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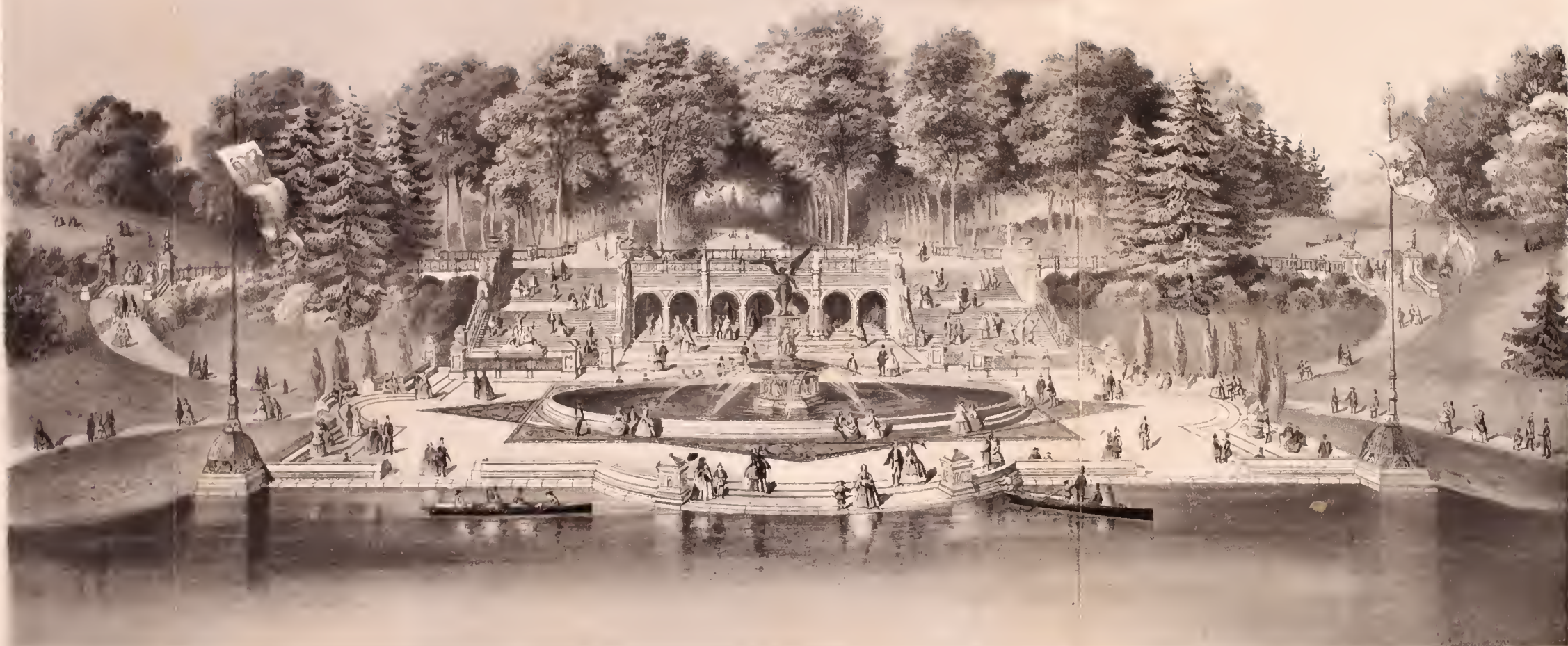
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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

CENTRAL PARK.

JANUARY, 1863.

NEW YORK:

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Board of Commissioners of the Central Park.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

1863.

CHARLES H. RUSSELL,
J. F. BUTTERWORTH,
WALDO HUTCHINS,
THOMAS C. FIELDS,

ANDREW H. GREEN,
HENRY G. STEBBINS,
R. M. BLATCHFORD,
M. H. GRINNELL.

President.

HENRY G. STEBBINS.

Treasurer and Comptroller.

ANDREW H. GREEN.

Vice-President.

M. H. GRINNELL,

Secretary.

THOMAS C. FIELDS.

Finance.—MESSRS. RUSSELL, GRINNELL, BUTTERWORTH.

Executive.—MESSRS. GRINNELL, GREEN, HUTCHINS, RUSSELL, FIELDS.

Auditing.—MESSRS. GRINNELL, FIELDS, BUTTERWORTH.

By-Laws and Ordinances.—MESSRS. HUTCHINS, FIELDS, GREEN.

Statuary, Fountains, and Architectural Structures.—MESSRS. RUSSELL,
BUTTERWORTH, GREEN.



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R E P O R T .

To the Honorable

the Common Council of the City of New York :

The Board of Commissioners of the Central Park, in compliance with the provisions of the statute, respectfully present this report of its proceedings for the year ending with the 31st day of December, 1862.

The year opened with the public mind engrossed with the operations of the General Government, the interest in which has continued, to its close, paramount and all absorbing.

The effect of these operations upon the condition of operative industry has been very apparent.

The demand for men for the army, and for the offensive and defensive works of the Government, has withdrawn a large population from the city, which, with other causes, has occasioned a general nominal increase in the rate of wages.

Inasmuch as, a large portion of the money expended on the Park is paid as wages, the advance in the rates of labor, while productive of but little increased comfort to the persons employed, has a very important bearing upon

the resources of the Commission, they being fixed within certain limits.

The work at the Park during the past year, is generally comprehended in the following statistics, which also show a comparison between that and the previous year :

Total number of working days for the year,	210
Average number of working days per month,	21
Total number of mechanics, laborers, laborers with carts and teams, masons, stone-cutters, carpenters, blacksmiths, &c., employed during the year 1861, was about	1,500
Total during the year 1862,	1,207
	<hr/>
Decrease,	293
	<hr/> <hr/>
Average force per day, exclusive of contractors' force, during the year,	560
The largest force engaged, at any one time (exclusive of contractors' force), during the year 1861, was,	1,224
The largest force engaged during 1862,	608
	<hr/>
Decrease,	616
	<hr/> <hr/>
The average force employed by contractors during the year was,	350
The average force, including contractors' force for the year, was,	910
Average number of general foremen for the year,	3

Average number of foremen employed during 1861,	30
Average number of foremen employed during 1862,	22
	<hr/>
Decrease,	8
	<hr/> <hr/>
Average number of assistant foremen employed during 1861,	18
Average number of assistant foremen employed during 1862,	7
	<hr/>
Decrease,	11
	<hr/> <hr/>

The following is a statement showing the aggregate quantities of work done and materials furnished during the past year, including contract work :

- 2,110 cubic yards rock excavation by Park force.
- 109,681 " " earth " and filling by Park force.
- 66,663 cubic yards earth, soil, and stone filling by contract (obtained from sources exterior to the Park).
- 210,330 cubic yards rock and earth excavation and filling by contract.
- 7,623 cubic yards masonry in transverse road walls.
- 1,476 cubic yards brick and stone masonry in sewers, silt-basins, and other structures.
- 1,239 lineal feet brick sewers.

- 22,550 lineal feet vitrified and cement pipes and common tiles, in road, walk, and bridge drainage.
- 353 silt and surface basins for road and walk drainage and stop-cocks.
- 32,801 superficial feet asphaltum on bridges.
- 6,100 lineal feet iron and cement water-pipe laid.
- 43 hydrants set.
- 15 stop-cocks set.
- 43 branches inserted.
- 80 $\frac{985}{1000}$ acres ground fertilized and mainly seeded.
- 8,525 cubic yards manure (compost) used.
- 46,308 lineal feet drain tiles laid for agricultural drainage.
- 74,730 trees and shrubs of all kinds planted.

MATERIALS PURCHASED, OR FURNISHED UNDER CONTRACT.

- 210,000 common hard or Philadelphia brick, exclusive of brick used by contractors.
- 1,818 barrels cement.
- 14,557 cubic yards gravel.
- 1,006 " " sand.
- 10,692 lineal feet vitrified pipes.
- 15,442 " " cement pipes.
- 1 ton of powder.
- 3,733 lineal feet of curb and gutter-stones for road and other purposes.

34,196 lineal feet drain tiles.

716 cords horse manure.

516 cubic yards cobble-stone for gutters.

The aggregate quantities of work done since the commencement of the Park, up to January 1, 1863, are as follows:

*2,417,974 cubic yards earth and rock work, materials excavated and removed within the Park, and obtained from sources exterior to the Park.

*304,480 cubic yards rock excavation.

86,984 cubic yards masonry of all kinds, stone and brick.

*126,279 lineal feet of sewers, cement and vitrified pipe and tile drains, laid in road, walk and surface drainage.

*271,341 lineal feet agricultural drainage, consisting of vitrified pipe, common tile, and about 8,133 lineal feet of stone drains.

35,000 cubic yards stone broken for roads and concrete.

19,190 cubic yards sand furnished for masonry.

166 tons of powder for blasting.

59,632 cubic yards of gravel furnished for roads and walks.

* These items, heretofore made up approximately in advance of the detailed computations, are here revised and corrected.

161,038 trees and shrubs of all kinds, planted.
 6,154,720 brick in work of all kinds.
 34,960 barrels cement.
 77,346 feet of iron and cement water-pipes laid.
 509 hydrants set.
 79 stop-cocks set.
 632 branches inserted.

The number of evergreen trees and shrubs planted
 during the year 1862 is 19,497
 The number of deciduous trees and shrubs planted
 during the year 1862 is 52,118
 The number of herbaceous plants planted in the
 year 1862 is 3,115

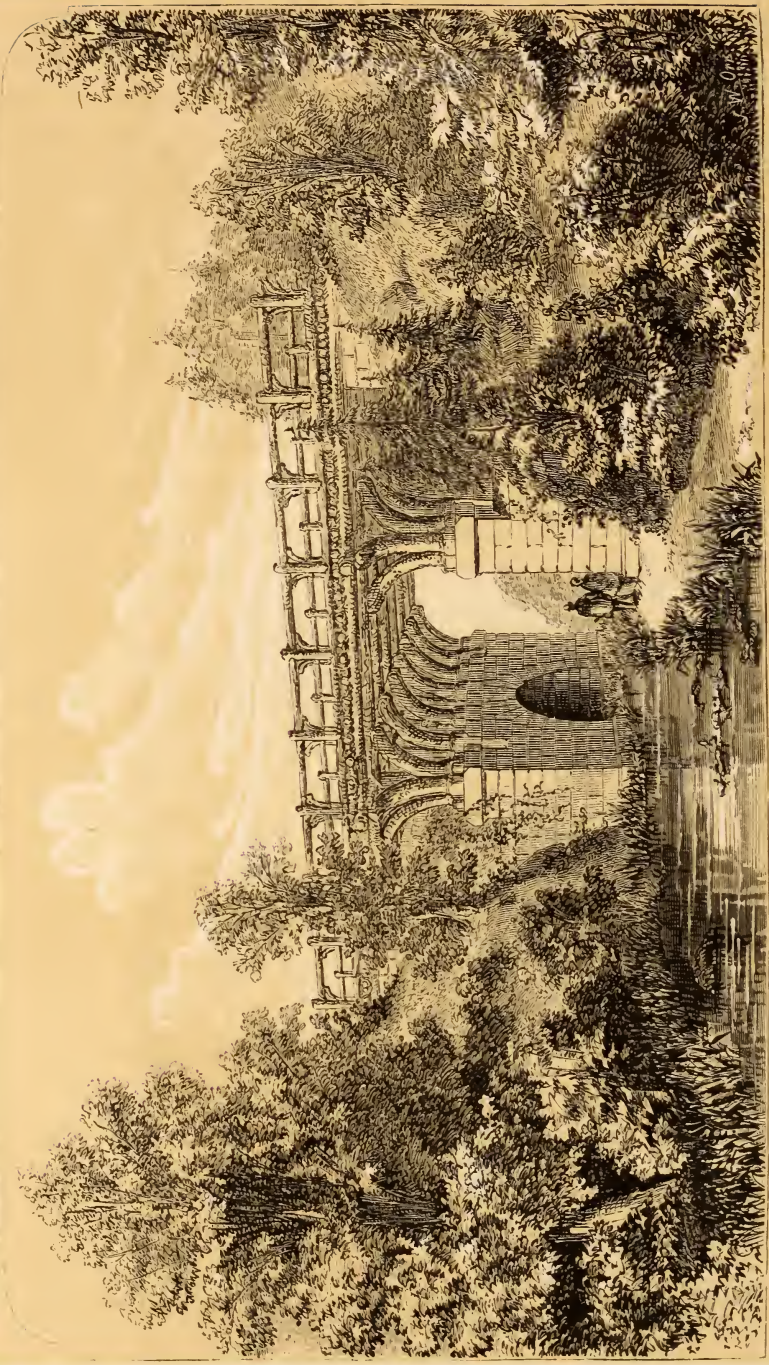
Total number planted in 1862 74,730

Of these, 15,816 were from the nurseries of the Park.

It will be perceived that the comparison of these results with those of the year 1861 shows a considerable diminution of the amount of money expended, of the number of men employed, and of materials used.

The following are some of the general features of the work completed during the past year :

Three transverse road archways, I, J, and K, have been commenced and completed this year, over transverse roads Nos. 3 and 4. Bridge No. 26 has also been commenced, and bridge No. 25 has been commenced and completed. Bridges Nos. 12 and 17, commenced last year, have been nearly completed. All the ornamental



RUSTIC BRIDGE FOR CARRIAGE DRIVE NORTH OF THE MEADOWS

C. F. VANCE, ARCHT.

bridges contemplated are complete, with the exception of three of iron, in the vicinity of the grand reservoir, and bridge No. 26, across the ravine, opposite One Hundred and Second Street, on the west side of the Park.

Considerable advance has been made at the Terrace; all the stone-work of this structure is under contract to be completed during the coming year.

The system for supplying water to the Park is complete below One Hundred and Second street, connections having been made with the Croton mains; the whole system has been brought into use throughout the lower Park.

It is hoped that the connections will be soon made in the upper Park, as by this means much saving in the carriage of water, for the use of the work, and in watering the roads, will be effected.

The Croton Aqueduct Board has completed the laying of its mains through transverse road No. 2, at Seventy-ninth street, to the Eighth avenue, and the road is now available for public use.

Croton mains have also been laid by the Croton Board from the southern gate-house of the grand reservoir through the Park to the Fifth avenue, and from the north gate-house both to the Fifth and Eighth avenues.

The carriage drive below One Hundred and Second street is open for its entire length for public use. The length of carriage drive now open is $7\frac{822}{1000}$ miles, that of bridle-road $4\frac{665}{1000}$ miles; $3\frac{481}{1000}$ miles of walk have been completed during the past year; the total length of walk now completed and in use is $18\frac{521}{1000}$ miles.

The work under contract with Messrs. Fairchild, Wal-

ker & Co., for the earth grading, in the vicinity of the grand reservoir, and for the construction of the masonry of transverse roads Nos. 3 and 4, at Eighty-sixth and Ninety-seventh streets respectively, has been mainly completed, and the reservoir has been partially filled with water. Its whole vicinity already gives indications of its final shape and appearance.

The sewer through Fifty-ninth street, to the Third avenue, to which allusion has heretofore been repeatedly made in the reports of the Board to your Honorable Body, so essential to the drainage of the Park, and of the whole neighborhood, is now in progress.

The subject of a sewer to commence at Fifth avenue, near Seventy-fourth street, and to run to the East River, having heretofore been laid before your Honorable Body, the requisite action was taken by the Corporation to authorize the opening of that street. These proceedings having been consummated, the Commissioners of the Park respectfully request the passage, by your Honorable Body, of an ordinance for the construction of the sewer referred to.

It is probable that a very considerable area in the vicinity of Manhattan square, lying between Seventy-seventh and Eighty-first streets, and the Eighth and Ninth avenues, will find its drainage outlet, across the Park, through this sewer, and its capacity should be determined with reference to that fact.

Until this sewer is complete, the works of the Park are liable to damage by the back-set of water, owing to the insufficiency of existing culverts. Without this sewer,

unless some outlet towards the North River is found for the drainage of a large area to the west of the Park, that area must be subject to overflow, and the neighborhood to the prejudicial effect of large quantities of stagnant water.

The planting of the broad walk along the north side of Fifty-ninth street is completed with maples.

Application has been made by property-owners to your Honorable Body for an alteration of the grade of Eighth avenue, from Eighty-fifth street to Ninety-fifth street. If this alteration should be authorized as is proposed, it would, without doubt, be an improvement to the avenue and to the adjacent property on the west, though it would considerably augment the expenditures of the Park along the border, and interfere disagreeably with certain features of the landscape. A much more desirable grade on the avenue, from Eighty-second to Ninety-fifth street, than that proposed, would be obtained if it were practicable to reduce the present elevation at Eighty-fifth street, where the aqueduct now crosses the Eighth avenue.

The final inclosure of the Park has not yet been commenced, nor has the Board yet determined upon its character, whether it shall be of iron, or stone, or wood, or in the form of a living hedge.

It is certainly not practicable to adopt one mode of fencing for the whole inclosure. The surface of the Park, at some points above and at others below the grade of the adjacent avenue, will not render the same treatment for all parts of the line of inclosure admissible.

The plans of the gates and their attendant architectural ornaments have not yet been determined.

The Pool, at One Hundred and Second street, near Eighth Avenue, has been excavated; it forms a beautiful sheet of water, of varied outline, surrounded by native shrubbery, of about 2.013 acres in extent; from this pool the water finds its way down a rocky waterfall, or cascade, of thirteen feet in height, which, taken in connection with the scenery in the vicinity, adds an interesting feature to the surrounding landscape.

The excavation for the ornamental water, west of the proposed Conservatory at Seventy-fourth street and Fifth avenue, is complete and the water admitted.

Messrs. Luther Bradish, Samuel B. Ruggles, and Michael Ulshoeffer, Commissioners appointed on the 28th day of February, 1862, by the Supreme Court, to appraise the land contained in the proposed addition to the Park, between One Hundred and Sixth and One Hundred and Tenth streets, and the Fifth and Eighth avenues, are still occupied in their duties, but their report at this date is not ready for presentation to the Court.

Until it is determined whether this land is to be added to the Park, the Commissioners of the Park will be compelled still further to defer the construction of the drive and ride above One Hundred and Second street, inasmuch as the plan of the work above One Hundred and Second street depends, to a considerable extent, upon the acquisition of this land.

It is hoped that no obstacle may arise to prevent the satisfactory consummation of these proceedings. The land

will form a most expressive feature of the Park, and one that nature has indicated as belonging within its limits.

In 1861 the Legislature chartered the American Botanical and Zoological Society, and gave the Commissioners of the Park authority to set apart a portion of it, not exceeding sixty acres, for the use of the Society, for the establishment of a Zoological and Botanical Garden.

The Society has, however, not yet manifested its desire for such an allotment of ground.

That such an establishment is demanded, both for popular amusement and instruction, there can be no question.

The statistics of zoological and botanical gardens abroad, show the continuing popular interest in exhibitions of this character.

The Surrey Zoological Gardens of London, established in 1831 and 1832, about two miles from Waterloo Bridge, are of about fifteen acres in extent, with an admission fee of one shilling sterling.

The Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park, London, belong to the Zoological Society; the admission fee is on Monday sixpence, and on other days one shilling sterling.

In Paris, the zoological collection forms a part of the attractions of the *Jardin des Plantes*, founded more than two centuries since, in the reign of Louis XIII. This establishment has been fostered by the Government, and numbers among its directors and supporters Buffon, Cuvier, and other naturalists of wide scientific celebrity.

It is under the control of the Minister of the Interior, and consists of a botanical garden, with spacious hot and

green-houses, zoological, botanical, and mineralogical collections, a menagerie of living animals, a library of natural history, an amphitheatre, with laboratories, &c., for public lectures on every branch of science connected with natural history. These lectures, by a corps of professors of distinguished reputation in their respective departments, are public and gratuitous.

Connected with the garden is the Society for the Acclimation of Foreign Animals, the results of the labors of which are full of interest.

Kew Gardens, on the Thames, for more than a century the private grounds of the Royal Family, were about the year 1840 relinquished by the present sovereign, and placed under the control of the Commissioner of Woods and Forests.

They are under the admirable and successful direction of Sir William Hooker, who has devoted more than twenty years of his life to their development; within these gardens are comprehended extensive collections, of great value, consisting of the botanical garden, now covering seventy-five acres in extent, with palm stove, hot-houses, plant-houses, and green-houses, on a scale of great extent and magnificence.

In addition to the Botanical Gardens at Kew, there is an Arboretum, having an extent of two hundred and fifty acres, within which it is intended to exhibit every tree and shrub that will thrive in the open air of that climate.

There is now in course of erection a Conservatory, having a superficies of 48,392 feet, or about one acre and three-quarters, with a total length of 583 feet. This

building is intended to supply a means of cultivating the trees and shrubs of temperate climates, and to afford to the public an attractive resort during the winter months.

The Museum of Economical Botany, formed at Kew, for the purpose of displaying products of the vegetable kingdom, especially such as are in demand by the merchant, manufacturer, the timber-dealer, the cabinet-maker, and the druggist, is resorted to by persons in search of information respecting woods, drugs, dye-stuffs, textile materials, &c.

A Herbarium and Library forms, also, a part of the Kew establishment. Not a few celebrated authors of works on botany have taken up their residences for months at Kew, to acquire information nowhere else to be so conveniently or fully obtained. Additions are made to this department by officers in the employ of the Admiralty, of the Foreign and Colonial offices. In his report for 1861, the Director, with reference to the Herbarium, says :

“Such is the complete and useful state to which this department has attained, that no botanical work of any importance now appears, either in England or abroad, without acknowledging the assistance rendered by the Royal Gardens ; and scarcely a day passes throughout the year without numerous applications for the names of plants, or other information concerning them, by residents in our colonies and in India, nurserymen, amateurs and scientific botanists. The number of botanists who take up their quarters temporarily at Kew, or have repeatedly visited it for the sole purpose of working in the Herbarium and Library, is greater than ever ; and an active correspondence is carried on with all parts of the world.”

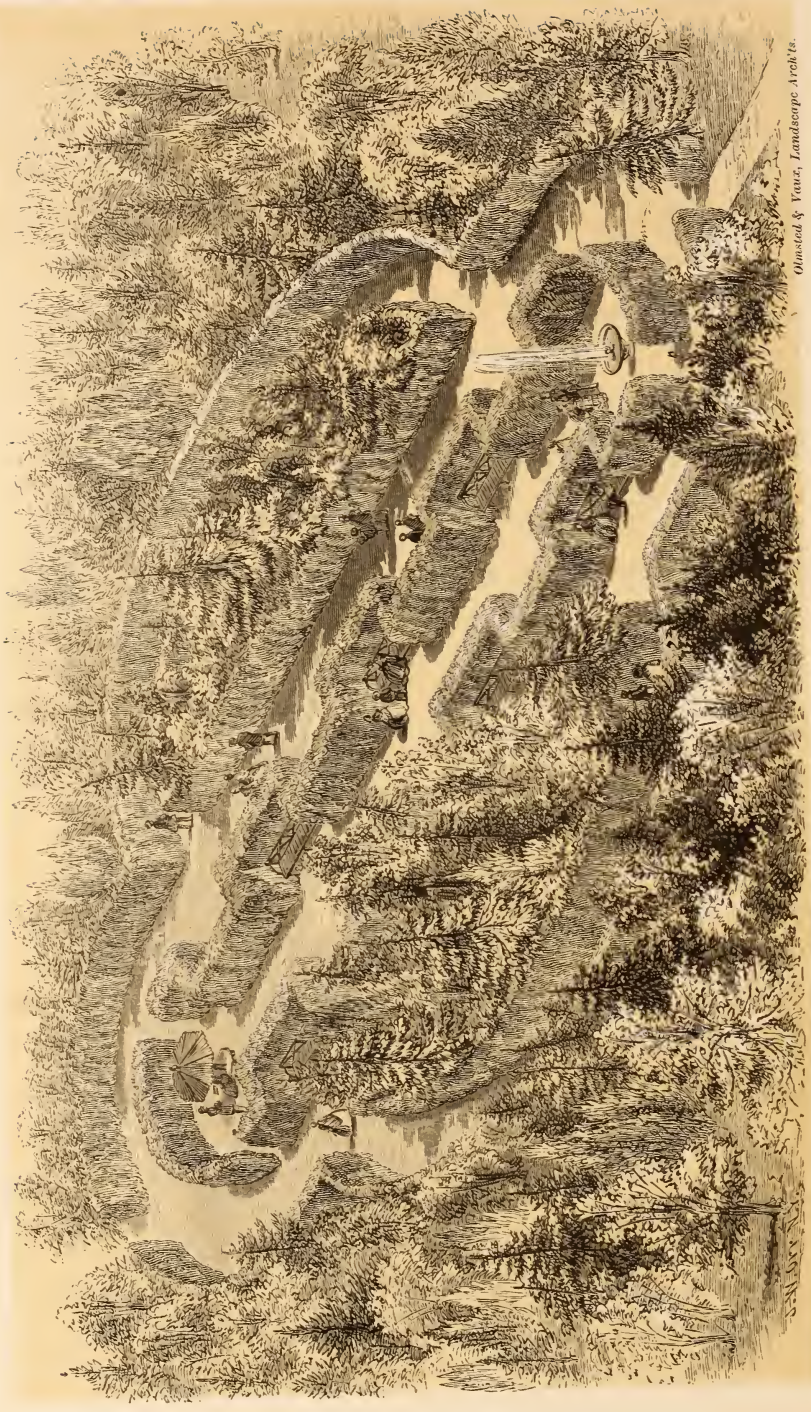
A series of Colonial Floras has been undertaken, with the view of furnishing information, in an inexpensive form, of the floras of the various British colonial possessions, and, among others, those of the British West Indies, the South African possessions, of the whole of Australia, of Hong Kong, and of Ceylon. These works, in many instances, receive the sanction of the Governor and Council of the colonies, and aid from the colonial Parliaments.

These extensive gardens are a place for healthful public recreation, affording much popular information as to the appearance, names, and uses of useful and ornamental plants from all climates, with their products, whether of food, drugs, dyes, timber, textile, or cabinet work.

They also encourage horticulture and scientific botany, promote the useful arts that depend on vegetable produce, supply information to botanist, and aid them in researches for their publications, impart knowledge of plants to travelers, merchants and manufacturers, and do much to train gardeners and plant collectors.

To their judicious, intelligent, and liberal management, the scientific world, as well as those engaged in practical offices, are largely indebted.

Situated seven miles from the out-skirts of London, at about eight or ten miles from the General Post Office (or nearly as far as from the City Hall of this city to High Bridge), and communicating therewith both by rail and by the river, these gardens were visited in the year 1861 by 480,070 persons, being 54,656 in excess of the year



EVERGREEN WALK EAST OF RAMBLE.

Olmsted & Vaux, Landscape Architects.

1860. The number of visitors in 1841 was 9,174; in 1851, 239,900.

There are also extensive botanical gardens at Regent's Park, and Horticultural Gardens at Chiswick.

Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, and Stockholm, have their botanical establishments.

At Antwerp is one of the finest zoological collections in Europe, from which, as well as from the collection at the *Jardin des Plantes*, there is an annual sale of animals, of which the stock has increased beyond the necessities of the collection.

Though there are days on which the public are admitted, the gardens at Antwerp are on the footing of a private establishment, with a large number of participators in the profits and advantages.

No argument is necessary to convince intelligent persons of the eminent fitness of such an establishment in this country.

Agriculture in some form is a chief occupation of our people.

The products of the field and the forest form the great volume of our exports, and are the basis of home commerce and industry.

Whatever increases their value or renders them more easily produced, preserved and formed into useful fabrics, is worthy of the encouragement of our citizens and of our city, that derives such immense advantages from transportation and exchanges of products.

Improvements in these branches are often based upon patient scientific experiments.

How far behind its present advance would agriculture have been without the invention that has furnished farmers with mowing and reaping machines, or the southern agriculturalists with the cotton gin?

The forests of the country, with their magnificent beauties, the growth of centuries, are being swept away rapidly and wastefully, and the beasts and the birds that live in their shelter are becoming extinct for want of an intelligent appreciation of their value, both to the present and coming generations.

Agricultural societies formed in rural districts, and farmers' clubs, where practical men can relate their annual experience, have been made instrumentalities of great usefulness, but these do not supply the need that is generally felt in this country for a central establishment, where information of a reliable character, the result of painstaking scientific experiments, can be obtained, reduced to a form adapted to general use.

Such an establishment should find its seat at some convenient centre of commerce and travel; not at the merely geographical centre of the country, for that may be the most inconvenient to be reached by its population generally, but it should be located where it will be convenient to visitors, and in a great city.

For such establishments, as well as those of learning, such as libraries and colleges, thrive best where they are most easily accessible. The influence of a central establishment of this character would be felt over the whole country, and would become the parent of a large number of lesser ones in different localities.

The establishment, accretion, and development of a Botanical Garden and Arboretum is a work requiring much time; it cannot be done in a year, but must grow up with the opportunity to procure specimens from various parts of the world, and there can be no doubt that, with commendable management, it would afford so much popular amusement and instruction, and be so general a place of resort of visitors, as to become one of the chief attractions of the city. The General Government would, doubtless, through its foreign agents, render aid in procuring the collections necessary for the completeness of such an establishment.

The Commissioners of the Park, in a former report, discussed the mode of conducting such gardens. They expressed the opinion that private corporate societies, provided with sufficient means, would best do the work. As a rule, they still adhere to this opinion.

Untried as the experiment of a Park of the dimensions of that under their charge then was, they felt unwilling, in the face of the well-known results of management of this class of public affairs, to undertake anything beyond the strict line of their duty. The approval which they have thus far met in their efforts encourage them to hope that such steadiness and continuity in the management of the Park may be secured, as to render it practicable to conduct these semi-literary establishments satisfactorily.

From all parts of the country, persons having an interest in the exhibition of animals are offering rare specimens as donations to a zoological collection. One gen-

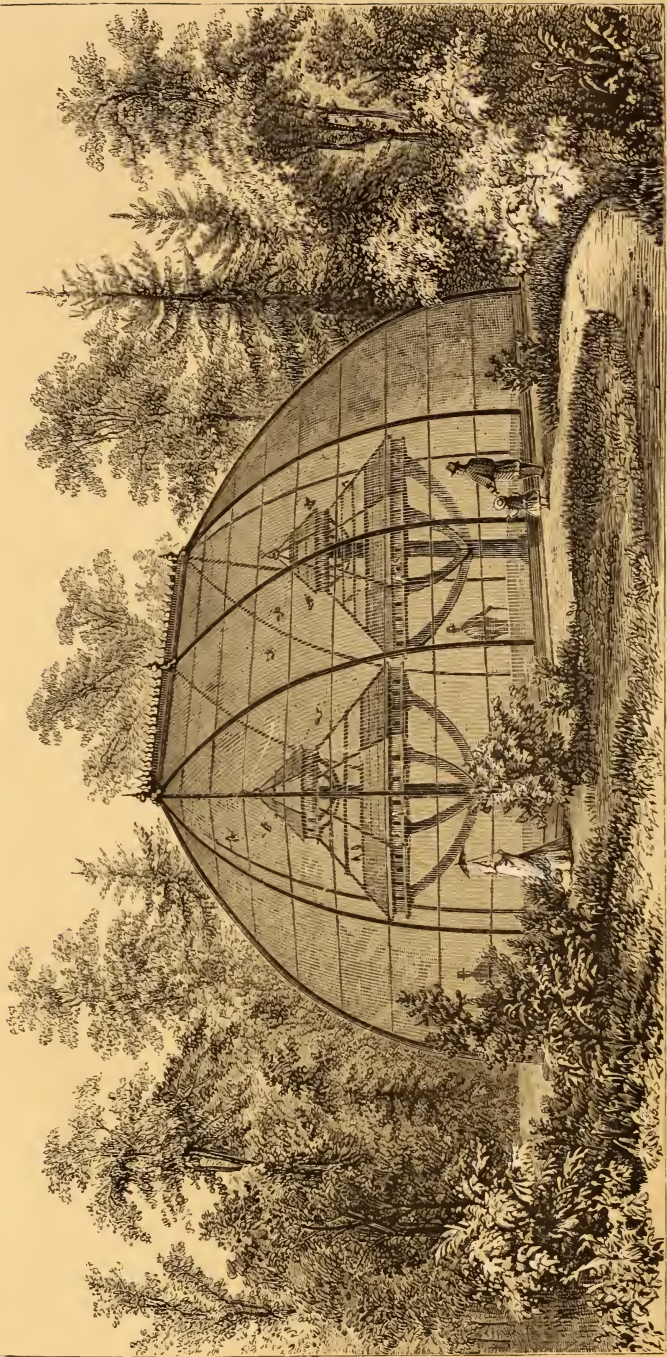
tleman has already presented a pair of Florida Cranes, birds which are made the subject of especial mention in Paris, a pair of Syrian Gazelles, and a pair of Nepaul Musk Deer, the only pair on this continent. Others are emulating his liberality and interest in the early establishment of a Zoological Garden.

The Board are forced to provide adequate facilities for the preservation of the animals presented, and, unless they are conceived upon some convenient plan, they must, of necessity, be incomplete and unsatisfactory. The deer on the Park, the foxes, the peacocks, the cranes, pelicans, gazelles, eagles, storks, and swans, are already sources of constant interest and pleasure to very large numbers of visitors.

The question of the expense is an interesting one to the public.

It will be somewhat difficult, without injuring landscape effect, to fence off by itself a part of the Park for a botanical garden or a zoological garden. If it is desired to make them self-maintaining, a small admission fee must be taken. The rule, as to establishments of art and science in Paris, is that of free public access; in London it is generally otherwise; at Kew the admission is free.

The general advantages of such establishments to a city like this can scarcely be too highly estimated; their liberal foundation and generous management gives a character to the city and the intelligence of its government, that visitors and travelers from our own and other lands,



C. Vance, Arch't. E. C. Miller, Ass't.

DOVE COT.

B. Duquesnel, Del.

make it more distinctly the acknowledged seat of wealth and moral power.

They might, with great propriety, become ancillary to and valuable auxiliaries of that great free public educational system, which is already the pride of our city, as well as the source of useful practical information to agriculturists, merchants, and manufacturers throughout the land.

The New York Historical Society have not yet applied for the facilities for the establishment of its galleries that the Board is authorized to grant by the act of the Legislature.

The area of the Park, below One Hundred and Second street, with the exception of the enclosing wall, and the gates, the terrace, and of some acres of surface, is finished, so far as is at present contemplated.

The area of the Park, below a line drawn across it at One Hundred and Third street, is about $726\frac{223}{1000}$ acres, including the two reservoirs.

The portion of surface unfinished, below the same line, is about $104\frac{495}{1000}$ acres.

The Assessed Value of the three Wards, surrounding the Park, for seven years, is as follows :

WARD.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
12th.....	\$8,149,360	\$8,134,015	\$8,476,790	\$10,062,725	\$11,857,114	\$12,454,375	\$13,100,885
19th.....	8,041,183	8,558,624	10,971,775	12,621,894	16,830,472	16,986,152	17,903,137
22d.....	10,230,022	10,489,454	11,553,506	13,261,025	14,775,440	17,666,866	18,041,557
TOTAL..	\$26,420,565	\$27,182,091	\$31,002,071	\$35,945,644	\$43,463,026	\$47,107,393	\$49,045,579
							26,429,565
Total increased valuations on the three Wards, 1856 to 1862.....							\$22,615,814

The rate of tax for the year 1862 is $168\frac{178}{1000}$, yielding, on the increased valuation, an increase tax of \$380,348 24.

The total expenditures for construction, from May 1, 1857, to January 1, 1863, is.....\$3,583,674 67

The actual cost of the land of the Park to the city, as shown by the Comptroller's report of 1860, is, say..... 3,788,751 37

Showing the total cost of the Park, up to this time, to be, say.....\$7,372,426 04

The annual interest on the cost of land and improvement of the Park, up to this time, at six per cent., is.....\$442,345 56

Deduct one per cent. on \$399,300 of the above stock, issued at five per cent..... 3,993 00

Total interest on stock \$438,352 56

Total increase tax in three Wards..... 380,348 24

Amount required to make increased tax in three Wards equal to total interest in cost of land of Park and of improvement..... \$58,004 32

In its last annual report, the Board alluded to the necessity of paving Fifth Avenue to the Park. His Honor the Mayor, in a message to the Common Council, dated March 10, 1862, uses the following language :

“Nor can we well differ as to the importance of having the roadway to Central Park made convenient and inviting.

“That Park has become the great pleasure-ground of the people of our city, as well as a cynosure of attraction for all strangers who visit us. While it has cost a large amount, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the money expended upon it has produced a park which, for the extent of its area, the

taste, elegance, and beauty of its adornment and its utility to, and popularity with, the people, stands unrivaled on this continent. The roadways to the Park at present, between the streets specified, are in a condition that is not creditable to the city. A part is not paved at all, and the balance is so rough as not to be conveniently passable for vehicles.

“Why not facilitate access to the Park, by making the drive to it easy and attractive, and thus render it still more useful and popular?”

The necessary proceedings having been taken by the Common Council, the pavement of this avenue to the Park is now nearly complete, and furnishes an avenue to this popular resort worthy of the city.

Messrs. William K. Strong and August Belmont having been absent in Europe for several consecutive months, their seats at the Board were declared vacant, under the statute provided for such cases.

John A. C. Gray, Esq., who also left for a visit to Europe, resigned his position as a Commissioner of the Park.

The sizes of the most widely known parks of Europe are approximately given in the following table. As to some of them, books differ very widely as to their size.

Birkenhead Park, near Liverpool.....	190	acres
Windsor Great Park, near London.....	3,500	“
“ Little “ “ “	300	“
Richmond Park, “ “	2,468	“
Kew Gardens, “ “	684	“
Hampton Court and Bushy, near London	1,842	“
Greenwich Park, “ “	174	“
Kensington Gardens, “ “	225	“
Hyde Park, “ “	387	“

St. James' Park, near London.....	83	acres
Green Park, " "	71	"
Regent's Park, " "	403	"
Victoria Park, " "	284	"
Battersea Park, " "	175	"
Theirgarten, Berlin.....	200	"
Phoenix Park, near Dublin.....	1,752	"
3 roods and 21 perches.		
Bois de Boulogne, near Paris.....	2,158	"
Garden of Tuileries, Paris.....	67	"
Gardens at Versailles.....	3,000	"
Glasgow Green, Glasgow	136	"
Tzarskoe Selo, St. Petersburg.....	350	"
English Garten, Munich.....	500	"
Prater Garten, Vienna.....	1,500	"
Park of Schoenbrun, near Vienna.....	711.6	"

The following table shows the area of the different parks of this city:

	Acres.	Roods.	Perches.	Feet.
Battery.....	10	2	22	239
Bowling Green.....		2	9	253
Park, City Hall.....	10	3	14	
Duane Park.....			21	66
Five Points Park.....			24	193
Hudson Square.....	4		13	183
" "			11	85
Washington Square.....	9		39	246
Tompkins Square.....	10	2	1	112
Abingdon Square.....			33	36
Union Place.....	3	1	34	253
Stuyvesant Square.....	3	3	28	217
Gramerey Park.....	1	2	30	92
Madison Square....	6	3	19	47
Bloomingdale Square.....	18		9	136
Hamilton Square.....	15			
Observatory Place.....	25	3	2	160

	Acres.	Roods.	Perches.	Feet.
Manhattan Square.....	19		8	182
Mount Morris Square.....	20		27	114
Central Park, if extended to One Hundred and Tenth street, will contain	$843\frac{0\ 1\ 9}{1\ 0\ 0\ 0}$			
Boston Common contains about.....	50			
Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, contains about.....	550			
Prospect Hill Park, Brooklyn, contains about.....	267			

MAINTENANCE OR THE KEEPING OF THE PARK.

The Commissioners of the Park have at no time believed that its management would be exempt from embarrassments and difficulties of such a nature as would increase with the settlement of the neighborhood of the Park, and as its use passes from being a mere novelty to a settled custom. Situated in the midst of a population numbering more than a million, of diverse origin and condition, it is not practicable to adjust the regulations so as to meet the expectations of each of its various visitants. While the great mass readily recognize the propriety of reasonable rules, and yield to them a cheerful acquiescence, our community is not entirely free from individuals of that peculiar temperament that chafes against the restraints necessary to insure general gratification. One who finds pleasure in driving at a dangerous speed cannot be allowed to indulge his fancy at the risk of the safety of those of more quiet taste; nor can one, who would attract attention to himself by the ferocity of the terrier that is the companion of his walks, be permitted

to untether him among the children, nor to let him fly at the sheep and deer that are feeding on the lawn.

