



ALBANY.

THE CHARGES AGAINST EZRA CORNELL. OPINIONS CONCERNING THEM—A COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION CALLED FOR—ACTION IN THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY.

FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] ALBANY, May 15.—The letter from Ezra Cornell to Gov. Dix was first read by the Governor in the New-York papers of to-day. Neither the telegraphic dispatch nor the letter had come to the hands of the Governor when both made their appearance in print. When it became known this morning that no such communication had been received by the Governor many were ready to pronounce both of them forgeries, but on inquiry at the telegraph office it was found that the dispatch was received from Ithaca yesterday afternoon, and the reason for its failure to reach the Governor is that it was given to John W. Dix, the Governor's son and private secretary, who forgot to deliver it, and went to New-York with it in his pocket.

Opinions differ here as to the truth and justice of Mr. McGuire's strictures on the founder of Cornell University, one party claiming that they are substantially correct, while the other say they are only the echo of the spite and envy of the people of Ithaca, in Schuyler County, where McGuire resides, and where the "People's College" is situated, which failed to get the advantage of the Government land grant that was secured by the Cornell Institution.

The following resolutions, providing for an examination into the truth of the charges made by Mr. McGuire, were offered in the Senate this morning by Mr. Johnson. Being concurrent, they could not be acted on to-day, and were laid on the table to be printed:

Resolved, if the Assembly concur, That the Controller, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Treasurer be, and they are appointed a Commission to inquire into and ascertain the condition of the College Land Grant, so-called, and that they particularly inquire into and ascertain:

First: Whether the act of Congress, Chapter 130, Laws of 1862, and the act of the Legislature of this State, Chapter 460 of the Laws of 1863, have been complied with in the sale and disposition of College lands.

Second: Also to inquire into and ascertain what security or securities the State is obligated to receive for the sale of said lands, also whether the State has the securities required by the aforesaid amendments, and whether securities other than those therein mentioned can be taken or received by the State.

Third: That they inquire into and ascertain the quantity of land sold by Ezra Cornell under his contract with the State of date Aug. 4, 1862, as well as a contract prior to that date, the prices for which he sold said lands, the amount received by him, the amount unpaid of the purchase money, and how the payments of the same is secured, and how much of the purchase money he has paid into the Treasury of the State.

Fourth: Also to inquire into the value of certain timbered lands located in the States of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Kansas, said to contain about 400,000 acres, and whether said Cornell has made any contracts with any person or persons for the sale of said last mentioned lands, if so to whom, and the contract prices, and how such contract prices compare with the real value of the lands.

Fifth: That they also inquire into the amount of charges of said Ezra Cornell upon the sales of said lands that is, the whole quantity embraced in his contracts with the State for the cost and expenses attending the location, management and sale of said lands, and the taxes assessed and paid thereon. Also, whether such charges can, under the aforesaid act of Congress, be lawfully deducted from the proceeds of sales.

And, lastly, to inquire into all matters and things connected with said lands, the management and disposition thereof, their present situation and value, and report to next session of the Legislature, with a recommendation what legislation is necessary to properly secure said funds in compliance with the act of Congress, with power to send for persons and papers.

At the evening session of the Assembly, Speaker Cornell offered a resolution appointing ex-Gov. Seymour, William G. Fargo of Buffalo, and Lewis G. Morris of Westchester, Commissioners to investigate all the facts connected with the Cornell University and the acts of Ezra Cornell as agent for the location and sale of land, scrip, &c. Mr. McGuire objected on the ground that resolutions involving the same subject matter and appointing State officers as Commissioners were now pending in the Senate. Objection being made, the resolution went over under the rule. The resolution requires the Commission to report to the Governor for transmission to the next Legislature.

THE APPROPRIATIONS. ACTION OF THE ASSEMBLY UPON THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT—IT IS ORDERED PRINTED—AN IMPORTANT ITEM STRICKEN OUT—SHARP FRACTURE ON THE PART OF PAST CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.

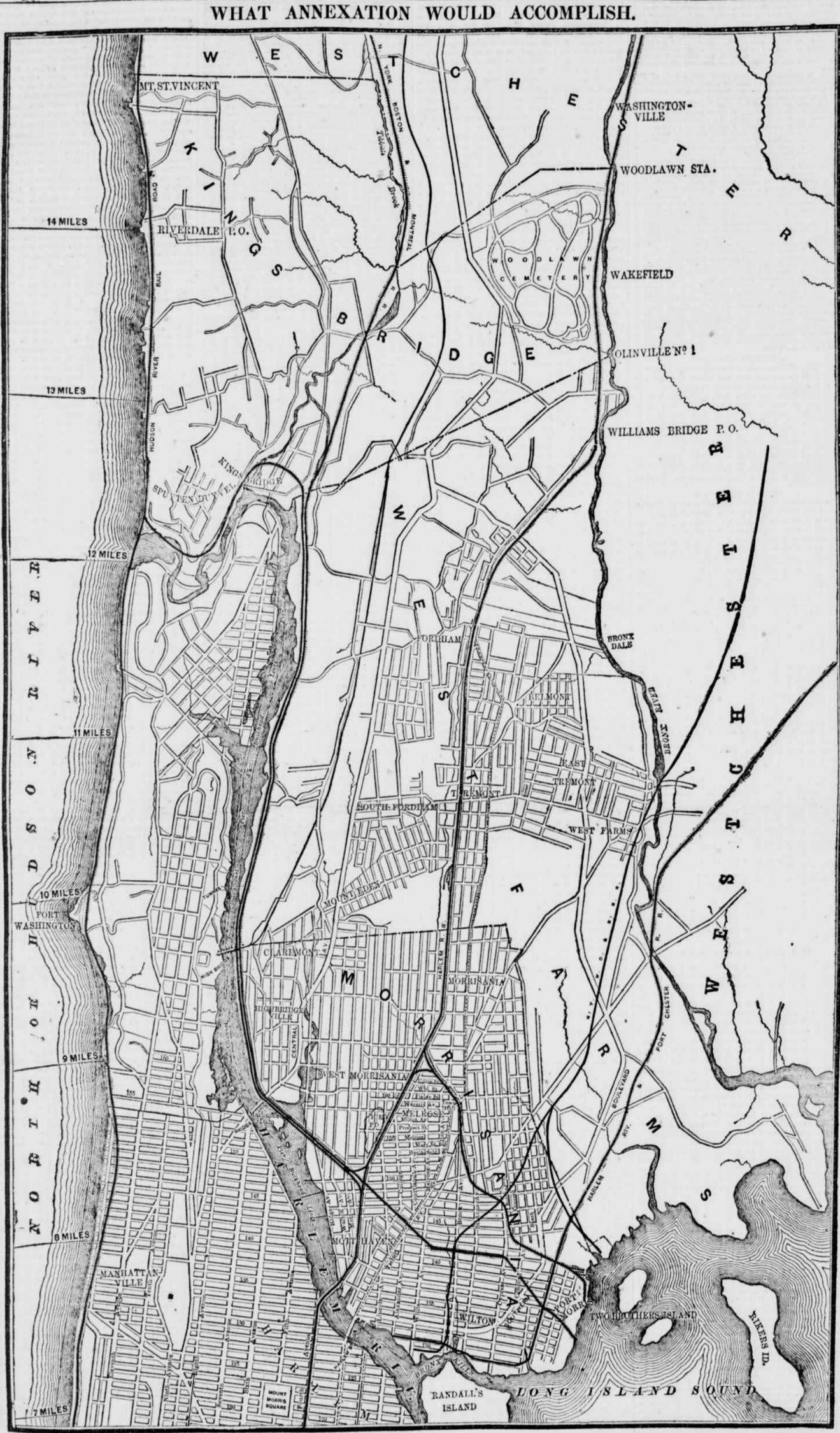
FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] ALBANY, May 15.—The report of the Conference Committee on the annual Appropriation bill came up for concurrence in the Assembly this morning, when a long discussion arose on the item appropriating \$6,000 for the purchase of 6,000 Remington breech-loading guns for the National Guard. This item was stricken out of the bill when it first came before the Assembly by a large majority, but was reinstated by the Senate and concurred in by the Conference Committee.

