CENTENNIAL PREPARATIONS.

THE WORK BEGUN IN EARNEST.

ACTIVITY ON THE EXHIBITION GROUNDS—RAPID PROGRESS—APPLICATIONS FOR SPACE—PROBABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ABROAD—THE LACK OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VISITORS AND EXHIBITORS—SUGGESTIONS AS TO SPECIAL EXHIBITS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 11.—When I visited the Centennial grounds in June there was nothing to be seen suggestive of the coming event but a tall flag-pole standing in the midst of a prairie-like expanse of daisies and clover blossoms. Now the place presents the busiest scene to be found in Philadelphia. An army of workmen swarm over the ground. The flag-pole still remains, but the daisies and clover have disappeared, leaving a vast expanse of level, bare, red earth, crossed by railroad tracks, and dotted here and there with shanties. Long lines of men are digging trenches and laying the foundations of the buildings; trains of cars discharge their lading of stone and lumber; surveyors are busy with their instruments; long processions of carts move to and fro. Eating-houses for the laborers have sprung up; a three-story cottage for the use of the contractor, who knows that the master's eye does as much as the workman's hands, is nearly completed. Just outside the park two pretty villas have been converted into restaurants, and offer rest and refreshment on their broad piazzas and shaded lawns. A little removed from the bustle which prevails, where the principal Exhibition buildings are soon to arise, are the offices of the Board of Finance, now occupied by Mr. Schwarzman, the architect of the permanent Memorial Hall, with a corps of sixteen draughtsmen, who are preparing working designs for that building. While preserving the main features of the accepted plan, the architect has increased the hight of the dome and improved the exterior by placing statues in niches along the façade, and groups of statuary on the corners of the roof and in front of the dome, and by working in a profusion of artistic ornamentation on each of the four fronts of the edifice. For elegance and richness of design and appropriateness for an art hall and museum, the building promises to be all that could be desired.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPACES FOR EXHIBITORS.

Director-General Goshorn is now constantly receiving applications for space from intending exhibitors, and for sites on the grounds on which to erect buildings for special purposes. No assignments will be made until the applications are nearly all in, because until then it will be impossible to set apart the requisite amount of space for the different groups, and properly to assign subdivisions to the applicants. It is desirable, however, that applications should be filed early, for, other things being equal, the first comers will have the preference for choice positions. The prospects for a full representation of the arts and industries of foreign nations are so encouraging that all doubts on that point may now be dismissed. All the space that can be assigned the leading European nations will unquestionably be filled to overflowing. The self-interest of English, French, and German manufacturers will suffice alone to secure an excellent display of such articles from those countries as seek an American market. To this commercial exhibit there will be added, it is expected, full and interesting displays in the groups of Fine Arts, Agriculture, Education, and Mining, and Metallurgy, made under the supervision of the Governments of France and Germany. It is doubtful whether England will do much in this direction, however. Austria will, we are assured, make great efforts to rival the great manufacturing countries, and will surprise our people, as she did all Europe at Vienna last year, by the evidences of her industrial resources, and the display of multitudes of articles that are the products of an old and complex civilization, and a high degree of art-culture. Many of the smaller European States have indicated their purpose to be represented. Of the Oriental countries, Egypt and Japan certainly, China and Turkey probably, and possibly Persia, will contribute. Chili leads the South American Republics in applying for space, and all the others will no doubt follow. Brazil will do better than duplicate the exhibit she made last Summer at Vienna.

It is probably not generally known outside of Philadelphia that preparations are on foot for erecting five different monumental structures in Fairmount Park in time to dedicate them during the Centennial Summer. The first is to be erected by the B'nai Brith Hebrew Society, from a design by Ezekiel of Cincinnati. The second is a large memorial fountain designed by Hermann Kerns, of this city, and will be furnished by the Roman Catholic Temperance Societies. The Humboldt monument, by Prof. Drake of Berlin, the result of the subscriptions of Philadelphia Germans, is the third. The fourth is Harriet Hosmer's group, emblematic of emancipation; and the fifth is a statue of Columbus, models for which are now on their way from Italy.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE VISITORS?

Thus much about preparations that are already on foot. There are others that ought to be in progress of which one sees no signs. We are reasonably sure of having a good World's Fair, but what we shall do with the people who come to see it is a problem which nobody has even set about solving. The hotels of Philadelphia barely suffice for the ordinary demands upon them. Whenever a convention is held which brings a few hundred strangers to town half of them have to sleep on cots in halls. How are the 10,000 guests which the Exhibition will bring, or ought to bring here every day, to be lodged and fed? If private families would generally let lodgings, sleeping accommodations could be found, and improvised restaurants would do the rest. There is more house-room in Philadelphia in proportion to the population than in any large city in the world, but a man's house is his castle here in a very strict sense, and the average resident, be he rich or poor, retreats behind his white board shutters with a sense of pride and satisfaction in the knowledge that there is no one upon the premises but his own family. Pleasant lodgings are at all times difficult to obtain here, and the probability is that the influx of strangers in 1876 will not lessen the exclusiveness of the natives. Instead of letting their vacant rooms they will be more likely to put extra locks on their doors and window-shutters. More hotels are requisite for the success of the Exhibition. Visitors who cannot find a comfortable place to sleep will take a hasty look at the fair and go over to New-York to spend their holiday and their money, instead of passing a fortnight here to see the sights of the Exhibition in a leisurely way. There has been more or less talk for the past year about a new hotel of large size on Broad-st., between Chestnut and Market, facing the new city buildings, but the enterprise requisite to give the project shape appears to be wanting. The proposed location is admirable, and there is scarcely any doubt that the investment would pay even in ordinary times. If the Grand Pennsylvania capitalists hesitate much longer about giving life to the project, the money will come from abroad, but it will probably come too late to complete the hotel in time for the Centennial.

ACCOMMODATION OF EXHIBITORS.

A need that will not be supplied by any number of new hotels in the center of the city is accommodation for exhibitors, jurors, and employés in the vicinity of the Exhibition grounds. Fairmount Park is on the western border of the city, and those grounds are on the extreme western border of the Park. They are consequently "a long way off from any place." There is plenty of vacant ground in the neighborhood to be had at reasonable prices. A very sensible and practical plan, and one which promises handsome profits, is to cover a square of this ground with detached or semi-detached cottages, and erect in the center or upon one side a large temporary structure for a dining-room and offices. A hotel could be thus constituted resembling those at many of the Virginia Springs. After the Exhibition closed the temporary building could be pulled down, and the cottages sold for dwellings. I believe there is more money in this scheme than in any other hotel project which has been broached. Beside convenience to the Exhibition, such a hotel would have cool air and country surroundings to recommend it—no small advantage in the heats of a Philadelphia Summer—and could be built within a few rods of the new depot which the Pennsylvania Railroad will put up adjoining the exhibition grounds, so that it would be a popular resort for strangers who wanted to avoid the long street-car journey from the city to the grounds.

SPECIAL FEATURES THAT NEED ATTENTION.

There are other things beside the erection of buildings for the great fair and providing for the comfort of visitors which must soon be thought of, if the exhibition is to be anything more than a show of merchantable wares. The material resources of the country, outside of machines and manufactured articles, must be illustrated by special exhibits and collections, which it will be nobody's business to make because there will be no profit in making them, and there must be something to enable foreigners to study our methods of common school and academic education, and to learn something of our charitable institutions, our churches sustained without aid from the State, our public land system, our newspapers and periodicals, and the peculiar conveniences and comforts of our household life. The Centennial Commissioners cannot organize those special exhibits. No money can be made from them, and there will, therefore, be no pecuniary inducement for individuals to undertake the work. Nevertheless I have no doubt that societies and associations and gentlemen of means and culture will come forward and offer their services if they understand in time what is wanted. A few of these special exhibits which occur to mind as particularly desirable are suggested below:

1. An extensive and complete display of agricultural products, with full information concerning the culture, yield, &c., of each article. This ought to be made by the Agricultural Department at Washington, and Congress should furnish the money necessary to make it.

2. An exhibit of all branches of the iron industry, including specimens of ores, pig metal, bar and sheet iron, steel, &c.; models of mines, furnaces and mills, statistical charts, &c. This should be made in a building of corrugated iron erected for the purposes. The work can be best performed and therefore ought to be undertaken by the American Iron and Steel Association.

3. A collection of native metallic ores of all kinds. The Smithsonian Institution could probably best furnish this.

4. A Fisheries exhibit, comprising specimens of all the food fishes of the United States, the nets, tackle, boats, &c., used in their capture, and the processes of curing and packing.

5. A Railway exhibit, including not only engines and cars, but all improvements in switches, signals, track constructions, and models or drawings of the finest stations and bridges in the country.

6. An Educational exhibit, furnished chiefly by the several States with the assistance and advice of the Bureau of Education in Washington. This should of course comprise text-books, furniture, apparatus, and statistical information, and should include at least two school-houses—a country district school-house and a building such as is used by the best graded schools in large towns.

7. A collection of all the newspapers and periodicals in the country. This is now being formed, I understand, by a gentleman in New-York.

8. A model American farm house, with barns and out-buildings, and a model city house, to display all the comforts, conveniences, and labor-saving appliances, which the growing taste for luxury and ease has brought into our domestic life.

9. Some kind of religious exhibit, showing the power and prosperity of church organizations and the spread of religion in a country where the government lets religion alone. Models of churches, religious papers, and books, Sunday-school pictures, maps, books, &c., would be in place in this exhibit.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PANICS.

