

LETTERED HAITI HADDE PAGE

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HE HAD TO BE SEEN

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ONE LETTER FROM PARIS

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THE LETTER FROM PARIS

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WHICH IS THE NAME OF THE HARRIS

... ..

IT WAS A GREAT THING

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THE LETTER FROM PARIS

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"PRESSURE" ON ARMORY PLAN

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ARMORY BOARD COMMITTEE REJECTS JURY'S SELECTION.

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Max says that the "Pressure" seems to have been brought to bear in favor of a Particular Firm—Col. Hotchkiss of the 22d Objects to the Jury's Award.

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When the city decided to build a new armory for the Twenty-second Regiment at Fort Washington avenue and 108th street it was resolved that the architect should be selected by competition.

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Six firms of architects sent in designs and a jury consisting of William B. Mead of McKim, Mead & White and William A. Borng was given the award to the firm of Walker & Morris.

... ..

But the committee on armories of the Armory Board, consisting of President McGowan of the Board of Aldermen, President Purdy of the Tax Department and Col. Duffy, chief architect of the city, had recommended that the plans of Pitcher & Tachau should be accepted.

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It seems to me to be a very strange proceeding," said the Mayor yesterday after the report had been read.

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Col. Hotchkiss, said Mr. McGowan, "does not present us from within and the committee selected by the jury if evidence is presented to show that those plans are suitable ones."

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"That means," the Mayor said warmly, "that the jury of awards is to be put in the position of having to defend itself and its decision. To adhere to such a position would, I think, prevent any reputable firm of architects entering in the future any competition for city work. I would like to have it explained to me why the award of the jury was not accepted."

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Mr. McGowan said that Col. Hotchkiss and Lieut.-Col. Hilsendahl of the regiment had appeared before the committee and had objected to the plans of Walker & Morris.

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They were the only ones heard.

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"It seems to me," the Mayor said, "that the committee after hearing only one side and without taking any other evidence should have rejected the plans of Walker & Morris. I don't mind saying that there seems to have been pressure brought to bear in favor of a particular firm."

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Mr. McGowan replied that the committee had acted with sincerity and that if it could be shown that the objections made to the Walker & Morris plan were not founded every member of the committee would be willing to change his vote.

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Col. Hotchkiss was called upon by the Mayor to present his criticisms and the plans of Walker & Morris that he had made before the committee. Col. Hotchkiss's principal objection was that the plans did not give sufficient space to the drill hall.

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Walker, the city's advisory architect, said in answer to a question from the Mayor that this was a defect that could be easily overcome by a modification of the plans.

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Col. Hotchkiss interrupted while he was not an architect he thought he knew what were the requirements for an armory.

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I hardly think you do, retorted the Mayor, who intends to inquire further into the circumstances.

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The report was sent back to the committee with directions to hold further hearings on the Walker & Morris plans.

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W. K. VANDERBILT, JR., FINED.

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Confesses Speeding, \$10. and Corrects Court Record.

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Pleading guilty to a charge of speeding his automobile on Jackson avenue, Long Island City, William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., was fined \$10 by Magistrate Luke J. Conorton in the Long Island City police court yesterday morning.

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When Bicycle Policeman Richard Ewers, who made the arrest, was called to swear to the official charging Mr. Vanderbilt with running his machine at a speed of twenty-five miles an hour, the accused arose and stood in front of the Magistrate.

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"Where is the defendant?" inquired the Magistrate glancing over his eyeglasses.

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"I am the defendant," replied Mr. Vanderbilt quickly in a low tone. The nature of the charge was then stated and the Magistrate asked: "How do you plead?"

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"Guilty," replied Mr. Vanderbilt. Those who stood two feet away could not hear it.

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"Ten dollars fine," said the Magistrate.

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Mr. Vanderbilt then edged over to the clerk of Clerk William L. Woodill.

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"Where do I pay?" he inquired of the clerk as he opened a wallet and deposited two five-dollar notes on the desk. As Clerk Woodill was indorsing the papers, "Defendant pleads guilty," fined \$10; paid."

... ..

Mr. Vanderbilt became interested in the records, for the caption bore the name of William K. Vanderbilt.

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"Will you kindly put junior after that name?" said Mr. Vanderbilt to Clerk Woodill.

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"I don't want the court records to appear that as he opened a wallet and deposited two five-dollar notes on the desk. As Clerk Woodill was indorsing the papers, "Defendant pleads guilty," fined \$10; paid."

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The correction was made while he looked on, and then in company with Policeman Ewers he left the court room for the Fourth street police station to get the \$100 cash bail he deposited there when arrested on Sunday night.

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OBITUARY.

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Haskell A. Searle, one of the oldest manufacturers of women's and children's hats in the country, died yesterday morning at his home, 112 West Fifty-eighth street, in the eightieth year of his age.

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Mr. Searle had been deaf and blind for several years. He was born in Vermont. After about ten years as a clerk in the firm of J. N. Cutler & Co., and after his discharge following Mr. Cutler's death in 1871 he formed another with his brother-in-law, G. F. Dalley. Mr. Searle is survived by his wife.

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LIGHT-FINGERED GENTRY

BY DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS</