

between Martinez and Benicia. A road to connect the latter place with the Vallejo and Sacramento road is now being built.

The entire route opened the time consumed between San Francisco and Sacramento will be shortened one hour and a half.

### NEW CITY HALL.

After the destruction by fire of the old City Hall, a prolonged struggle ensued as to whether Washington Street should be opened through the site of the burned building, or whether a new hall should be erected thereon. Finally, the latter course was determined upon, and a contract given out to Power & Ough for the erection thereof at a cost of \$20,800. The new structure is of frame and in an advanced state towards completion. Its architecture has been severely criticized, but as the hall approaches completion its symmetrical proportions become more conspicuous. It is being surmounted by a lofty cupola. The extreme height from ground to top of spire is 125 feet.

**STREET MARKET.**—Another marked feature in the city's progress is the establishment of a free country street market, an ordinance to that effect having passed the Council. It will be opened on May 25th. No license is to be required or tax imposed upon farmers and gardeners who offer the products of their industry for sale in said market. In Oakland and immediate environs there is a population of over fifty thousand, who are in a great measure dependent upon San Francisco for articles of food produced for the most part in Alameda County, and for which there is expended annually not less than \$1,000,000. The cost of double transportation, the absorption of two profits divided between the commission merchants and retailer, the deterioration by time, frequent handling, and exposure, and the loss by decay, are sufficient reasons for inviting a direct trade between the producer and consumer, which this market affords. The market will be located below Seventh Street.

**GERMANIA HALL.**—The Teutonic population of Oakland is an amusement loving class of citizens, and they have a number of halls dedicated to Momus and saloons to Gambrinus. Last Spring the foundation was laid of a three-story frame structure now known as Germania Hall. It is located on the east side of Webster Street, between Sixth and Seventh. The building is 75x120 feet in dimensions. There is a large central hall, suitable for balls, public meetings, etc., surrounded on three sides by a spacious gallery. This room is 71x85 feet in size. In addition, there is a gymnasium, 69x72 feet; lodge room, 30x54 feet; also, a supper hall below, dressing rooms, closets, etc.

The present officers of the Germania Hall Association are: J. F. W. Sohst, President; Henry Heyer, Vice-President; John Martens, Secretary; H. Kornahrens, Treasurer.

### EIGHTH STREET BRIDGE.

The erection of a bridge, spanning the estuary between Lake Merritt and San Antonio Creek, along the line of Eighth Street is one of the most important of the local improvements of 1877.

The Council was authorized by the Legislature to erect a bridge, to cost not over \$30,000. The contract was let to the Pacific Bridge Company, who commenced the work in July, and completed it in September. The bridge is one thousand two hundred and thirty-eight feet long by sixty feet wide, with roadway forty feet wide, and two walks, each ten feet wide. The wood used is Oregon pine. The roadway is built of four-inch plank. It is a very symmetrical and tasty structure.