THE PROSPECT FOR THE FALL TRADE—CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF FINANCIAL CRISES—EFFECT OF GOOD CROPS UPON BUSINESS GENERALLY—A FIXED FINANCIAL POLICY DESIRABLE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The newspapers have considerable to say about a general revival of trade and the grand business we are to have next Fall. An impression seems to prevail that we must make up for the dullness of the past ten months by great activity during the coming season, very much as, in time of drouth, people say that enough rain will soon fall to give the proper total of inches; as in a cold May we hear of the approaching hot Summer, or as in a sweltering Summer there are many predictions of the coming Winter's severity. The community is seized with the idea that some natural law guarantees a correct general average in all things. Whether this idea be sound or not, matters very little; for in most cases the question of time is all-important. In a drouth, we wish to know if the rain will come before the crops are ruined. Our present difficulty is to find out whether good business should follow the first ten months of dullness, or whether it is more natural for the bad business, succeeding a panic, to continue for several years before the reaction. Among business men I have noticed a singular unanimity of opinion finding expressions like these: "We hear a great deal about big business, but it has not reached us yet." "Our own customers have no very large ideas at present, but we suppose they will soon get them up." I fear that the wish for lively trade is father to the belief in it, which is, indeed, aided by newspaper articles, based upon the coming good harvest, and upon the theory of general average noticed above. Some estimate of the future may perhaps be gained by considering panics in general.

What, then, is the philosophy of a panic? If it be a time when men go crazy without cause, or lose confidence in each other when they should continue to trust—if that be all the explanation of a panic, we may have another crisis to-morrow, and we need not consider our financial condition at all. Fortunately for us, however, history records many panics, and clear thinkers have discussed the phenomena of them, finding one series of causes for this disturbance, and another for that, but not attributing any trouble to chance or to the whims of business men. A panic seems to be the natural sequel to several consecutive years of good business. During brisk trade with fair profits, men get into a habit of trusting each other, and soon of repeating confidence in dishonest persons, as the desire to sell and realize overpowers the judgment. Everybody is making money; therefore everybody can pay his debts. Sellers, instead of refusing to sell this customer, charge him "a little more to pay for the extra risk," without considering that "the little more" will ruin the customer and bring the loss home. All kinds of new enterprises are entered into to "salt down" surplus profits. The prospect of great gain brings hoarded money into active use. In 1833 American investments began to attract largely English capital. The Erie Canal, finished in 1825, had served to develop the lake regions, and by 1835, when the canal was enlarged, speculation in Western lands had outstripped all reason. The progress of the mania, as shown by the returns of sales of public lands, was as follows in round numbers: 1832, $3,000,000; 1833, $4,000,000; 1834, $6,500,000; 1835, $14,500,000; 1836, $24,500,000; 1837, $36,700,000; 1838, $3,000,000. New-York City real estate, according to GroveNor, was assessed at $320,000,000 in 1836, but did not again reach $300,000,000 until 1851. Railroad building seems to have been only checked by the crisis of 1837; the building proceeded as shown by the following numbers of miles built in each year: 1831, 72; 1832, 134; 1833, 151; 1834, 253; 1835, 465; 1836, 175; 1837, 224; 1838, 416; 1839, 289; 1840, 516; 1841, 717; 1842, 491; 1843, 159.

Years of advancing prices and seeming prosperity, accompanied by extension of credit, preceded the crash of '37. Credit makes a little money do much work; money, indeed, being used to settle a very small proportion of business transactions. Several men, keeping accounts in banks of discount, may all obtain enough ready money to enable them to carry, for many months, large blocks of merchandise or real estate, for which there is no sale, by accommodating each other with their signatures. A may get B's note discounted, B get C's, C get D's, and D get A's. Each note matures in a week or two later than the preceding, it is only necessary for A, B, C and D to keep enough money among them to meet one of the four notes, for as soon as one is paid, the process begins again. In good times, bank expansion is very great, and, of course, prices go on advancing until somebody, who has been extremely reckless, finds it impossible to meet his engagements. Then comes a desire to test prices and the foundations of credit. It is soon discovered that there is not money enough to go around. The man who gave his note for $10,000 can scarcely obtain the amount at all, for every one else is trying to hold sufficient funds to meet his own notes. Discounts are only to be had with great difficulty. For borrowed money, securities have to be given for double the amount, and those persons who cannot give them must go under. Of course, in a panic, there is always excessive fright, but this soon passes away and then there is a settling to the conviction that credit has enabled business and prices to exceed their proper bounds, and also that economy should be the rule. The natural recovery from a great crisis we believe to be very slow. In 1837, business seemed to have revived; the Bank of the United States considered the troubles to be over, and became involved in cotton speculations. In 1839, the price of cotton was 16 cents; but in 1840 was 12 cents; in 1841, 11 cents; in 1842, 9 cents; in 1843, 8 cents. The price did not again reach 12 cents until 1847. The bank failed in October, 1839, and was followed by nearly all the banks in the South and West. The year 1843 was a very gloomy one, and the general revival of business did not happen until 1844.

What shall we say of the probable duration of our dull trade? A good harvest is expected, but the first effect of it must be a decline of prices of breadstuffs, and possible failures of dealers in them. The great English harvests of 1813 and 1814 precipitated a financial revulsion. While all agree that good crops are national blessings, yet their first effects are sometimes disastrous. There, too, is a prevalent idea that banks are rediscounting; that is, are carrying along their customers to enable them to wade out of their difficulties. The whole country is trying to practice economy; but everybody understands the hardness of the task, and that it takes time for a person or a nation to get out of extravagant habits. Of course, economy means future prosperity, but does it not also mean present dullness of trade? While the Fall business should be somewhat better than that of the present Summer, yet we cannot help feeling that a large business is not to be expected. Our money is an uncertain standard of value, and there is a well-founded dread of the next Congress and its probable tinkering with the currency. We cannot see far enough into the future to enter upon ventures that take time for maturity. Perhaps we are really tending toward specie payments. If this be so, we should anticipate a further decline of prices, or at least no advance from the present low ones. Until we reach specie payments, or definitely agree that there shall be no attempt to reach them, we may hope for a little improvement in trade, but need not anticipate the volume of business that preceded the panic of '73. RADIX.

New-York, Aug. 8, 1874.

THE WISCONSIN CRANBERRY CROP.

From The Green Bay (Wis.) Advocate.

Berlin and other papers up the river join in saying that there will be a fair crop of cranberries—in some instances a larger one than for years previous. The drouth and the fires have done some damage, especially on the higher grounds. Carey's marsh, in Green Lake County, which it was estimated would produce from 20,000 to 30,000 barrels, will fall short of that. The Wood County marshes promised a short crop until lately, when the recent rains doubtless brought them out all right. Mr. Rounds, a prominent cranberry grower of Berlin, states that on his marsh there is a prospect of a larger crop than ever before.

CHARITY'S BEST WORK.

FEATURES OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

THE COMFORTS AND LUXURIES FOUND IN THE PRESBYTERIAN, ROOSEVELT, ST. LUKE'S, AND OTHER PAY HOSPITALS—HOW PROPER VENTILATION IS SECURED—SUCCESS OF THE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL.

The class of institutions which are generally called the private or pay hospitals are intended to occupy a different place from the large metropolitan hospitals, whose most notable defect is that they are not available to large numbers of the respectable city poor. In the report of the Presbyterian Hospital the need of increased accommodation for this class is clearly shown. The respectable and unfortunate poor cannot mingle with those whose debased habits and tastes have dragged them down to pauperism, without forfeiting that self-respect which they regard as most precious. It is this contamination that causes the entire community of the respectable sick poor to suffer rather than enter the large metropolitan hospitals. To those classes the private hospitals are a haven of refuge, where their sufferings can be relieved without a loss of their self-respect. Of the private hospitals in this city the Presbyterian and Roosevelt perhaps possess the most advantages, though St. Luke's in Fifty-ninth-st., St. Vincent's in Eleventh-st., St. Francis's in Fifth-st., the German in Fourth-ave., and the Mt. Sinai, formerly the Jews' Hospital, in West Twenty-eighth-st., are ably administered and offer to the classes they are peculiarly intended to shelter all the comforts and many of the luxuries even that are so much needed in sickness.

The Presbyterian and Roosevelt Hospitals have been so recently built that they combine more of the latest improvements than the others. The Presbyterian buildings have been erected in a block 200 by 400 feet. The two chief points in the construction of this hospital have been to secure the greatest possible amount of air and sunlight to every part of the buildings. They are three stories high, with basement, and attic in the Mansard roof, except the boiler house. The first story and attic are twelve feet high, while the second and third stories are fourteen feet and six inches in the clear. The form of the buildings is called "the Pavilion," and though the entire hospital is connected in the basement, the wards are absolutely separated from each other, and cannot be overcrowded with patients. In the east pavilion the public wards accommodate twenty-eight beds each, in the north pavilion twelve.

Florence Nightingale said that a hospital might be a blessing or a curse to a community. The most important considerations are site and ventilation. The Chirurgical Society in Paris, in 1864, expressed its opinion that no hospital ought to be erected upon less space than an acre to 80 patients, and that each patient should have at least a breathing space, around his bed of from 1,500 to 2,000 cubic feet of fresh air. The most particular attention has been paid to ventilation in all the private hospitals, especially those that have been recently erected. In the Presbyterian Hospital the wards are heated by indirect radiation; the other parts of the building by direct radiation. The outer walls of the pavilions are double, and the space between is employed for the circulation of the air. The fresh air is conducted through shafts, at the top of the buildings, to the fan-room in the basement, whence it is driven to the coil chambers which supply air to the rooms above. Other flues conduct the foul air to the lanterns above the attic stories. In these lanterns are coils of pipe by means of which a vacuum can be formed. By this means there is constantly kept up a continuous current in Summer and Winter, without opening the windows, that would permit the direct entry of air from out-doors to the buildings. The engineer of the Presbyterian Hospital has many ingenious methods for regulating the temperature, which is kept the year round at between 66° and 68°. When the air in the Summer is becoming too hot in the wards, there is an arrangement of ice about coils of pipe, by which the temperature can be lowered from 15° to 20°. Every possible convenience has been applied, and there is no more odor perceptible when entering the wards from the outer air than would be noticed upon entering the parlor of any Murray Hill residence.