Mr. Fort assured the House that the Controller favored it, and said that he had sent for him and told him so personally. Notwithstanding this assurance, and the fact that the Adjutant-General was on the floor of the House lobbying for the item during the discussion, it was stricken out by a vote of 62 to 49. The report of the Conference Committee, with the exception of this item, was agreed to.

Among the new items inserted by the Conference Committee is one to cover the necessity created by the recent decision of the Court of Appeals for some legislation to compel the County of Kings to raise its portion of the canal deficiency tax which it refused to raise last year. The portion of Kings County is \$60,000, and it is required to levy that amount next Fall. Alderman Richardson has drafted a bill to authorize the Supervisors of Kings County to raise the money by the issue of bonds payable by installments in the next eight years.

This same report of the Conference Committee was adopted by the Senate last Friday, but the Assembly took the safer course of having the report printed and placed in the hands of members. This particular Conference Committee is undoubtedly entitled to great confidence, but the present set by the Senate is a highly dangerous one notwithstanding. The report, referring as it did to the engrossed bill by page and line, was necessarily unintelligible to every one who did not have a hand in drawing it up, and furthermore it embodied new matter of great importance. It is to be hoped that the Senate as well as the Assembly, when in course of time a Conference Committee reports on the contents of the Supply bill, will have the report printed. The fact is that the report of a Conference Committee on an appropriation bill is invariably a very different bill from that which passed either House. Frequently such reports have been the instrumentalities of perpetrating gigantic swindles. Finally, it may be added, that the Appropriation bill, Supply bill, and bill levying a tax and making appropriations for new work on the Canals, should have been in the hands of the Governor six weeks ago. According to present appearances, the Governor will not get the Supply bill until after the Legislature has dispersed.

THE CURRENT OF LEGISLATION. CONSIDERING THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS—A NEW SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER—RAPID TRANSIT SCHEMES—AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAME LAWS—CONSOLIDATION OF NEW-YORK AND BROOKLYN.



action on the amendments by this Legislature. If they are not acted upon this year they cannot be submitted to the people until the general election in November, 1876.

The Senate this evening continued its deliberations on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Only two amendments of any consequence were made to the work of the Commission. On motion of James Wood the Senate was made to consist of 25 members. To be chosen for four years from the eight Judicial Districts as now constituted: The First District, City of New-York, to elect six; the Second District, Long Island and Staten Island, five, and the other districts each four. Article V, Section 3, was amended so as to allow the Governor to remove for cause the Secretary of State, Attorney-General, and State Engineer. By this article, as proposed by the Commission, these officers are to be appointed by the Governor by and with consent of the Senate.

Col. Emma Clark, Secretary to the New-York Health Board, arrived here to-day with another supplemental charter bill. It seems that the new Health Board, when they came to examine into their powers and duties, discovered that all power to act as a Board of Health had been abolished by the new charter, and that no new provision had been made by which they were enabled to perform their functions. The bill brought up by Col. Clark simply restores the statutes under which the old

Senate. An experimental section of the sidewalk is to be erected around the block bounded by Whitehall, Bowling-green, and State-st. If the plan should work to the satisfaction of George B. McNeilan, Charles H. Haswell, and one other person to be appointed by the Commission of Public Works, the Common Council is authorized to designate a route. Mr. Speer has had in operation here for several weeks a very ingenious model of his proposed moving sidewalk, which has been much commended by those who have witnessed it.

Another quick transit railroad bill passed the Assembly this morning. The bill is entitled the "New-York and Westchester Elevated Railroad," and is to be constructed on what is known as the Ira Buckman's plan. The bill was introduced by Mr. Husted, and was before the Legislature last year. The most important of the various bills to amend the game laws which have been introduced this session was killed this morning, the Senate refusing to adopt the report of a Conference Committee on the difference between the two Houses, and declining to appoint a new batch of conferees. The Senators from the northern part of the State opposed and defeated the bill because it made the practice of hunting deer by dogs illegal.

