiefly drinking houses under another name. At the end of the road stands the Cliff House, so named from its site, the nearly solid top of a precipitous, rocky bluff, or cliff, overlooking the Seal Rocks, a few hundred feet west; then the fifty-mile sweep of the Pacific Ocean horizon, broken only by the sharp, rocky points of the Farallones, low down under the western sky, and clearly visible when fogs, and mists, and haze permit. South of the cliff the road winds down the bluff to and out upon the ocean beach, which differs from the well-known Eastern beach drives except that it is not as wide even at the lowest tides, and that the ocean view thence is far more seldom diversified with passing sails. The surf, however, is fair, and the beach usually good, so that brisk driving for two or three miles upon it seldom fails to put the oxygen into the lungs, the iodine into the blood, and the exhilaration into the spirits. Some two or three miles south of the Cliff House the road bends easterly, leaves the beach, and starts back to the city by another way, known as the Ocean House Road, which, like the former, takes its name from a public house, or hotel, near its seaward end. Approaching the city by this route, one reaches a greater height than by the Cliff House Road, and some two or three miles from the city centers enjoys a beautiful view of the southern, western, and central city, the shipping, the bay, the opposite shore, the trailing cities and towns whose straggling houses gleam between the trees of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, with their grassy foot hills, the whole view backed and bounded by the dominating peak of old Mount Diablo beyond. Coming in by this way one enters the city suburbs on the southwest, passing directly by the old Mission Dolores, with its famous old church, and makes his way back to the city centers by Market, Mission, Howard, or Folsom streets.

The "drives" of the Golden Gate Park, over four miles in length, present the most attractive advantages, constantly revealing to the eye a series of the most beautiful views of the surrounding country and the Pacific Ocean.

Between the Cliff House and the Ocean House roads, but nearer the latter, runs a third, known as the Central Ocean Drive.

Over the Bay View Road Drive, from Market along Third or Fourth street to Long Bridge, across that to the Potrero, keep straight on through the Mission cut, over Islais Creek Bridge, thence through South San Francisco, up the little rise from whose summit you may look down upon the little valley, a great bay of vegetable gardens, between which and the water, and on the north side of Bay View Race Track, stands the Bay View House. If one would readily understand why they used the phrase "Bay View" so frequently in naming localities hereabout, he has only to glance eastward from any one of several points on his way out, to solve the problem.

Northerly from the city the only drive takes one to the Presidio and Fort Point, over a road not remarkable for excellence, and through suburbs not particularly attractive.

From the city front the pleasantest and, probably, the only practicable drive, would be that upon the deck of a ferry boat. The best time for any or all of these drives is in the morning—the earlier the better. Besides the greater purity, freshness, and clearness of the air everywhere accompanying the morning hours, one then escapes the wind and dust which, on nearly every afternoon through more than half the year, constitute the chief drawback from the full enjoyment of out-door pleasure near the California coast.

Water Supply.

The water supplied to the city comes almost entirely from the works of the Spring Valley Water Company. Several large buildings derive a sufficient supply from artesian wells. At the U. S. Mint, Palace Hotel, Baldwin's Hotel, and a few other places, there are such wells. At a depth of one hundred and twenty feet a bed of gravel is found, through which runs a stream of clear, fresh, and cold water. It is of prime importance, however, that water should be distributed under a heavy pressure; and if it were possible to sink a well on every block, property holders would still prefer to procure water from pipes connected with a fountain head far above the general level of this city.