In the Roosevelt Hospital there are also many ingenious devices by which ventilation may be kept up throughout the building, not only regulating and rendering the temperature equable but also carrying off those impurities and exhalations from the bodies of the sick that generally contaminate the atmosphere in the large charity hospitals. In the past year the Roosevelt Hospital has received 111 cases of accidental injury, and out of these 105 have been discharged cured. This very large percentage shows more conclusively than almost any other testimony how conducive are the general surroundings in that hospital to the patient's recovery. The skill of physicians adds much to the chances of any patient's recovery, and perhaps is the greatest aid toward regaining health, but the having his orders attended to and being able to place his patient in a wholesome atmosphere is of the greatest importance.

In St. Luke's there are 50 charity beds, each of which is supported by an endowment of $8,000, or by an annual subscription of some $200 to $250. Adults who pay their board are placed in the large, roomy, well-ventilated wards, and receive all the care and attention possible. Children are in a ward by themselves. A great deal depends upon amusing children when they are sick, or have received severe injuries. J. Cooper Forster of London said that if a child had an ordinary constitution and could be kept from fretting it would often make a miraculous recovery. He had a little patient who had been kicked by a horse. The entire right side of his skull had been crushed in. The child was placed in the pleasantest bed in the children's ward and two bright children were placed one on each side of him. The cheerfulness of his situation and the kindness of the other children was such a pleasant contrast to the child's former life that it acted as a powerful stimulus upon his system. He recovered rapidly, and his mind was not even impaired as it was feared it would be. A very little, the nurses say, will amuse children, and in St. Luke's and the other private hospitals they are never permitted to fret. One child who had been operated on for lithotomy was made so happy by a toy watch that he entirely forgot his sufferings and absence from home. Another upon whom the operation of cutting away the head of the thigh bone had been successfully performed was made perfectly happy by the anticipations held out to him by the nurses and his companions of being able to run about with the others when he got well. He had always been a cripple.

St. Vincent's Hospital is under charge of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The institution is supported entirely by charity, though the Common Council have at times assisted in the work by a grant when money was a great necessity to them. The subscription for free beds is only $125 per annum. The hospital is a great deal like the others. The buildings are well ventilated, and the patients receive the best possible care and attention. Though the name implies that the institution might be sectarian in its benefits, such is not the fact. The simple aim of its supporters is to do as much good and relieve as much suffering as possible.

St. Francis Hospital is under the charge of the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis. Poor, sick, aged and infirm persons are received into this hospital without respect to creed or nationality. The Sisters are the nurses and no class of persons could be more interested or devoted to their work. In the majority of the great hospitals in Europe the sisters of Charity form the large body of the women who nurse the sick. They attend to the work they have chosen with unswerving fidelity, and physicians always feel that they are sure to find in these self-sacrificing, noble ladies, able coadjutors at the sick bedside. The number of the Sisters is not so large in this country; but they are equally devoted to the faithful performance of those duties that tend to alleviate the sufferings of humanity. The Nurses' Training School, that has been established in Bellevue Hospital and which has been greatly extended since its inception, has furnished a large number of the best nurses in the city. Some of them are employed in the private hospitals, but the demand for their services in private families has been so great and the remuneration has been so much larger, that the hospitals have not been benefited as much as was expected. The numbers applying for permission to enter the school at Bellevue Hospital have been greater than their power to accommodate, and many have been turned away or obliged to wait until the next term. Nursing is believed to be woman's peculiar vocation, and all the leading physicians feel a deep interest and are willing to do all in their power to assist women to become competent in this branch of medicine.

The German, the Mt. Sinai or Jews' Hospital, and others of different nationalities have peculiarities belonging to the nationality which they are built to benefit. They are erected by subscription and the endowments of wealthy foreigners, and are served, usually, by physicians and nurses of their own nation. Accident cases are usually received at any time, but unless the applicant is of the nationality for which the institution has been intended the person is not received as a patient. Payment is always required if the applicant is competent, but if not the best and kindest treatment is received during the sickness for which he was admitted.