OBITUARY.

LIEUT. GEORGE M. HARRIS. Lieut. George M. Harris, who died from wounds received in the fighting at the Lava Beds, was a native of Philadelphia, and only in his 36th year. He was graduated at West Point in 1868, and was stationed at Fort Mason during the troubles with the Lowery outlaws. Subsequently, at his own request, he was transferred to Battery K, 6th Artillery, and joined his company during the operations against the Modocs, in January last. He was a nephew of the late Bishop McVane of Ohio. His remains will be brought home for interment.

NEW NEW-YORK. A CHAIN OF FORTY-THREE OLD TOWNS. THE TOWNS TO BE ANNEXED—PORT MORRIS THE RAILWAY AND SHIPPING CENTER OF THE FUTURE—LOW PRICE OF LANDS IN THE WESTCHESTER TOWNS—RAILWAY AND AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS.

The student of metropolitan possibilities will find in the accompanying map a remarkable illustration of the New-York of the future. The New-York of the present embraces nine old towns, namely: New-Amsterdam, Bowers, Greenwich, Yorkville, Harlem, Manhattanville, Carmanville, Fort Washington, and Tarrytown. If the bill which has passed the Legislature becomes a law through the Governor's signature, and Morrisania, Kingsbridge, and West Farms be annexed, thirty-four old towns will be added to the list, namely: Mott Haven, North New-York, Wilton, Port Morris, Morrisania, East Morrisania, West Morrisania, Melrose, South Melrose, Woodstock, Hunt's Point, Eltons, Forest Grove, Grove Hill, Inwood, Highbridgeville, Claremont, Mount Eden, Mount Hope, West Farms, Fairmount, Tremont, East Tremont, Fordham, South Fordham, Monterey, Belmont, South Belmont, Williams-bridge or Jerome, Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil, Riverdale, Adamsville, and Moshon. The area of the city is now about 14,000 acres; the amount to be added includes about 4,000 acres, so that the entire territory included within municipal boundaries will be about 22,000 acres, of which a large part is already thickly settled. The present population of the city is about 1,000,000. It is estimated that in the territory to be annexed the population is about 40,000. The new metropolis will be bounded on the north by the southern line of the city of Yonkers, and on the east about the Harlem River by the Bronx River and Long Island Sound. The township of Kingsbridge was formerly a part of Yonkers, but was made a separate town when the latter received a city charter about a year ago. Morrisania received its name from the Morris family, the founder of which, Richard Morris, formerly owned a tract of 3,000 acres, which he held by a patent obtained directly from the Indians. He was a German by birth and fought under Cromwell in the English civil wars. His son, Lewis Morris, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and became Governor of New-Jersey, in which State Morris County and Morristown were named in his honor. The old family mansion still stands in Morrisania, and several members of the family are still living.

THE ANNEXATION BILL. The bill provides that the towns above named shall be annexed to the City of New-York, subject to the same laws, &c., except that, until locally changed, the divisions for the election of members of Assembly, Senator, Justice of the Supreme Court for the Second Judicial District, and member of Congress shall remain as they are. For all other purposes and offices, electors shall vote as electors of the City and County of New-York. Morrisania is to constitute the Twenty-third Ward, and West Farms and Kingsbridge the Twenty-fourth Ward of the city. On and after July 1, 1875, the annexed territory will constitute the Eighth School District, and the sixth Police Justice District, for which a Police Justice shall be appointed as provided by law for the City of New-York. This territory will also form the Tenth Judicial District, for which a Justice shall be elected at the next general election. The present Justices of the Peace will continue in office until the expiration of their several terms, after which the tenures of both Civil and Police Justices shall be the same as in other parts of the city. The officers of the several towns are to remain in office until the next municipal election, which will be held as provided by the city charter. All public property is to be vested in the City and County of New-York, to which it is to be transferred on Jan. 2, 1874. The courts in the City and County of New-York, on and after July 1, 1873, are to have jurisdiction over all causes of action, civil, criminal, and special, existing suits to be continued in the courts of original jurisdiction. All interest which the annexed towns have in the public property of Westchester County is released to the county, and the proper proportion of the obligations of the county payable by the annexed towns is to be paid to the County of Westchester by the City and County of New-York. After July 1, 1874, all legal documents and records are to be filed in the City and County of New-York. The number of Commissioners of Public Parks is increased to seven, who are to have exclusive power to locate and lay out all public parks, streets, roads, and avenues, to devise plans for and locate all bridges and tunnels within the territory annexed, and to establish the widths and grades of all such streets, roads, and avenues so laid out.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER CITIES. In thus expanding its territory, New-York is only following the example of other cities, both foreign and American. Philadelphia, a few years ago, increased its population from 200,000 to nearly 600,000 by taking into its corporate limits the flourishing manufacturing towns of Frankfort, Germantown, Norristown, Manayunk, Passayunk, West Philadelphia, &c. Boston has steadily extended its boundaries, taking in all the suburban towns, its latest acquisition being Roxbury, which was a city by itself. The same course has been pursued by most Western cities of considerable size. New-York alone has remained geographically stationary, no territory having been added to that which it held when first incorporated under the Dougan charter in 1683. The following table will show the disadvantages under which New-York has labored in comparison with other large cities:

Table with 3 columns: City, Area in square miles, Population. Rows include Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Boston, London, Paris, and New-York.

The above estimates of population are taken from the census of 1870 for American cities, those of London and Paris from the enumerations of 1871, and that of Tokyo from the latest attainable information. The table shows that Philadelphia, with a territory six times as large as New-York, had only two-thirds the population; Boston, with four times the territory, had less than three-fifths of the population; and Chicago, with ten times the area, had only one-fourth of the population. Among the immediate advantages which will accrue to the annexed towns from this measure, those chiefly mentioned are: 1. The introduction of Croton water into all parts of the territory. 2. The greater security to property from more perfect Fire and Police Departments. 3. The eradication of malarious diseases by a system of drainage which will probably be introduced by the Commissioners. Property-owners living in the low lands lying west of the Bronx River say that perfect drainage may be attained at comparatively little expense, as outlets are afforded by Buncy Creek, Round Brook, and other streams which are the natural lines of drainage for the whole adjacent country. 4. Annexation will also open to the new wards the facilities of a large number of savings banks and insurance and other companies, which are by their charters limited by their loan investments to property in the City of New-York. A large part of this capital will, it is thought, find its way to Morrisania, West Farms, and Kingsbridge, greatly to their advantage, and to the benefit of the whole city.

MR. GREEN PREPARES THE WAY. Although the boundaries of New-York City, as laid down by the Annexation bill, are those indicated by the topography of the country, credit is due to Andrew H. Green, for having foreseen the union of the lower Westchester towns with the city, and for having taken measures in anticipation of it. As early as 1867, in his report to the Commissioners of the Central Park, he urged upon their attention the intimate relations existing between the southern part of Westchester County and Manhattan Island, and in his report of 1868 he spoke on the same subject as follows:

In the progress of laying out the north end of the island the general suggestions made in a previous communication have come to be practically important, and call for distinct notice and specific consideration before proceeding to complete the plans upon which the Board is now engaged. The lower part of the County of Westchester lies adjacent to the City of New-York, and is separated from it by a river of a width easily bridged or tunneled. It is so admirably connected with and dependent upon the City of New-York that unity of plan for improvements on both sides of the river is essential, not only for the future convenience of the inhabitants, but in order that the expense of changing the plan of the coming city after lines of travel in the City of New-York be generally in a north-easterly direction, and reach the boundary between the two counties at very different distances from the center of business in New-York; thus the Second-avenue terminates at Harlem River, at about seven miles, the City Hall, the Eighth-ave, at about nine miles, and the Kingsbridge road, on the west side of the city, about 12 miles from the same point. There is therefore a triangular zone of the south-western portion of Westchester County, five miles in length from north to south, and over two miles in width from east to west, including all parts of the town of Westchester, that lies so near the business center of New-York as the adjoining part of New-York Island. Most of the valleys in Westchester