FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

SUNDAY, April 11, 1869.

The weekly statement of the associated banks compares with its predecessors as follows:—

	April 3.	April 10.
Loans	$261,933,675	$257,480,227
Specie	10,737,393	8,794,543
Circulation	34,816,916	34,609,360
Deposits	175,325,189	171,495,580
Legal tenders	43,491,159	48,644,732

The following are the changes:—

Decrease in loans	$4,453,448
Decrease in specie	1,943,350
Decrease in circulation	207,556
Decrease in deposits	3,829,209
Increase in legal tenders	148,373

The large decrease in the line of loans betrays a more conservative tendency on the part of the banks, but probably the Washington story that the Comptroller of the Currency will call for the statement for Monday next is the secret of the contraction. The decrease in specie is not as large as the customs payments. There is therefore a gain from some source, while the increase in legal tenders shows the beginning of a return of currency this way from the country. This latter feature is the most hopeful one of the entire statement. It confirms what was reported at different times during the week, that the banks were in the receipt of currency in amounts making it probable that the shipments which were still in progress were less than the arrivals from the country. The unsatisfactory feature is the actual loss of reserve despite the great falling off in the liabilities of the banks, and the amount now on hand in excess of the legal requirement is less than six millions of dollars. The drain of gold at this season in payment of customs continues to deplete the specie held by the banks, and little diminution of this outflow may be expected until the imports of foreign goods begin to decrease, which will be towards the beginning of summer. Last year the banks continued encroaching upon their reserve until the last week of April, and a different course can hardly be expected this year, when the season has been so backward in general trade. The spring business has not opened with any great briskness, and the merchants have delayed, many engagements, owing to the difficulty of obtaining money at rates short of usury. The active speculation in the stock market has created a demand there which absorbs a great deal of the funds usually available for mercantile purposes. Commercial paper cannot be discounted at less than 10 to 12 per cent for the best names. Ordinary paper is subjected to a "shave" of as much as fifteen per cent. The consequence is that many business men who act from the principle that it is unwise and unsound to borrow money at such rates, refuse to make any movement, while others hold that they cannot make profit enough to allow their paper money to go at such a discount.

The condition of the banks at the corresponding periods of 1868 and 1869 is thus contrasted:—

	1868. April 11.	1869. April 10.
Loans	$252,933,725	$257,480,227
Specie	16,343,150	8,794,543
Circulation	34,194,272	34,609,360
Deposits	179,851,880	171,495,580
Legal tenders	51,982,609	48,644,732
Excess over legal reserve in 1868	$14,814,221	
Excess over legal reserve in 1869	5,913,040	

The difference is to be accounted for by the revival of business in the South, which has drawn greenbacks from all portions of the North, probably to the extent of fifty millions, the contribution of our banks being the amount above mentioned. This money has gone to stay in the South. It has found its way into the pockets of people who have earned it by growing cotton or by laboring in cotton culture, while not a little of it was taken there by Northern capitalists who went South, bought plantations and devoted themselves to cotton raising. Business in this centre will have to accommodate itself to this change. The plan of a redistribution of the currency would have greatly facilitated the adjustment of the relations of business to the circulation, but the adjournment of Congress has postponed so desirable a remedy for the spasms of the money market. Until the South has its share of the national banks it will keep greenbacks in preference to the national notes. The former will naturally drift there, and our banks, while comparatively ample in their resources, will be compelled to be conservative, if not to seem poor, from the diminished supply of legal tenders with which to maintain their legal reserve.

The gold market was quite dull at the opening of the week, but became active and excited at the close. The large falling off in specie in the banks produced a scarcity for mercantile purposes, which was aggravated by speculative manipulation. It was expected that the offer of the Treasury to pay the May coupons in advance would afford some relief, but the plan has been a comparative failure, the total amount presented being about $350,000. The speculators had sold "short" in anticipation of the supply from this source, and under the leadership of a prominent banking house made a sharp attack upon the market. A rival firm, who were "long" of gold, or supposed to be so, at figures one or two per cent higher than the market has ranged for a few days past, organized a clique in opposition to this "bear" movement, and made a decided raid upon cash gold, which they have been locking up to further their scheme. Their efforts in pursuance of this object led to a rather curious complication of affairs to-day. After the usual clearances of the Gold Bank they were entitled to about $1,300,000 in gold, for which they received certified checks of the Bank of New York. On presenting these one million was paid, but the bank refused to pay the remainder, alleging that it did not have the coin. The checks were about to go to protest, when some settlement was arranged. The "squeeze" produced by this withdrawal of cash gold was a severe one, and the "shorts" had to pay as high as 1-2 of one per cent, per day for the use of gold to Monday, while others took the alternative of "covering," running the price up to 133¾. It is a question whether the Secretary of the Treasury would not be justified in authorizing the pre-payment of the May coupons without the rebate. It would certainly be very gratifying to our merchants. The Treasury gold balance is now $100,000,000, which is earning no interest. The demand for a rebate is therefore very inconsistent. The range of gold during the week was as follows:—

	Highest.	Lowest.
Monday	131¾	131⅜
Tuesday	131⅞	131⅛
Wednesday	131⅞	131⅝
Thursday	132¾	131⅝
Friday	133¾	132⅛
Saturday	133¾	132⅝

Foreign exchange lost the activity with which it opened at the beginning of the week and declined about three-eighths for prime bankers' sixty day sterling bills, the market closing heavy on account of the high leading rate for gold.

The money market was less stringent than during the previous week, but the demand was still sufficient to keep the rate on call generally above the legal figure. The extreme was an eighth commission, but the prevailing rates were coin interest a sixteenth and a sixteenth with interest.