In all the private or pay hospitals there are elegantly furnished apartments, where the wealthy from other parts of the country who require the best possible surgical or medical treatment can receive all the luxuries at their command, and still be cared for by some celebrated physician whom they have perhaps come a long distance to consult. A wealthy person from the distant West wishes to be treated by some very celebrated surgeon. The operation may keep him in bed two months. No boarding-house or hotel can give that delicate care and watchfulness that is needed to insure success. The wealthy person can go to the Presbyterian or any other private hospital, and by paying $50 a week not only have all the delicacies and luxuries of the best hotels, but also the care of competent nurses and medical attendants. The ventilation and surroundings are the best possible to conduce to recovery, and the money that is paid goes to support the respectable sick poor who cannot afford the lowest price for a bed in the wards.

The recent changes in the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital will, the trustees of private hospitals say, give them many additions in the way of distinguished medical men, teachers of medicine who must have material for their clinics.

SUMMER MARKET SUPPLIES.

SHIPMENTS OF GARDEN PRODUCE TO NEW-YORK.

AN IMMENSE TRADE WITH THE RIVER COUNTIES AND NEW JERSEY AND SOUTHERN PORTS—TWO MILLION EARS OF GREEN CORN BROUGHT TO THE CITY MARKETS EVERY DAY—BUSY SCENES AT THE WHARVES.

The shipment of garden produce to the New-York market by side-wheel steamers, propellers, and sloops, forms a large business in itself, and the unloading of the vessels after their arrival at the piers of this city occupies from sunset to sunrise, captains of vessels regulating in many instances their movements to conform with the tides. This fact alone causes much inconvenience to the consignees, as they can make no calculations except from day to day for the movements of their carmen; and often when the season is busy, wagon trucks will have to be kept idle for hours, and the carmen deprived of rest, in order that when the vessel reaches her pier there may be no delay in the unloading of the freight. A TRIBUNE reporter recently visited the piers along the North River to ascertain the method of transferring the produce to market.

The sloops, which generally come from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, mostly arrive during the night, at the pier at the foot of Vesey-st., and the irregularity of their arrival causes trouble among market-men. The principal portion of the cargo, however, consists of melons and other produce which are not likely to be much injured by delay, and unless they arrive unusually late, there is little excitement. The Red Bank propeller arrived at her pier at the foot of Franklin-st. about sundown. Here a large shed has been erected, about 200 feet long, irregular in shape, and about 100 feet across at the widest end. When the propeller arrived a large number of market trucks were already there. The consignees' goods were first landed by the deck-hands, the various packages being placed in piles at different parts of the shed, each consignment by itself. These packages consisted of barrels of apples and potatoes, crates of berries, boxes of Spanish mackerel and bluefish, bags and barrels of green corn, baskets of small, hard peaches, &c. When the piles of goods had thus been sorted on the pier, which was well lighted, the trucks were driven in under the shed, and the goods were speedily removed. A portion of the cargo was also consigned to the captain for sale, and the market-men when short of supplies, endeavored to make purchases before the grocers and other dealers could get down to the pier. The arrival of a propeller early in the evening gave the market-men an advantage over other dealers, as the former were on the spot at the time of the arrival, while the latter rarely go to the pier until the morning, while visiting the market in order to buy other supplies. Whatever freight remained unsold had to be disposed of by daylight the next morning, so that the vessel might get ready to return as speedily as possible.

The next arrivals were the propellers from Port Monmouth and Keyport. The former arrived at 9 p. m., and took up its station beside the long pier at the foot of Barclay-st., while the latter, arriving 15 minutes later, had to put up with the shorter pier a few yards farther north. On the night in question it was very dark, and the rain was descending continuously. The Port Monmouth propeller had on board 1,500 packages, consisting of barrels of apples, Early Rose potatoes, crates of blackberries, boxes of fish, and about 175,000 ears of corn in barrels and bags. The greater portion of the cargo had been consigned to special men, who had their market trucks and carmen on the pier awaiting the arrival; in addition to whom a large number of private buyers also presented themselves to purchase from the captain such produce as might have been placed in his hands to dispose of on his arrival. As the pier was dark and the cargo decks of the propeller were dimly lighted by ship's lanterns hung here and there, the work of unloading the vessel was slowly carried on, the buyers continually getting in the way of the carmen who were removing the consignments—the consignees being compelled to provide men to "get the stuff out." The work being somewhat laborious, the carmen had to strip off their coats, and when they succeeded in getting the packages off the propeller they had to load up the wagons in their shirt sleeves. It was raining hard.

At the shorter pier, where the Keyport propeller had been moored, the excitement was somewhat greater. The vessel was crowded with packages, consisting of barrels, boxes, baskets, crates, bags, &c. About 200,000 ears of corn were on this vessel, and the various packages were stowed on the cargo deck in such a way as to leave a passage less than 12 inches wide, lit up only by a few ship's lanterns. The crowded state of the deck increased the difficulty of removing the produce to the pier, while the continuous rain rendered the work of the carmen doubly annoying. Care had to be taken to keep the rain from reaching the soft fruit, which had been packed in crates, and this work had to be done in the dark, with the pier blocked up with market trucks, and private buyers every moment getting in the way of the carmen who were removing the consignments. The captain of the vessel had to leave his office several times in order to show the goods consigned to him for sale; and while he was often engaged, a number of representatives of city market firms gathered about the office window waiting for information as to where their consignments could be found on the vessel. It seemed to be as if the goods had been slipped in a promiscuous manner; for often it was found necessary to shift a quantity of the upper part of the cargo in order to get at that which was required. The regular carmen stated that they never expected to find together all they had to get; but that one part would be forward, another amidships, and the remainder in the stern. The representatives and carmen of several firms, moving about hurriedly in the various passage-ways, looking for their stock; the anxious inquiries of those who neglected to make purchases, the dim light of the lanterns, the dark and blocked pier, and the heavy rain, made the scene one of the most busy and yet at the same time the most disorganized, that can be imagined. The confusion arising from a great want of order, naturally caused delays, and the consignees did not succeed in finding all their consignments until daylight. The produce freight of this boat consisted of muskmelons, apples, potatoes, green corn, peaches, blackberries, tomatoes, whortleberries, &c., and the number of packages exceeded 2,000, irrespective of the hay with which the upper deck was loaded.

At the foot of Harrison-st. the Rondout steamer has her pier, and here at about 4 a. m. the same scene was enacted as at the Barclay-st. piers. The freight was similar to that brought by the propellers from New-Jersey, the supply of green corn being very large.

While the disorderly system of discharging cargo was going on at the last mentioned pier, much more work was being systematically carried on at the next pier at the foot of Franklin-st., where the crews of Newburgh barges and the Catskill and Poughkeepsie propellers were busily unloading their vessels, all at the same time. The plan of piling the packages, each lot by itself, on the well-lighted and covered pier, saved much time, and the carmen merely have to move the barrels, boxes, &c., from the pier after they have been sorted out and taken in charge by the representatives of the consignees—the long wagon trucks being driven under the shed and backed up against the piles of produce. The covered shed proved to be of great advantage, as the packages were not only kept together while being landed, but were also protected from the weather until they could be packed on the market trucks and covered with oiled canvas. It was estimated that the vessels which discharged at this pier, brought to this city on the morning in question about 15,000 packages, besides about half a million ears of corn. After the consignees' goods had been landed, grocers and other dealers were enabled without inconvenience to purchase such produce as had been placed in the hands of the captain to sell; consequently, when the market trucks had ceased to remove freight from the pier, grocers' wagons were kept in motion for an hour, the owners evidently having the impression, whether correct or not, that they could purchase more cheaply from the propeller than in the market. The prices on the vessels ran a little quite as high as in the market itself.

The Haverstraw propeller arrived at about 6 a. m. and put in at her pier at the foot of Spring-st., nearly opposite Clinton Market. Few of the market trucks were present to meet this vessel, and it appeared as if all the freight had been consigned to the captain, who sold directly to the grocers. A large number of their wagons were to be seen dashing along the pier during the morning. As these buyers only wanted a few packages each, it took some time to land all the freight, which consisted principally of the various kinds of produce previously mentioned.

In addition to the great amount of produce brought by the means above recorded, a large quantity also arrived on the same morning on the Erie Railroad, consisting principally of apples, potatoes, green corn, &c. The farmers' wagons from Long Island, New-Jersey, &c., also bring in daily a large quantity of the same kind of produce, and from the calculations made by a TRIBUNE reporter, it was estimated that during the night and morning in question, over 2,000,000 ears of corn were brought to this city, some of the ears being especially fine and bringing from $1 to $1 50 per hundred when sold in quantities. The average wholesale price for green corn was from 75 cents to $1 per hundred, and even at this price there was a scarcity of it in the market after 7 a. m., notwithstanding the apparently large supply which had arrived.

THINGS FOR THE WASHINGTON RING TO CARRY OFF.

From the New-York World.

THE TRIBUNE comments, not unnaturally, upon the extraordinary powers of peculation which the confederates of the Washington Ring thieves have developed in their defense against avenging justice. The "burgling" of iron safes and the spiriting away of telegraph-books are alike mere child's play with these adroit children of Autolycus and Grant. But THE TRIBUNE, quite unnaturally, expresses a hope that "they won't get away with the Washington Monument or the Capitol in the course of their depredations." On the contrary, we devoutly hope they may. We are even willing they should carry off the White House to boot. And if all this will not content them, they have our cordial consent to come on to New-York and make off with the Lincoln Monument, the City Hall, and the new Post-Office, with Mullett spider-webbed among its millions.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT HUDNUT'S, IN BROADWAY: 9 a. m.—75° Noon—82° 3 p. m.—80° Midnight—71°

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Brevoort House—Sir A. T. Galt of Montreal.... *Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Col. G. P. Colles of the British Army, ex-Congressman F. E. Woodbridge of Vermont, Gen. D. T. Casement of Ohio, and W. J. Florence, the comedian.... *Windsor Hotel*—Ex-Gov. James E. English of Connecticut, and Col. R. S. McComb of Delaware.... *Hoffman House*—State Senator E. M. Madden of Middletown, N. Y.... *New-York Hotel*—Capt. Leitch of the steamship Scotia, and Capt. John Murphy of the steamship City of Montreal.... *Metropolitan Hotel*—State Senator John H. Selkreg of Ithaca, and ex-Gov. A. R. Shepherd of the District of Columbia. (Mr. Shepherd left for Long Branch last evening.)

