

THE NEW DOLORES.

An Improved Street Wide as Van Ness.

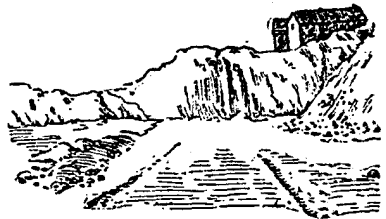
A Great Excavation Work in Progress.

The Regraded Thoroughfare Will Largely Enhance Mission Realty.

Old residents who used to make their Sunday morning walks extend as far as the old Mission Church and cemetery will remember a short street that formerly ran into the cemetery at Eighteenth street from the north. This was the old Dolores road, a wide thoroughfare nearly as wide as it was long. It was only a few years ago that a grade was established and a heavy cut made, enabling Dolores street to connect with Market street at its northern terminus, thus establishing an avenue from Market street to Eighteenth street.

To-day the old Dolores way is no longer a short road to the Mission Cemetery. The process of evolution and progress has been at work in the Mission district during more recent years, and the visitor who takes a look at Dolores street to-day will discover a magnificent residence avenue, regraded and macadamized from Market street to Liberty street, with every prospect favorable for the work being continued within a very short time as far south as Thirtieth street.

The new Dolores street is as wide as Van Ness avenue, being 120 feet in width, and fully as pretty topographically. From Market street to Sixteenth there is an easy grade, and from a slight elevation at this point still another grade south to Eighteenth street. From Eighteenth to Twentieth street during July, August and September last a force of workmen, under the direction of the Street Department, succeeded in extending Dolores street for two blocks, but in order to accomplish this result a large slice of land from the Eastern side of the old Mission Cemetery was sacrificed. The first block, from Eighteenth to Nineteenth street, required a "fill" averaging ten feet, and then commenced a "cut" of twelve feet, the de-



The cliff at Liberty street.

bris from the "cut" being utilized in making the "fill." Thus the new street of Dolores progressed southward from Market street to Liberty.

At the intersection of Liberty street a huge mountain of rock and gravel fully forty feet in height blocked the way of future improvements, but residents of Liberty street, seeking to improve their real possession, engaged a force of workmen and the great forty-foot wall is now pretty well cut down and the debris hauled away. This makes Dolores street a handsome avenue, as wide as Van Ness and as well graded and curbed, through from Market to Liberty street.

In the face of further improvements and the extension of Dolores street southward, is a hill extending from the embankment at Liberty street to Twenty-first street, a distance of 237½ feet. It is composed of rock and gravel from twenty-five to thirty-five feet in height. It is not generally known that a force of men has been at work tearing away this big hill since June, 1888. The result of their labor can scarcely be seen until one clammers on the summit of the hill, when earthworks and fortifications very like those of the military make themselves apparent. This work of excavation has been pursued by the Omnibus Cable Company, which started in 1888 to take out rock and gravel for its own use, the labor being furnished gratis. Already 9000 yards of earth have been taken out, and there still remain perhaps 40,000 yards to be excavated. Work of this kind costs about 45 cents a yard, and the 9000 yards already taken out by the cable company means a saving to the city of about \$4000. Most of the rock and gravel taken to Third and Howard streets, to the yards of the cable company, are from there distributed about the city.

South of the big Liberty-street hill Dolores street extends in an improved condition to Thirtieth street, where another hill still larger is encountered. Just over the hill the Southern Pacific Company is building a costly iron bridge 285 feet in length. In a few years doubtless the city government will order both hills cut down, and when that is accomplished Dolores street will be a beautiful thoroughfare nearly a mile in length. For the present, at least, the property-owners in the vicinity of Liberty-street hill are not in favor of the city taking hold of the work, for the reason that as long as the Omnibus Cable Company takes out the rock and gravel the labor is free and the taxpayers are the gainers. The cable car company secured its rights from the Supervisors with the understanding that whenever the city or individual taxpayers desired to finish the grading and cut down the hill the company would at once abandon its work. With 40,000 yards of excavating yet to be made and at the rate the work has been going forward it will require six or eight years for the cable company to complete its cutting away of the big hill from Liberty street to Twenty-first. Doubtless, however, in view of the great improvements already made in Dolores street the city will soon order the hill to be leveled.