Occasionally, a person, who would not willingly be classed among the uneducated, seems to take peculiar satisfaction in evading a rule; or, in the absence of the eye of authority, in violating some minor regulation.

A successful effort of this character is to him fraught with all the pleasures that the school-boy derives from a similar achievement.

A voluntary, loyal regard for those things essential to the public gratification forms no part of these selfish natures, nor has the disposition to refrain from acts of doubtful propriety any place in their moral constitution.

Fortunately, they are exceptional; the necessities of the case demand that they should be subordinated to the common benefit, not in the spirit that requires obedience to arbitrary orders, but appreciating the propriety of a regulation, in the mild and firm exercise of the necessary authority that requires, for the general good, a respect for a proper rule, because of its propriety.

In framing regulations for the Park, the controlling idea has been, to insure to each visitor every reasonable facility for enjoying the advantages of the Park according to his own inclination, and it will be very gratifying, after a few years of experience, to learn that this idea has not been indulged to an extent that is inconsistent with a proper regard for the public good.

As the habits, the habitations, the clothing, and the customs of men, are primarily shaped by climatic influ-

ences, so these influences govern their amusements and relaxations.

In fixing the hours during which the Park is open to public use, the habits of the main body of the community have been consulted.

The gates are open for ingress and egress, as follows :

During the months of

December,	}	From 7 A. M. to 8 P. M.,
January,		
February,		
March,	}	From 6 A. M. to 9 P. M.,
April,		
May,		
June,		
October,		
November,		
July,	}	From 5. A. M. to 11 P. M.,
August,		
September,		

and in the skating season till twelve o'clock at night, at which hour it is necessary that the ice be cleared, in order to fit it for the following day.

In the latter part of the month of November, and in the early part of December, and in March, in this climate, there are but very few persons who desire to be either riding or walking in the Park, after nightfall, and it

would not be economical to keep the Park open, with its force of keepers, to accommodate the few who might desire to use it as a convenience on their way out of or into the city. The object of the rule is, to accommodate the wishes and habits of the great majority of the community.

The closing of the Park at night is of such obvious propriety, that it requires no argument for its justification.

The experience of other public squares in this city, and those of London and Paris, shows clearly enough what is wise to do in this regard.

The gates of Hyde Park, in London, are opened at five A. M., and are closed at ten P. M., throughout the year. At Green Park, they are opened at six A. M., and closed, during the six months ending September 30th, at ten P. M., and during the remainder of the year at nine o'clock.

The gates of the enclosure, or pleasure ground, at St. James' Park, are opened at six A. M. in summer and seven A. M. in winter, and closed at various hours, according to the season, from four to nine P. M.

The gates of the Bois de Boulogne, in Paris, are open from five A. M. to eleven P. M. from the 1st of April to the 1st of October, and from six A. M. to ten P. M., from the 1st of October to the 1st of April.

The following table gives the NUMBER OF VISITORS at the Park during each month in the year :

MONTHS.	PEDESTRIANS.	EQUESTRIANS.	VEHICLES.
January.....	245,672	1,984	32,773
February.....	302,327	1,671	39,052
March.....	81,865	4,024	32,446
April.....	76,927	7,839	58,567
May.....	133,701	10,349	77,974
June.....	202,000	8,919	84,254
July.....	184,048	4,814	62,074
August.....	272,093	4,715	69,802
September.....	192,236	7,334	70,184
October.....	153,387	7,822	67,099
November..	97,507	7,049	60,789
December....	55,155	5,125	53,996
Total for the year.....	1,996,918	71,645	709,010

Allowing the average of three persons to each vehicle, we have a grand total of 4,195,595 persons who have visited the Park during the year.

The largest number of pedestrians that entered the Park on any one day in the year was, February 8th...	41,203
The smallest number of pedestrians that entered the Park on any one day in the year was, January 25th..	104
The largest number of equestrians that entered the Park on any one day in the year was, June 14th...	712
The smallest number of equestrians that entered the Park on any one day in the year was, January 20th..	2
The largest number of vehicles that entered the Park on any one day in the year was, November 27th...	6,060
The smallest number of vehicles that entered the Park on any one day in the year was, January 25th.....	34

The following tables give the number of visitors at each entrance to the Park for each month during the year.

PEDESTRIANS.

1862.	59th street and 5th avenue.	72d street and 5th avenue.	79th street and 5th avenue.	85th street and 5th avenue.	90th street and 5th avenue.	102d street and 5th avenue.	59th street and 6th avenue.	59th street and 7th avenue.	59th street and 8th avenue.	67th street and 8th avenue.	73d street and 8th avenue.	85th street and 8th avenue.	96th street and 8th avenue.	100th street and 8th Avenue.	106th street and Boston Road.
January.....	16,784	41,763	14,346	1,814	527	612	79,243	1,838	24,956	48,873	6,898	4,565	.....	1,672	1,781
February.....	14,939	63,167	13,919	972	786	474	94,494	2,437	37,859	63,586	4,399	2,309	.....	1,557	1,429
March.....	3,716	11,855	5,448	1,112	1,078	917	23,789	788	9,525	16,847	2,237	1,796	.....	1,483	1,274
April.....	3,522	11,777	5,553	978	894	746	20,818	893	8,688	16,434	2,391	1,589	.....	1,212	1,432
May.....	6,133	20,426	8,361	1,117	998	831	39,679	1,243	16,285	31,058	3,139	1,730	.....	1,255	1,446
June.....	9,195	32,317	13,995	1,399	878	856	59,047	2,241	24,783	48,155	4,032	2,234	.....	1,657	1,211
July.....	8,538	32,661	11,813	1,479	782	997	52,376	2,869	30,994	21,693	13,753	2,967	.....	1,480	1,646
August.....	11,821	42,956	11,653	2,298	1,912	992	116,423	2,415	30,673	.....	44,993	1,964	.....	1,206	2,787
September.....	8,219	17,033	5,405	3,181	880	394	84,586	6,081	35,823	.....	25,608	1,634	.....	1,228	2,114
October.....	7,266	15,339	12,465	2,578	795	423	59,024	4,443	24,185	.....	20,732	1,284	.....	2,167	2,125
November.....	6,124	10,136	5,632	1,473	628	305	32,061	3,141	19,240	.....	13,729	912	.....	1,336	1,781
December.....	5,282	6,128	2,866	1,008	596	372	13,429	1,928	12,388	.....	7,365	579	.....	1,364	1,312
	101,539	305,608	111,456	19,409	10,754	7,919	674,975	30,317	275,399	246,646	149,276	23,527	1,938	17,817	20,338

EQUESTRIANS.

1862.	59th street and 5th av.	72d street and 5th av.	79th street and 5th av.	90th street and 5th av.	96th street and 5th av.	102d street and 5th av.	59th street and 8th av.	72d street and 8th av.	85th street and 8th av.	96th street and 8th av.	100th st., and 8th av.	106th st., and Boston Road.
January.....	951	37	54	31	14	22	511	33	181	.....	39	111
February.....	672	69	88	17	61	8	472	47	33	.....	108	96
March.....	1,365	144	97	99	161	170	1,058	113	76	.....	207	534
April.....	2,732	166	223	184	855	290	1,651	346	99	.....	61	1,232
May.....	4,182	255	202	386	844	355	1,753	646	159	.....	98	1,469
June.....	4,281	137	206	292	379	115	1,397	866	179	.....	119	948
July.....	1,830	89	63	216	180	118	1,101	252	302	.....	136	527
August.....	1,747	116	72	211	129	85	1,333	202	187	.....	112	521
September.....	2,925	180	206	219	165	164	1,705	152	70	.....	159	1,389
October.....	3,490	240	232	243	180	133	1,867	174	87	.....	138	1,010
November.....	3,158	96	232	369	243	44	1,650	132	63	.....	83	910
December.....	2,677	98	150	177	222	18	980	110	55	.....	48	576
	30,010	1,627	1,825	2,444	3,433	1,522	15,478	3,074	1,491	82	1,308	9,353

VEHICLES.

January.....	13,174	1,040	1,199	213	1,554	1,033	5,939	1,877	1,112	.....	573	5,059
February.....	15,414	1,525	1,515	237	2,291	1,809	6,684	1,420	1,904	.....	1,002	5,427
March.....	9,253	1,089	944	270	1,234	1,082	7,114	1,172	700	.....	730	8,868
April.....	19,698	1,066	1,655	591	3,786	1,535	8,189	3,332	864	.....	343	17,508
May.....	34,675	1,062	1,809	979	4,126	1,239	10,727	2,122	578	.....	114	20,543
June.....	36,121	1,878	2,156	1,332	4,533	922	12,531	2,094	499	.....	311	21,977
July.....	20,759	1,798	1,983	1,546	3,017	760	13,054	5,160	925	.....	557	12,525
August.....	21,396	2,548	2,617	603	3,110	709	17,681	5,669	848	.....	408	14,213
September.....	25,322	2,159	2,374	1,463	2,746	242	14,383	4,646	401	.....	431	16,017
October.....	25,198	1,740	2,821	1,578	2,312	425	12,758	3,890	747	.....	505	14,185
November.....	18,782	1,443	3,680	1,470	2,178	403	11,680	4,047	306	.....	414	15,161
December.....	17,464	746	1,672	483	1,348	343	10,902	2,967	256	.....	425	16,747
	257,256	18,098	24,225	10,685	32,225	10,492	131,642	38,396	9,140	2,808	5,813	168,230

VEHICLES.

January.....	444	986	1,614	2,211	2,499	2,487	2,354	4,330	6,328	5,331	1,890	831	650	495	122	87	
February.....	459	1,163	1,683	2,657	3,064	2,789	2,996	4,857	6,573	5,401	2,405	1,506	1,019	848	397	116	
March.....	690	1,103	1,331	2,155	1,844	1,513	2,002	3,465	5,479	5,763	4,118	1,688	553	927	.....	.....
April.....	781	1,487	1,938	2,582	2,891	2,102	3,390	5,487	10,966	12,211	8,901	3,901	1,424	474	.....	.....
May.....	1,348	2,024	2,704	3,417	2,861	2,517	3,433	6,093	11,916	13,987	13,808	6,698	2,788	973	.....	.....
June.....	1,332	1,995	2,620	2,879	2,395	2,045	2,829	5,494	9,087	13,693	16,893	11,613	5,413	1,371	.....	.....
July.....	1,670	2,007	2,387	2,620	2,473	1,791	2,112	3,317	5,164	8,169	9,937	8,635	5,003	1,871	.....	.....
August.....	1,389	1,731	2,293	2,358	2,211	2,334	2,790	4,453	6,554	9,332	11,100	10,111	6,193	2,815	1,298	240	
September.....	1,006	1,364	2,466	2,591	2,492	2,258	2,741	5,045	8,833	13,017	12,914	7,005	3,285	1,558	787	278	
October.....	725	1,448	2,326	3,156	3,158	2,287	2,810	6,313	12,651	15,999	8,345	3,120	1,532	865	.....	.....
November.....	897	1,123	2,235	2,325	2,532	2,504	3,294	8,439	14,378	11,901	5,194	2,431	1,177	572	.....	.....
December.....	670	1,190	1,765	2,432	2,513	2,669	3,657	6,850	12,547	12,567	4,494	1,857	725	.....	.....	.....
	1,490	8,372	13,887	19,130	23,677	31,893	30,798	34,407	64,352	111,052	131,913	101,196	59,433	30,365	13,032	3,507	1,097

*Statement showing Sunday attendance at the Central Park by
Months during the past Year.*

MONTHS.	PEDESTRIANS.	EQUESTRIANS.	VEHICLES.	SLEIGHS.
January	45,322	178	2,479	1,346
February	68,444	242	2,312	4,851
March	35,168	713	7,865	....
April	39,916	1,000	11,549	....
May	80,599	1,320	17,079	....
June	77,943	890	14,999	....
July	60,077	580	10,015	....
August	109,508	967	14,343	....
September	60,315	826	11,633	....
October	48,287	840	14,653	....
November	37,543	1,051	12,555	....
December	17,921	631	9,576	....
Total	681,043	9,238	129,058	6,197

The smallest number of pedestrians that entered the Park on any Sunday in the year was, on November 9th. 142

The smallest number of equestrians that entered the Park on any Sunday in the year was, on November 9th. 6

The smallest number of vehicles that entered the Park on any Sunday in the year was, on January 19th. 115

The smallest number of sleighs that entered the Park on any Sunday during the sleighing season was, on January 19th. 23

The largest number of pedestrians that entered the Park on any Sunday during the year was, on January 5th. 36,752

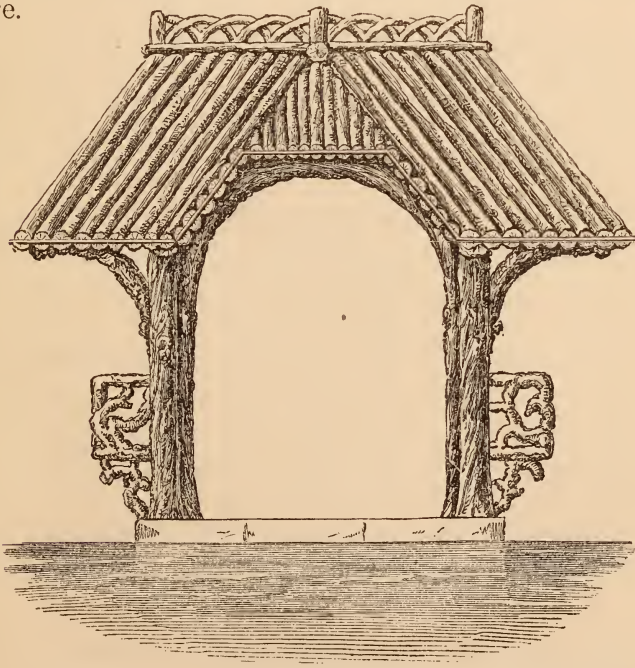
The largest number of equestrians that entered the Park on any Sunday during the year was, on April 27th. 364

The largest number of vehicles that entered the Park on any Sunday during the year was, on June 22d.	5,151
The largest number of sleighs that entered the Park on any Sunday during the sleighing season was, on February 2d.	3,253
Average Sunday attendance for the year for pedestrians.	13,096
Average Sunday attendance for the year for equestrians.	178
Average Sunday attendance for the year for vehicles. . . .	2,482

The tables of persons entering the Park are made from a daily account kept at each gate, and are, it is believed, very nearly correct.

The healthful sports on the ice have been enjoyed by undiminished numbers, and may be now regarded as a permanent amusement for the winter months.

The great number of snow storms during the last winter rendered the expense of cleaning the ice unusually large.



RUSTIC BOAT LANDING.

C. Vaux, Arch't.

The subjoined table shows the days on which there was SKATING on the Lakes during the past four seasons.

1858-9.	1859-60.	1860-61.	1861-2.
December 29	December 24	December 14	December 29
January 3	" 25	" 15	" 30
" 22	" 26	" 16	" 31
" 23	" 27	" 18	January 1
" 24	" 28	January 11	" 2
" 25	" 29	" 12	" 3
" 26	" 30	" 13	" 4
" 27	" 31	" 14	" 5
" 28	January 1	" 18	" 6
" 29	" 2	" 19	" 7
" 30	" 3	" 20	" 8
February 10	" 4	" 21	" 11
" 11	" 5	" 22	" 14
" 12	" 6	" 23	" 17
" 21	" 7	" 26	" 22
" 22	" 26	" 28	" 23
" 23	" 27	" 29	" 24
March 5	" 28	" 30	" 27
" 6	" 29	" 31	" 28
	" 30	February 1	" 29
	" 31	" 4	February 1
	February 1	" 5	" 2
	" 2	" 6	" 3
	" 3	" 7	" 4
	" 4	" 8	" 5
	" 5	" 9	" 6
	" 8	" 10	" 8
	" 9		" 9
	" 10		" 10
	" 11		" 11
	" 12		" 12
	" 13		" 13
	" 14		" 15
	" 15		" 16
	" 16		" 17
	" 17		" 18
	" 20		" 19
	" 21		" 21
			" 22
			" 23
			" 25
			" 26
			" 28
			March 1
			" 2
			" 3
			" 5
			" 6
			" 7
			" 8
No. of days.. 19	No. of days.. 38	No. of days.. 27	No. of days.. 50

The temporary buildings about the shores of the Lake and Pond, for refreshments and skates, have been rented for this and the next skating season, at considerably advanced rates. They are much more commodious than those heretofore erected, and it is believed will be generally more satisfactory.

In pursuance of an intention, to which allusion was made in the last annual report, the Board transmitted to the Board of Education a communication on the subject of systematic arrangements for physical exercise at the Park, for the children of the public schools.

The Board of Education promptly expressed its concurrence in the object proposed, in a resolution, a copy of which, with the communication above mentioned, is given in an appendix to this report.

A circular to all school organizations of the city is contemplated, tendering the use of grounds at the Park for exercises for the children. It is believed that much has been done to insure the advantages of the Park to the youthful portion of the population of the city.

At a later period of the year, the Faculty and students of the Free Academy made application to the Board for opportunity for the students to play on the Park, which was promptly acceded to them.

At the request of the Judge Advocate General of the State, a large number of Volunteers for the artillery service were accommodated by the Commissioners of the Park with quarters in the buildings at the northerly end of the Park.

The United States Government are now occupying the

main portion of the building at Mount St. Vincent, as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

At this hospital, the Sisters of Charity devote themselves to the care of the patients.

The musical entertainments have been maintained for a much longer period of time during this than any former year.

The subjoined table shows the days on which they were given (during the past season), and the number of attendants at each.

SATURDAYS.	PEDESTRIANS.	EQUESTRIANS.	VEHICLES.
1. June 7.....	12,290	560	3,691
2. " 14.....	15,030	712	4,029
3. " 21.....	22,142	543	4,959
4. " 28.....	12,238	389	3,445
5. July 5.....	12,791	171	2,517
6. " 12.....	18,125	313	3,062
7. " 19.....	17,772	245	3,337
8. " 26.....	14,576	150	2,196
9. Aug. 2.....	17,257	217	2,756
10. " 9.....	12,498	104	1,605
11. " 16.....	17,769	208	2,768
12. " 23.....	4,929	141	1,790
13. " 30.....	18,246	195	2,277
14. Sept. 6.....	19,526	273	3,007
15. " 13.....	17,760	352	3,430
16. " 20.....	18,174	318	3,112
17. " 27.....	21,686	361	3,678
18. Oct. 4.....	16,538	254	2,979
19. " 18.....	21,026	531	4,378
20. " 25.....	18,843	452	3,864
21. " 1.....	23,199	410	5,517
21 Music days.	352,415	6,899	68,397

The number of days on which music was given at the Park for the previous three years are as follows :

1859.	1860.	1861.
Saturday, July 9.	Saturday, Aug. 25.	Saturday, Aug. 10.
“ “ 23.	“ Sept. 1.	“ “ 17.
“ “ 30.	“ “ 8.	“ “ 24.
“ Aug. 6.	“ “ 15.	“ “ 31.
“ “ 20.	“ “ 22.	“ Sept. 7.
“ “ 27.	“ “ 29.	“ “ 14.
“ Sept. 3.	“ Oct. 13.	“ “ 21.
“ “ 10.	“ “ 27.	“ “ 28.
“ Oct. 1.	“ Nov. 18.	“ Oct. 5.
“ “ 15.		“ “ 12.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MUSIC DAYS.

1859.....	10
1860.....	9
1861.....	10
1862.....	21

The Music Pavilion, that has been erected during the past year on the Mall, although not yet entirely completed, promises to be a work of great beauty, and it is gratifying to know that the exertions of the Board, to provide these entertainments free of expense to all, have been fully appreciated by the public.

The musical programmes have contained selections of a high order of classical music, as well as much of a more popular character.

The area of the Park brought into use this year is much greater than that of any previous year, yet the

force of park-keepers has been diminished, there being now in the employ of the Board no more than forty-two keepers, upon whom is devolved the duty of maintaining the regulations of the Park during the night as well as the day.

Violations of these regulations are much more frequently the result of thoughtlessness and ignorance than of any malicious design.

It is the duty of the keepers to maintain a respectful demeanor to all, to give information to inquirers, and to warn persons against violating the rules.

In appearance, they are always required to be neat and in order.

Of the 4,195,695 persons who have visited the Park this year, but one hundred and thirty-five arrests have been made, as follows:

In January.....	3
“ February.....	1
“ March.....	7
“ April.....	28
“ May.....	25
“ June.....	10
“ July.....	14
“ August.....	10
“ September.....	12
“ October.....	8
“ November.....	11
“ December.....	6
Total.....	<hr/> 135

And for the following delinquencies :

Assault and battery.....	4
Drunk and disorderly.....	12
Breaking pound.....	1
Fast driving.....	103
Petty larceny.....	2
Violation of Central Park ordinances.....	3
Disorderly conduct.....	10
	<hr/>
	135

It will be perceived, by far the largest number of arrests is for driving at a greater rate of speed than that allowed by the regulations. These arrests are mainly made in the afternoon and on holidays.

It is of great importance, for the safety and comfort of all visitors, to the Park, that this disposition to drive at an unsafe speed should be promptly and constantly kept in check.

Four additional boat landings have been provided at the Lake; in connection with each of them, is a tastefully constructed shelter, where persons may comfortably wait the arrival of the boat in its circuit, or sit to observe the boats as they pass, or the water-fowl in their playfulness.

The boats on the Lake are eleven in number, and are under the same management as during the previous year.

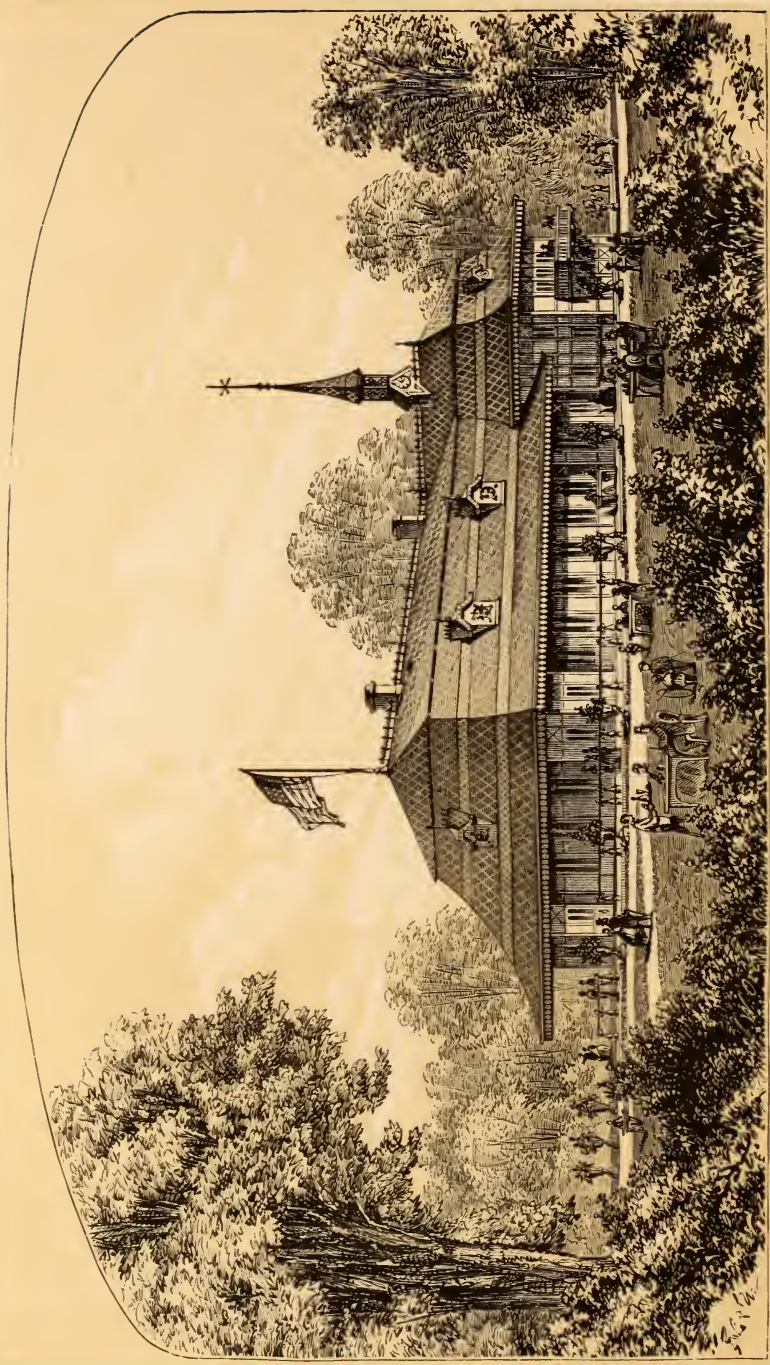
The number of passengers carried in each class of the boats for the season, from April 26 to November 15, 1862, is as follows :

	CALL BOATS.	PASSAGE BOATS.
For the week ending April 26th.....	2	19
“ “ May 3d.....	21	103½
“ “ “ 10th.....	84½	202
“ “ “ 17th.....	156	493½
“ “ “ 24th.....	139½	452½
“ “ “ 31st.....	159	514
“ “ June 7th.....	243½	613
“ “ “ 14th.....	343	791
“ “ “ 21st.....	444	993
“ “ “ 28th.....	245	708
“ “ July 5th.....	234	642½
“ “ “ 12th.....	532½	929½
“ “ “ 19th.....	364½	838
“ “ “ 26th.....	201½	555
“ “ August 2d.....	390	940
“ “ “ 9th.....	489	699
“ “ “ 16th.....	577	946½
“ “ “ 23d.....	276	665½
“ “ “ 30th.....	288½	1,173½
“ “ Sept. 6th.....	419½	754
“ “ “ 13th.....	837½	636
“ “ “ 20th.....	270	570
“ “ “ 27th.....	221½	761½
“ “ Oct. 4th.....	125½	444½
“ “ “ 11th.....	382½	752½
“ “ “ 18th.....	247	573½
“ “ “ 25th.....	143	304½
“ “ Nov. 1st.....	163	143½
“ “ “ 15th.....	32	47
TOTAL.....	8,032	17,266

The total revenue derived from these passengers, by
Mr. Dick, was \$3,032 30

The total expense of conducting the boats, not including the time of Mr. Dick, or any interest on the outlay for boats..... \$2,506 77

As compared with the year 1861, there appears an increase of 5,412 persons carried in the boats.



G. F. Young, Architect.

GENERAL VIEW OF PROPOSED CASINO

The Commissioners of the Central Park respectfully solicit the attention of your Honorable Body to the necessity of keeping the sidewalks of the avenues and streets adjacent to the Park free from structures.

In several instances, stands and refreshment houses, in which liquors are sold, have been placed on these sidewalks, so near to the entrances as to be not only very unsightly, but very objectionable.

His Honor the Mayor, in a message to the Honorable the Board of Aldermen, returning without his approval a resolution of the Common Council, to permit the erection of one of these establishments at one of the main entrances of the Park, uses the following language :

“The position indicated is at the principal western entrance to the Central Park. The Commissioners of this Park have leased to certain parties, at a fixed rent, suitable buildings, which have been erected for the express purpose of being used as refreshment saloons for the convenience of visitors to the Park. I deem it an improper interference with the arrangements made between the Commissioners and the lessees of the saloons, to authorize the erection of stands at the entrances to the Park for similar purposes, and exempt from rent. If permitted, they could not fail to diminish the legitimate revenue of the Park, and, at the same time, injure those who carry on a similar business, in rented premises, on the same thoroughfare, by the unfair competition which their exemption from rent enables them to exercise.”

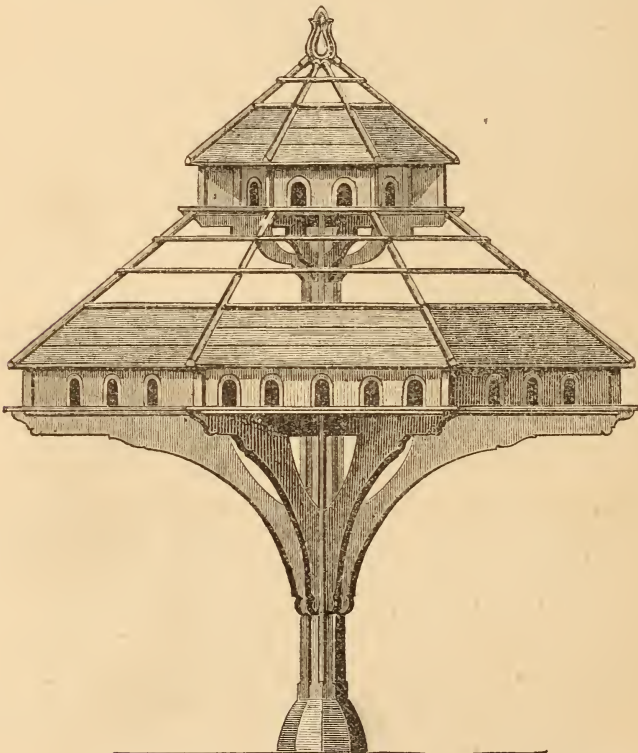
“I also regard such stands as liable to the objection that they would constitute a serious blemish on the beauty and symmetry of the Park and its surroundings.”

The resolution having been passed, however, by the Common Council over the veto of the Mayor, a building

is in course of erection, covering nearly the whole width of the sidewalk.

Visitors to the Park are also subjected to the importunities of hackney coachmen, whose carriages so obstruct the way in the neighborhood of the Park entrance as to be dangerous to pedestrians, and to prevent the convenient passage of other vehicles.

Carriages, properly kept, to carry persons about the Park at reasonable rates, conveniently located, are an undoubted public convenience; they should, however, be under such regulations as to prevent their becoming—what some now are—a public annoyance.



DOVE-COT.

C. Vaux, Arch't.

The following is a statement of DONATIONS made to the Board for the use of the Park, with the names of the Donors.

JUNE 25, 1860.

The statue of Flora, in marble, by CRAWFORD, presented by R. K. HAIGHT, Esq.

OCTOBER 18, 1860.

Eighty-seven Casts, in plaster, of the works of the late THOMAS CRAWFORD, presented by MRS. LOUISA W. CRAWFORD, consisting of the following statues, bas-reliefs, and sketches :

STATUES.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Orpheus, life size. | 17. Indian Woman, a little larger than life size. |
| 2. Apollo and Diana, third life size. | 18. America. |
| 3. Cupid, life size. | 19. Indian Grave. |
| 4. Genius of Mirth, life size. | 20. Hebe, life size. |
| 5. Pilgrim Princess, third life size. | 21. Hebe and Ganymede, life size. |
| 6. Boy playing marbles, life size. | 22. Mercury and Psyche, one-third life size. |
| 7. Flora, life size. | 23. Daughter of Herodias, life size. |
| 8. Beethoven, heroic. | 24. Dancing Jenny, life size. |
| 9. The Mechanic, a little larger than life size. | 25. Boy with a broken tambourine, life size. |
| 10. The Schoolmaster, a little larger than life size. | 26. Aurora, two-thirds life size, |
| 11. The Schoolboy, a little larger than life size. | 27. Tenants, life size. |
| 12. The Merchant, a little larger than life size. | 28. The Peri, life size. |
| 13. The Soldier, a little larger than life size. | 29. Hunting-boy with hound, life size. |
| 14. The Woodsman, a little larger than life size. | 30. Raphael, one-third life size. |
| 15. Indian Hunter, a little larger than life size. | 31. James Otis, heroic. |
| 16. Indian Chief, a little larger than life size. | 32. Patrick Henry, colossal. |
| | 33. Thomas Jefferson, colossal. |
| | 34. Children in the Wood, life size. |
| | 35. Dying Indian Girl, two-thirds life size. |

BAS-RELIEFS.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Woman of Samaria. | 6. Cupid stringing his bow with flowers. |
| 2, 3. Two monumental groups. | 7. Apollo and Pegasus. |
| 4. Origin of Drawing. | 8. Muse with the lyre. |
| 5. Hercules and Diana. | |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 9. Anacreon and Nymph. | 17. Justice. |
| 10. Fawn and goat. | 18, 19. Two niches for the monument
of Mr. Binny. |
| 11. Muse and Cupid. | 20, 21. Two bas-reliefs for the Wash-
ington Monument, Va. |
| 12, 13, 14. Three bas-reliefs of a
Nymph and Satyr. | 22. Christ blessing little children. |
| 15. Huntress. | |
| 16. Repose in Egypt. | |

SKETCHES.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Eve with Cain and Abel. | Beethoven. |
| Eve listening to the Tempter. | James Otis. |
| Two sketches of the Flora. | Patrick Henry. |
| Thomas Jefferson. | Mason. |
| Washington Monument, Va. | Two sketches of Sappho. |
| Equestrian of Washington. | Rebecca. |
| Equestrian of Washington with Lib-
erty. | Daughter of Herodias. |
| Freedom, for the U. S. A. Capitol. | Dying Indian Woman. |
| Dancing Jenny. | The Tenants. |
| Aurora. | Boy with broken tambourine. |
| Justice and History, for the U. S. A.
Capitol. | Indian Chief. |
| Jacob wrestling with the Angel. | Raphael. |
| Children in the Wood. | Spring—Autumn. |
| Washington. | Burd Monument. |
| | Jupiter and Psyche. |
| | The Pediment for the U. S. A. Capitol. |

Plan and Model for laying out the Park, presented by Mrs. SUSAN M. PARISH.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1862.

One Venetian Gondola, presented by JOHN A. C. GRAY, Esq.

NOVEMBER 22, 1862.

Ten Betula Pamilla.
Fifty Ledan Latifolium.
Fifty Andromeda Palifolia.

Presented by Prof. GEORGE THURBER.

The following ANIMALS have also been presented:

1860.

- May 24. Twelve White Swans, presented by the Senate of the city of Ham-
burgh.
- Oct. 18. Twenty-four White Swans, presented by the Worshipful Company
of Vintners, London.
- Twenty-six White Swans, presented by the Worshipful Company of
Dyers, London.

- Nov. 1. Ten White Swans, presented by the Senate of the city of Ham-
burgh.
(Of these seventy-two swans, twenty-eight are dead.)
Two Trumpet Cranes, presented by G. Granville White, Esq.
(Both of which are dead.)
One Peacock, presented by G. Granville White, Esq.
One American Eagle, presented by Albert S. Joslyn., Esq.
One Deer, presented by Joseph Conrad, Esq.
One Deer.
Gold Fish, presented by William D. Murphy, Esq.
Two Canadian Geese, presented by Charles M. Graham, Esq.
- 1862.
- Feb. 17. One young Swan, presented by Captain Grumley.
May 8. One Doe presented by Geo. Wm. Curtis, Esq.
June 14. One Doe, presented by Edward E. Mitchell, Esq.
“ 21. Two Poland Geese, presented by Thos. Richardson, Esq.
Five Aylesbury Ducks, presented by Thos. Richardson, Esq.
July 29. One Raccoon, presented by I. A. Pilat, Esq.
Aug. 19. Two Pelicans, presented by Col. Thorpe.
(One of the above is dead.)
Sept. 1. One Australian Cockatoo, presented by Robert Lewin, Esq.
“ 24. One Monkey, presented by Frank Towle, Esq.
“ “ One Black Eagle, Isaac B. Caryl, Esq.
“ 26. One Marsh Hawk (which is dead), presented by Woodhull Law-
rence, Esq.
Oct. 23. One Red Fox, presented by Thos. S. Dick, Esq.
“ 30. Two Deer, presented by Hon. Bayard Clark.
Nov. 1. Two Syrian Gazelles, presented by G. Granville White, Esq.
(Both of which are dead.)
“ 10. One Eagle, presented by Wm. H. Beardsley, Esq.
“ 11. One Opossum, presented by J. Potter, Esq.
“ 20. Two Musk Deer, presented by G. Granville White, Esq.
(Both of which are dead.)
Nov. 24. One Doe, presented by S. T. Nichols, Esq.
“ “ One American Eagle, presented by W. T. Blodgett, Esq.
Feb. 6. Ox “Gen. Scott,” prepared specimen, presented by Wm. Lalor,
Esq.
Oct. 24. Ox “Constitution,” prepared specimen, presented by Bryan Law-
rence, Esq.
“ “ Two Sheep, prepared specimens, presented by Bryan Lawrence,
Esq.

The above animals are in good condition, except other-
wise noted, and are subjects of constant interest to

visitors. The Board are unable to place a valuation upon these gifts that would be at all reliable, as expressive of their true worth.

By the Act of March 19, 1860, provision is made for the expenses of maintenance and government of the Park, not exceeding, for any one year, the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The amount expended by the Board, for the past three years, has been as follows :

For the portion of the year after the passage of the Act, ending Dec. 31, 1860.....	\$80,000 00
For the year ending December 31, 1861.....	114,000 00
For the year ending December 31, 1862.....	118,841 00
	<hr/>
Making a total, for two years eight months and twelve days, of.....	<u>\$312,841 00</u>

Or over ninety-three thousand dollars less than the amount allowed by law.

Accompanying this report will be found a detailed statement of the receipts and payments during the year 1862; also, a condensed statement of the accounts of the Treasurer, since the organization of the Board.

Dated New York, December 31, 1862.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDW. H. GREEN, HENRY G. STEBBINS,
Comptroller of the Park. *President of the Board of*
Commissioners of the Central Park.

SUMMARY OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

Construction Account.

Balance on hand, December 31st, 1861, \$34,328 99

The total receipts of the year ending December 31st, 1862, are as follows:

From issue of stock by the city of New York, including \$23,997 48, part of premium on the same	\$630,097 48	
Sale of grass,	469 25	
Sundry sales of materials,	104 72	
Pound receipts,	50 65	
Licenses,	560 00	
Premium on exchange, silver for copper,	1 00	
Labor and materials furnished on the Park,	1,905 31	
Lost tools,	35 53	
	—————	633,223 94
		<u>\$667,552 93</u>

The total expenditures for the year ending December 31, 1862, are as follows:

Salaries and compensation of officers, clerks, &c.	\$10,444 09	
Surveys, engineers, architects, draughtsmen, &c.	36,024 51	
Incidental expenses, &c.,	5,987 70	
Materials of construction and tools,	71,384 80	
Stationery, printing, advertising, engineers' drawing materials, and books of account,	4,191 02	
Trees and plants, and manure,	13,945 28	
Labor account, amount paid laborers, mechanics, cartmen, &c.	130,136 84	
Earth filling,	74,526 89	
Masonry, by contract,	114,899 19	
	—————	461,540 32
Balance,		<u><u>\$206,012 61</u></u>

The total receipts of the Board from the commencement of its organization, May 1, 1857, are as follows :

From issues of stock by the city of New York,	\$3,773,197 48
Sale of buildings on the Park,	5,990 37
Laborers' lost tools,	442 76
Rent,	50 00
Exhibition of plans,	294 85
Sale of grass,	1,144 25
Sale of sundry animals and materials,	301 36
Bank of Commerce, interest on deposits,	2,909 97
Pound receipts,	575 06
Licenses for sale of skates, refreshments, and hire of chairs,	2,760 00
Labor and materials furnished on the Park,	1,997 66
Premium on exchange, gold for silver, &c.	23 52
	<hr/> \$3,789,687 28

The expenditures from May 1, 1857, the date of the organization of the Board, to January 1, 1858, were,

	\$77,881 41
Expenditures from January 1, 1858, to January 1, 1859,	507,487 86
Expenditures from January 1, 1859, to January 1, 1860,	1,179,246 47
Expenditures from January 1, 1860, to January 1, 1861,	878,354 95
Expenditures from January 1, 1861, to January 1, 1862,	479,163 66
Expenditures from January 1, 1862, to January 1, 1863,	461,540 32
	<hr/> 3,583,674 67
Balance,	<hr/> <hr/> \$206,012 61

Maintenance Account, 1861.

Balance on hand, December 31, 1861, \$21,833 39

The expenditures on account of Maintenance, for the year 1861, in addition to those stated in the report of last year, are as follows :

	LABOR.	TOOLS AND MATERIALS.	TOTAL.
Roads,	\$111 54		\$111 54
Walks,	39 71	\$21 00	60 71
Plantations,	55 71		55 71
Water,	48		48
Ice,	220 39	333 05	553 44
Irrigation,	21 30	39	21 69
Thorough drainage,	2 58		2 58
Tools,	54 12	1,504 09	1,558 21
Buildings,	72 96	1 25	74 21
Miscellaneous,	158 64	75 52	234 16
Park-keepers' and gate-keepers' uniforms,			64 00
Park-keepers' wages,			2,620 64
Gate-keepers' wages,			323 82
			<u>\$5,681 19</u>
Balance carried to the credit of Maintenance, 1862,			<u><u>\$16,157 20</u></u>

Maintenance Account, 1862.

Balance carried from Maintenance, 1861,	\$16,157 20
Received from Comptroller for maintenance of Park for the year 1862,	118,841 00
	<u>\$134,998 20</u>
Carried forward,	\$134,998 20

Brought forward, \$134,998 20
 The expenditures on account of Maintenance, 1862, thus far,
 are as follows:

	LABOR.	MATERIALS.	TOTAL.
Roads,	\$6,096 55	\$3,057 87	\$9,154 42
Walks,	6,442 25	2,757 60	9,199 88
Plantations,	9,790 57	756 40	10,546 97
Ice,	5,190 97	448 27	5,639 24
Irrigation,	5,764 79	619 02	6,383 81
Thorough drainage,	422 85	67 29	490 14
Surface drainage,	107 01		107 01
Turf,	9,565 48	1,040 19	10,605 67
Water,	258 94	68 72	327 66
Transverse roads,	23 41		23 41
Masonry and bridges,	832 18	409 19	1,241 37
Buildings,	4,024 55	754 40	4,778 95
Tools,	1,468 25	206 88	1,675 13
Miscellaneous,	8,687 98	4,088 18	12,776 16
Special police wages,			69 99
Park-keepers' wages,			27,835 41
Gate-keepers' wages,			11,795 38
Park-keepers' and gate-keepers' uniforms,			3,353 10
Stationery, printing, and advertising,			249 17
Purchase and freight of animals,			123 50
Keep of animals,			1,073 50
Proportion of salaries,			9,867 50
			<u>\$127,317 37</u>
Balance,			<u>\$7,680 83</u>
Balance on hand December 31, 1862, Construction account,			\$206,012 61
Balance on hand December 31, 1862, Maintenance account,			7,680 83
Total balance,			<u>\$213,693 44</u>
The balance of indebtedness, on December 31, 1862, is estimated at about			<u>\$155,000 00</u>

December 31, 1862.

ANDW. H. GREEN,
Treas. Board of Commrs. of Central Park.

APPENDIX.

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK :

The Board of Commissioners of the Central Park, during the progress of their work, have, from time to time as became practicable, opened various portions of the Park for public use, and have provided such means of amusement and instruction as in the infancy and incompleteness of the work were consistent with its preservation.

Of the proposed uses of the Park, some are practicable only at an advanced stage of the work, when sufficient time has elapsed to enable nature somewhat to establish herself in the grounds.

Among other ends to be attained, the Commissioners have deemed it of the first importance to provide a place for out-of-door exercises for children and youth, and they transmit this communication to the Board of Education as the head of the educational organization of the city, with the view of securing such co-operation as it may deem proper in the necessary measures for the accomplishment of the end designed.

The number of applications for space for the practice of games and sports, and for other occupation of the ground, evidences the impracticability of making any such exclusive assignment of grounds as some seem to expect.

After much consideration of the various modes of accommodating the public demand for facilities for out-of-door exercises, and impressed with the imperative necessity of so regulating these exercises that the grounds and structures may not be disfigured, the Commissioners of the Park conclude that perhaps a larger number can be accommodated in a more satisfactory way by placing these facilities on the Park within the reach of the youthful portion of our population.

They represent larger and deeper interests than any other class, and if such advantages as the Park affords for athletic

exercises are offered to them, they become at once general and not exclusive.

The Board of Education, the school officers of the city, and the teachers in the public schools, are well aware of the ill effects, upon the constitution of the young, of prolonged hours of study without adequate physical exercise, but they have not at hand the facilities to afford the opportunity for this exercise.

Appreciating the difficulties with which the Board of Education has heretofore contended in that regard, and those which surround all efforts to render open-air exercises accessible to the youth of the city, it has been a matter of careful deliberation with the Commissioners of the Park how it can best be made to combine the attractions of a delightful retreat, preserved in complete order, with those of a healthful play-ground, to which the children of the city may resort with safety and advantage.

For this purpose, in addition to its ample walks and drives, a portion of the Park has been arranged as a "play-ground." It is located near the entrance at Fifty-ninth street, and is accessible by walks from all these entrances.

The preservation of the grounds, and the successful operation of a system of exercises there, will depend on the order which prevails, as well among those who resort to them for play, as among the spectators.

To make this ground the general resort for children, some definite arrangements, to convey children to the Park at a cheap rate, will be called for.

Many schools are so near the Park as to render the attendance of their pupils quite convenient.

The Board of Education is invited to a consideration of the measures to be adopted, to place the advantages of the Park within the reach of children attending the public schools under its care.

As is shown by the documents of your Honorable Body, there were in the public and corporate schools of this city, on the 1st of October, 1860, no less than one hundred and sixty-five thousand two hundred and sixty-six pupils; of these there were in the male grammar schools, twenty-five thousand five hundred and thirty-two; in the girls' grammar schools, twenty

thousand six hundred and seventy; and in the primary departments, ninety-three thousand three hundred and forty-six.

The proper physical training of so large a number of children is a question of no small importance, and the development of a successful plan for its accomplishment is well worthy the attention of every friend of physical, as well as mental culture.

Permission to visit the Park in rotation among the schools, by classes, under the care of judicious instructors, would perhaps be an advantageous initiation of a general scheme of exercise and amusement for children, but the maturing of a systematic plan, to be effectual to accomplish the desired results, will be the work of time and experience.

Such arrangements may be made that schools desiring to visit the Park in a body, under the supervision of their teachers, would find ample room in the grounds reserved for their use, for all the pastimes in which they might engage, and the conveniences requisite to make their visit pleasant and profitable.

The officers of the Park will establish such regulations, and have the grounds under such supervision as to prevent the intrusion of improper persons upon the society of the children, and the most careful watchfulness will be maintained that no immoral influences of any kind shall be tolerated.

The Commissioners of the Central Park desire to render the Park as orderly, attractive, and as widely useful as possible.

To address parents individually on the subject of this communication would probably lead to no concerted movement to accomplish what is desired; the school organization may be made a useful agent in forwarding the objects of the Board of Commissioners of the Park, without any interference with proper school hours and duties.

The higher classes of those schools situated in the upper part of the city might make the experiment to test the disposition of parents to have their children attend, and of the children to engage in these exercises.

If it should be thought too much of a tax upon the teachers of the schools to accompany a class to the Park, say once a week, on a specified day, perhaps notice of the proposed arrangements of the Park Commissioners, when complete, might

be given out in the schools, and such parents as think well of the scheme could accompany their children to the Park, or the pupils left, under the rules of the Board of School Officers of each Ward, to arrange the day and hour when they will visit the Park, which hour might be after school hours, if that seemed best.

While precaution will be taken for the safety of the children, when at the Park, the Commissioners cannot be responsible for the safe conduct of the children to and from it; but the arrangements of our city conveyances should be such as to relieve all apprehension of danger to children in going to the Park.

With the desire of perfecting the measures calculated to carry the above views into practical operation, the Board of Education are respectfully invited by the Commissioners of the Park to make such suggestions as will, in its judgment, aid in the successful accomplishment of the ends contemplated in this communication, so far as these ends commend themselves to the approval of the Board of Education.

Dated New York, June 17, 1862.

By order of the Board.

ANDW. H. GREEN,
Comptroller of the Park.

R. M. BLATCHFORD,
*President of the Board of
Commissioners of the Central Park.*

APPENDIX.

NEW YORK, July 10, 1862.

To the Commissioners of the Central Park:

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the session of the Board of Education, held June 18, 1862.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS BOESÉ,
Clerk.

“*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Board be tendered to the Commissioners of the Central Park, for the interest taken by them in providing facilities for the recreation and physical improvement of the children of the public schools of this city, and that the Clerk of this Board be directed to communicate this resolution to them, with the expression of a cordial concurrence in the sentiments of the communication presented by said Commissioners; and that the Clerk be authorized to notify the Trustees of the several Wards of the privileges granted, and of the rules and regulations prescribed by said Commissioners under which they are to be enjoyed.”

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRAL PARK, BY AREAS OF SURFACE, &c.

Length of Park, from 59th to 110th streets.....		13,507 ft. $9\frac{4}{10}$ in.
Breadth " " 5th to 8th avenues.....		2,718 " $6\frac{9}{10}$ "
Superficial area		843. $\frac{019}{1000}$ acres
	Acres.	Elevation of water above tide.
Area, exterior to enclosure, 59th st. Broad Walk	2. $\frac{496}{1000}$	Feet.
Do. occupied by 4 Transverse Roads....	9. $\frac{474}{1000}$	....
Do. " new Croton Reservoir..	106. $\frac{726}{1000}$	115.20
Do. " old Reservoir.....	35. $\frac{289}{1000}$	115.20
		153. $\frac{985}{1000}$ "
Total area of Park within enclosure, exclusive of above areas		689. $\frac{034}{1000}$ acres
	Acres.	Elevation above tide.
Area of Pond near 59th st., between 5th and 6th avenues.....	4. $\frac{800}{1000}$	Feet. 26.00
Do. Lake between 72d and 78th sts...	20. $\frac{167}{1000}$	53.20
Do. Ornamental Basin at Conservatory east of Lake, near 5th Avenue.	2. $\frac{579}{1000}$	41.00
Do. Pool near 8th av., between 101st and 102d sts., <i>estimated</i>	2. $\frac{013}{1000}$	45.00
Total area of waters of the Park....	29. $\frac{263}{1000}$	acres.
	Acres.	
Area occupied by Carriage Roads, <i>estimated</i>	45. $\frac{312}{1000}$	
Do. occupied by Bridle Roads <i>estimated</i>	15. $\frac{345}{1000}$	
Do. occupied by Walks, <i>estimated</i>	33. $\frac{345}{1000}$	
Total.....	94. $\frac{000}{1000}$	"
Total area of ground, exclusive of Reservoirs, Ponds, Roads and Walks.....		123. $\frac{263}{1000}$ acres.
Area of rock surface, mainly without soil or shrubbery, <i>estimated</i> ,		565. $\frac{771}{1000}$ acres.
Area of Park ground fertilized and in trees and shrubbery, or in open lawns, exclusive of Reservoirs, Roads, Walks, Ponds, rock surface, &c., <i>estimated</i>		24. $\frac{000}{1000}$ "
		541. $\frac{771}{1000}$ acres.



REFERENCES.

Area of Pond at A	5 Acres ;
" " Lake " B	20 " ;
" " Open ground at C	10 " ;
" " " " D known as " The Green " ..	15 " ;
" " Ground known as " The Ramble," between Lake and Reservoir E	36 " ;
" " Open ground at F }	23 " ;
" " " " " G }	23 " ;
" Pool, H	2 " ;

Length of Mall 1212 feet, width 35 feet ;

Site reserved for Refectory, J

Old Arsenal proposed to be altered for a Museum, L

Terrace for a concourse of carriages N ;

Ornamental Water O, in connection with Conservatory K

Tunnel P, Length 142 feet ; width 40 feet ; height 19 feet P ;

Roads and Walks finished are represented in full lines
and colored

Do. " Do in progress of construction, dotted lines
and colored

Do. " Do. not commenced are represented in
dotted lines and not colored.

Grounds planted or in grass or ready for planting or
seeding, are coloured green ;

Water is colored blue

Black Figures show the widths of Road ;

Red Figures show the elevations above Tide water ;

Red lines full or dotted, are contour lines of the original
surface, and where these are shown the ground
has not yet been broken ;

Rocks that are especially prominent are indicated by
line shading ;

Trees and Shrubbery are indicated in the usual manner ;

The red figures on the 5th & 8th Avenues and 59th & 110th Streets,
show the elevations of the established grades ;

It being uncertain whether the ground north of 106th Street
will be included in the Park, the greater portion of the plan
of the northern part is not matured, .

R. Music Pavilion ;

S Waterfall ;

T Water Terrace ;

MAP OF THE CENTRAL PARK
Showing the progress of the Work up to January 1st 1863.

SCALE 400 FEET TO THE INCH

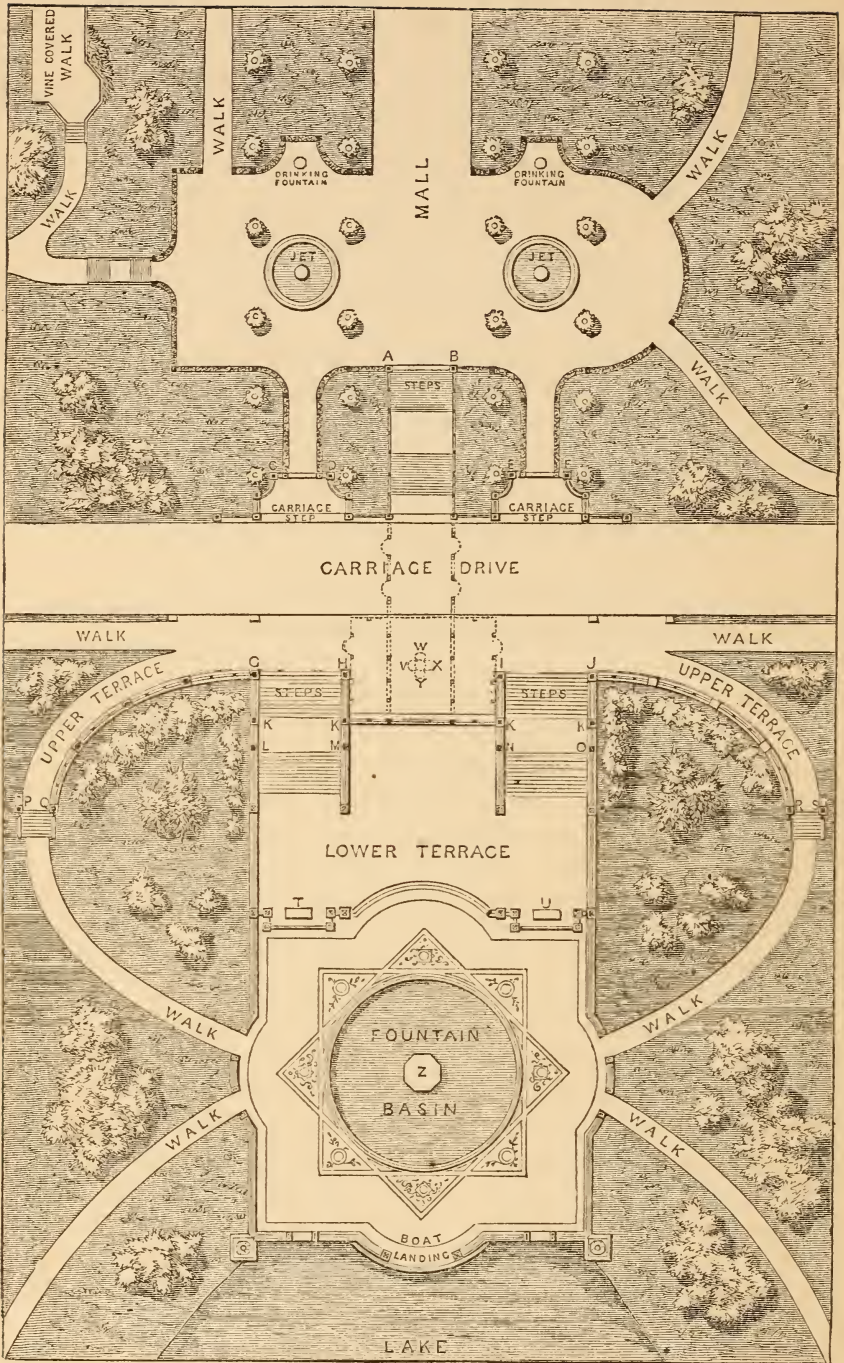


Greatest natural elevation of surface of ground above tide—"Summit Rock," near Eighth avenue, between Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth streets.....	136 feet.*
Least elevation of surface of ground, near Fifth avenue, at One Hundred and Seventh street, <i>below</i> tide.....	$\frac{2}{10}$ "

The dimensions of the Park have been ascertained from an accurate system of triangulation, using the city standard in the measurements.

The areas that are noted as *estimated*, apply in part to portions of the Park not completed, and are subject to modifications.

* A point of ground has been raised, by filling over a part of the rock through which the tunnel passes at the southwest corner of the old reservoir, to a height of 140 feet.



PLAN OF THE TERRACE.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRACE.

In the general design for the Park the Mall may be considered, with its accessories, an open air hall of reception for dress promenade.

The composition illustrated in the accompanying view, and known by the general title of "the Terrace," forms the architectural termination to the Mall.

The particular arrangement of this part of the design, as it includes a variety of different features, will be more readily understood by a reference to the accompanying diagram of the plan. Its use, in the first place, is to respond to certain special requirements of public convenience, that may be readily seen to exist in this part of the plan of the Park. As an artistic conception, on the other hand, it aims, without any attempt at grandeur or severity, to express an earnest general idea, and, at the same time, to be as full of playful suggestion and liberal decoration in detail as the nature of the case will admit.

In all such works architectural lines and masses, even when freely enriched with ornamental carving, are insufficient in themselves to produce a satisfactory effect. This can only be looked for when the whole design throughout is thoroughly subordinated to sculptural decoration of a really high character.

The design for the Terrace, occurring as it does at the central point of the plan of the Park, seems to offer a favorable opportunity to recognise, in its sculptural decoration, the sources from whence such works must always spring and the agencies by which they can be made possible. As sculpture of an expensive character forms no part of the work to be executed out of the fund under the control of the Central Park Commissioners, the suggestions in this regard are made with the idea that, either through the liberality of individuals, or in some other way, the necessary means will from time to time be found to enable

eminent artists to fill the vacant pedestals with their appropriate decoration.

At the head of the south flight of steps, entering from the Mall, pedestals are prepared for bronze statues of "Day" and "Night" (A. B.), and at the two secondary entrances, the piers on each side of the steps are proposed to be surmounted by statues illustrative of "Sunlight," "Moonlight," "Starlight," and "Twilight." (C. D. E. F.) For immediate effect these piers have been capped with terminals, which are intended to be used in another part of the work as it progresses towards completion.

The four large pedestals at the head of the north flight of steps, and facing the broad highway that overrides this part of the design, are proposed to support bronze statues illustrative of "Childhood," "Youth," "Maturity," and "Old Age." (G. H. I. J.) On each of the corresponding pedestals, on the same line with these, a stone vase (to be filled with living flowers) is proposed to be placed. (K.)

The four pedestals at the intermediate landings are intended for bronze statues of "Spring," "Summer," "Autumn," and "Winter;" the shields below these statues (which are intended for illustrative quotations from the poets), and the ramps and balustrades of the staircases, are designed and executed to lead up to this idea. (L. M. N. O.) For the four pedestals at the head of the two smaller staircases at the ends of the elliptical terrace wall, bronze statues are proposed, illustrative of "The Mountain," "The Valley," "The River," and "The Lake." (P. Q. R. S.) On the level of the intermediate terrace preparations have been made for three important groups. Two of bronze (T. U.) opposite the main staircases, and illustrative respectively of "Science," and "Art," and one of marble and Caen stone under the arcade, illustrative of the idea of "Nature." This group is intended to consist of four figures, each arranged to occupy a separate niche, or shallow recess, in an architectural composition that will form a centre to the four, and a background to each, and which will be terminated above with a vase or patera, filled with sculptured flowers, fruit, forest leaves, and grasses, the marble statues being intended to illustrate the ideas most readily expressed at this moment by the words "Flora,"

“Pomona,” “Sylva,” and “Ceres.” (V. W. X. Y.) In the pavement above the site intended for this group, a glazed opening is introduced, and special provision is also made in the design for the ornamental ceiling below, so that without attracting attention to the real source from whence it comes, a tempered light will be shed directly over this group and appear to emanate from it. The fountain (Z.), which will be as it were the centre of the centre, is intended to be finished above the upper water level in bronze, and should suggest both earnestly and playfully the idea of that central spirit of “Love” that is for ever active, and for ever bringing nature, science, and art, summer and winter, youth and age, day and night, into harmonious accord.

Having thus briefly adverted to the controlling features of the design, this description may be closed with a slight reference to some of its comparatively minor details. The ceiling of the arcade and corridor is intended to be constructed of encaustic tiles, secured to iron plates, and arranged in panels; the floor is also intended to be paved with encaustic tiles or marble.

The interior walls are arched, to correspond with the external openings, and within the leading lines these arches are proposed to be finished with marble and caen stone. A certain number of the recesses are to be finished as semicircular niches and occupied by wall fountains. The remainder are to have a flat surface decoration, or to be enriched with fresco painting of a really high character, if it can be executed, so as to bear exposure to the open air.

As the Park may be said to be the work both of the City and the State, honorable positions have been set apart for the flags of each, the flagstaves being introduced into the design on massive stone bases flanking the water wall, and in full view from the Ramble and the Lake. The United States Flag will be introduced in a position with reference to the Park generally surmounting the rough stone outlook proposed to be built on the rock at the north end of the Ramble, on the direct vista line from the central walk of the Mall, and thus situated, it will also be the culminating point of interest in the view both from the upper and the lower terrace.

C. VAUX,
Architect.

CHAPTER 46.

*AN ACT to improve the Central Park in the City of
New York,*

PASSED MARCH 25TH, 1862.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate
and Assembly, do enact as follows :*

§ 1. The Commissioners of the Central Park in the city of New York, are hereby authorized to set apart and appropriate to the New York Historical Society, the building within said Park heretofore known as the New York State Arsenal, together with such grounds adjoining the same as the said Commissioners may determine to be necessary and proper for the purpose of establishing and maintaining therein by the said society, a museum of antiquities and science, and a gallery of art.

§ 2. The expense of arranging and fitting up of the said arsenal building for the use and purpose aforesaid shall be borne by the said New York Historical Society, and the said society shall have the right, at its own expense, to add to, enlarge, or if need be, to take down the present building, and erect another on the grounds so set apart and appropriated; the plan of such addition, or new building, having been first submitted to, and approved by the Commissioners of the said Park.

§ 3. The museum and gallery contemplated in the first section of this act, when so established, shall be accessible to the public under proper regulations, to be adopted by the said society, approved by the said Commissioners, and not inconsistent with the proper administration and management of the said Park.

§ 4. The evidence of setting apart and appropriation of the said arsenal building and grounds within the said Park, to the

said New York Historical Society, for the purpose aforesaid, shall be a resolution to that effect, adopted by the Board of said Commissioners, duly acknowledged by its President, and recorded in the office of the Register of the city and county of New York.

§ 5. If the said New York Historical Society shall so establish their said museum of antiquities and science, and gallery of art, then, so long as they shall continue there to maintain the same, they shall occupy and enjoy the said building and grounds thus set apart and appropriated to them for the purpose aforesaid, free from any rent, assessment, or charge whatever therefor; and if the said society shall at any time hereafter, for any cause, discontinue their said museum of antiquities and science, and gallery of art, in the said arsenal building, or on the said grounds, then the said arsenal building, and any building whatever erected under the provisions of this act, and the said grounds before set apart and appropriated, shall revert to the said Central Park for the general purposes thereof; but the said society shall in such case be permitted to remove therefrom the said museum of antiquities and science, and gallery of art, and all its other property.

§ 6. The Legislature may at any time alter, repeal, or amend this act.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

COMMUNICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
NEW YORK:

The Commissioners of the Central Park respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that from the period of their organization, more than five years since, they have devoted themselves to the prosecution of the work committed to their charge, endeavoring so to carry it on, that, as far as practicable, the Park should be available to the public while the work was in progress—a course attended with some inconveniencies, yet calculated to gratify the public demand for the facilities it has afforded.

For more than three of these five years, the public use and enjoyment of the Park has been continuous.

The results that have already been attained in the Park are before the public.

Above One hundred and second street, the work cannot be proceeded with economically, until the question is settled, whether the land between One hundred and sixth street and One hundred and tenth street is to be added to the Park.

For well-known reasons, the proceedings for acquiring this land were discontinued nearly two years since.

Nearly three years ago, the Legislature of the State placed at the disposal of the Commissioners of the Park a fund for its construction, which they have endeavored to use with careful economy, and in the strict line of their duty, avoiding studiously any interference with other departments, and in affairs for which they are not responsible; of this fund there remains unissued and unexpended a balance of eight hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars.

By the terms of the law, the Commissioners of the Park were entitled to receive this sum of eight hundred and thirty-three

The obligations of the Commissioners of the Park now outstanding, amount to about the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. To meet these, to pay the wages of mechanics and laboring men, to make the necessary preparations for prosecuting the work in the spring, the Board of Commissioners of the Central Park require the issue by your Honorable Body of the remainder of the fund authorized by the act of the Legislature, and they respectfully request the Honorable the Common Council to pass the resolution of the Board of Councilmen above alluded to, in order that they may not be compelled to discharge during the inclement months of winter the mechanics and laborers now advantageously employed.

Your Honorable Body is aware, that if the resolution above referred to is passed without delay, the time required for advertising the loan and awarding the bids is such that the money could not be realized much before next February, during which time the persons alluded to are liable to be subjected to great inconvenience for want of money.

It can but be gratifying to every citizen of New York to observe the unanimity of favor that has greeted the results thus far worked out in this popular pleasure-ground.

The musical entertainments, without expense to the public, have been very widely appreciated.

Through the Board of Education, opportunities for exercise and the sports on the lawns, have been tendered to the children of the public schools and other school organizations of the city. The winter sports are as popular as are those of the summer. Order and system have prevailed in every department.

A daily account of the visitors to the Park shows that more than four millions of people have in eleven months of this year found their way through its gates. Its troops of admirers are not confined to this city nor to this continent.

The Commissioners of the Central Park trust that no obstacles will arise to delay the completion of this work, which seems

thus far to have won the favorable regards of the entire population of the city, and in the completion and preservation of which every citizen is so deeply interested.

Dated New York, December 23d. 1862.

AND. H. GREEN,
Comptroller of the Park.

HENRY G. STEBBINS,
President.

THOS. C. FIELDS,
Secretary.

M. H. GRINNELL,
WALDO HUTCHINS,
J. F. BUTTERWORTH,
CHARLES H. RUSSELL.
Commissioners.