NEW-YORK CITY.

The City Chamberlain yesterday received $10,419 from the Excise Commissioners.

J. B. Hodgskin will lecture before the New-York Liberal Club this evening, at Plimpton Hall, on "The Primary Elements of Wealth."

A number of retail liquor dealers, charged with selling whisky without paying the special tax, was held yesterday by Commissioner Shields, in $500 bail each to await the action of the Grand Jury.

The work of laying the patent pavement along the Broadway front of the new Post-Office has been completed, and the workmen are now engaged on that portion fronting the car stand.

The Board of City Record met yesterday and received from the Controller a request to send in their estimate of expenses for 1875. Col. Farrell was directed to prepare the necessary estimates. A number of bills were laid over.

Wall-st. was dull yesterday, the only incident being the official announcement of a semi-annual dividend of five per cent by the Chicago and Alton Railroad. The "bears" had been circulating a rumor that the dividend would be reduced, but one of the directors said yesterday that the earnings for the last half year were $120,000 in excess of those of the previous six months.

The ninth excursion for poor children took place yesterday, and 2,887 children were taken from the Tenth Ward to Oriental Grove on Long Island. Col. Williams, the manager, says that unless the trustees receive more money at once, there will be no more of these pic-nics this year. THE TRIBUNE has received $21 35 for the poor childrens' pic-nic fund from the National Park Bank clerks.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Eickhoff in the case of Leonard Miller, who died from the effect of injuries inflicted by Joseph Kiernan, at Fourth and Lewis-sts., on the 4th inst. The jury rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death from injuries inflicted by Joseph Kiernan, and exonerated Kiernan from any intention of taking life. The Coroner held the prisoner in $2,500 bail.

Superintendent Walling received on Monday last a telegram from Sheriff Houscherek of McLean County, Illinois, stating that a man had given himself up who declared that he was guilty of the murder of Benjamin Nathan. The Superintendent replied by telegraph requesting information by mail of the substance of the man's confession. The letter was received yesterday, and it showed plainly that the man was insane or an imposter. Superintendent Walling wrote the Sheriff to that effect.

In the Court of General Sessions, yesterday, when James Mulhall, formerly a clerk in the Metropolitan Hotel, who had pleaded guilty to petit larceny and to forgery, was called for sentence, he said that he was not guilty, and that he had only pleaded guilty upon the understanding that he was to be given till September to furnish information about certain forgeries in this city. Recorder Hackett said that he would listen to no story of that kind and sentenced him to five years at hard labor in State Prison.

Four hundred and seventy-five immigrants landed at Castle Garden yesterday. The steamer Ethiopia brought 192, the Kong Sverre 165, and the Hermann 118. All of the Kong Sverre's passengers were Norwegians, and they left last night for the West by the Pennsylvania Railroad. They were nearly all farmers, who brought their families with them. Each family possessed from $1,000 to $2,000 in gold. They were intelligent and sober, and they are said to make excellent citizens. Very few of them could speak English. There are large settlements of Norwegians in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The examination of E. K. Winslow, the defaulting broker, was concluded yesterday morning before the referee in the case. Mr. Winship testified that he had never made any agreement with parties from whom he received any money to invest it specifically for them. When he received money it was his custom to give vouchers for it; he did not remember calling upon Mr. Burdiss before September 25. The defendant stated that he had delivered up all his assets to his assignee in bankruptcy. He had no property whatever in his own or any person's hands. After a few questions from Mr. Ellis, of counsel for the defense, it was agreed to adjourn the investigation.

BROOKLYN.

Controller Schroeder announced yesterday that he would issue at once $500,000 of East River Bridge bonds, due in 1922, 1923, and 1924, and $200,000 of Assessment Fund bonds, due in 1877. He says that he will receive sealed proposals for them until Aug. 25.

Dr. P. L. Schenck, Medical Superintendent of the Flatbush Hospital, has made a report concerning the condition of the nursery. He states that there is overcrowding and ill ventilation, but in other respects the condition of the nursery is all that could be desired.

The Counsel of the Department of Fire and Buildings, George P. Sheldon, obtained from Judge Reynolds yesterday an injunction prohibiting the further erection of two frame buildings in Thirty-ninth-st., near Fourth-ave., on the ground that they are dangerous and insecure.

The Board of Health were served yesterday with an injunction obtained from Judge McCoe, restraining them from awar