Governments were subjected to a great deal of pressure by the parties to a "corner" arranged in hostility to certain firms, who are supposed to be "short." The market was generally firm through the week and buoyant at the close, especially for the '62's, which attained the highest quotation yet made. The following were the closing street prices on Saturday:—United States sixes, 1881, registered, 115⅞ a 116; do., coupon, 116¼ a 116½; do. five-twenties, registered, 110 a 110¼; do. do., coupon, 1862, 120⅜ a 121; do. do., coupon, 1864, 115 a 115⅛; do. do., coupon, 1865, 117⅜ a 117⅝; do. do., coupon, new, 1865, 113¼ a 113⅜; do. do., coupon, 1867, 113¾ a 113⅞; do. do., coupon, 1868, 113¾ a 113⅞; do. ten-forties, registered, 104¾ a 105; do. do., coupon, 105⅜ a 105½; currency bonds, 103¾ a 104.

Southern securities were neglected in the earlier portion of the week, but assumed activity on the last day, the features being the North Carolinas, which advanced about two per cent, the Legislature having affirmed, it is intimated, that something was done with reference to the State bonds, which is reflected in the rise. Prices closed as follows:—Tennessee, ex coupon, 68⅜ a 69; do., new, 65⅛ a 65¾; do., five per cent, 59 a 62; Virginia, ex coupon, 56¼ a 57; do., new, 59⅜ a 60; do., registered stock, 48⅜ a 49; do., registered, 1866, 51⅛ a 51¾; do., registered, 1867, 50 a 50½; Georgia sixes, 81 a 82; do. sevens, 94 a 95; do. sevens, interest payable in Georgia, 88 a 90; North Carolina, ex coupon, 60½ a 61; do., new, 56 a 56½; Missouri sixes, 87 a 87¼; do. Hannibal and St. Joseph, 88 bid; Louisiana sixes, 71½ a 72; do., levee, 70½ a 70¾; do. do., eights, 86 a 86½; Alabama eights, 99½ a 99¾; do. fives, 69 a 69½; do. sixes, sterling, 92 bid; South Carolina sixes, 72 a 73; do., new, 70 a 70½; do., registered stock, 66 a 68; City Memphis sixes, 51 a 51½; do. Atlanta eights, 82 a 83; do. Savannah sevens, 92 a 93; do. New Orleans consols, 78 a 79; do., issued to railroads, 68 a 69; Mobile and Ohio sterling, 71 a 72; do. eights, 62 a 62½; Mississippi Central Railroad, first mortgage, 71 a 72; do., second do., 56 a 56½; Memphis and Charleston, first mortgage, 91; do., second, 76 a 77; do. do., stock, 47 a 49; Greenville and Columbia Railroad, guaranteed, 56 a 57.

The stock market was animated and buoyant for the railway list with New York Central for the feature during the time that the Legislature was deliberating upon the bill to authorize the conversion of the eighty per cent scrip dividend. The stimulus thus created was more directly felt in the other shares, the effect upon Central having been in a great measure discounted, the stock subsequently declining. Hudson River, Harlem, St. Paul and Fort Wayne advanced from five to ten per cent in this rise. The market was lower at the end of the week with more steadiness. The following were the closing quotations on Saturday evening:—Cumberland, 32 a 35; Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, 31 a 31¾; American Express, 40 a 40½; Adams Express, 59¼ a 59¾; United States Express, 58¼ a 58½; Merchants' Union, 15¼ a 16; Quicksilver, 22 a 22¼; Canton, 59¼ a 59¾; Pacific Mail, 92 a 92½; Western Union Telegraph, 41⅜ a 41½; New York Central, 163¾ a 163¾; Erie, 34 a 34½; Hudson River, 146½ a 147; Reading, 93 a 93½; Toledo, Wabash and Western, 69 a 69½; do. preferred, 77½ a 78¾; Milwaukee and St. Paul, 78 a 78¾; do. preferred, 85 a 85¼; Pittsburg and Fort Wayne, 131½ a 132; Ohio and Mississippi, 33 a 33½; Michigan Central, 118½ a 120; Michigan Southern, 96¾ a 97; Illinois Central, 138 a 139; Cleveland and Pittsburg, 90¼ a 90½; Cleveland and Toledo, 97 a 97¼; Rock Island, 130¾ a 131; Northwestern, 84 a 84¼; do. preferred, 96½ a 96¾; Mariposa, 19 a 20; do. preferred, 36¼ a 36¾.

Articles of association have been filed in the office of the Secretary of State for the following new railroads in this State:—The Carthage, Watertown and Sacketts Harbor Railroad, to run to and from the vicinity of Carthage, connecting at that point with the Utica and Black River Railroad, via the Black River Valley, through Watertown to Sacketts Harbor, in the county of Jefferson; the Syracuse and Northwestern Railroad, to run from Syracuse to the village of Mexico, in Oswego county; the Auburn and Port Byron Railroad, to run from the city of Auburn to the village of Port Byron; the Buffalo Creek Railroad, to run from a point on the Buffalo and Washington Railroad, in the city of Buffalo, to a point upon the land between the Blackwell Canal and Lake Erie; the Gallupville Railroad, to run from some point on the line of the Schoharie Valley Railroad to a point near the village of Gallupville, in Schoharie county; the Hudson and Mohawk Railroad, to run from the city of Schenectady to Albany; the Northern Air Line Railroad, to run from Plattsburg, Clinton county, through the towns of Peru and Ausable, Clinton county, and through the towns of Chesterfield, Willsborough, Essex, and into the town of Westport, in the county of Essex.

The London correspondent of the *Financial Chronicle*, writing just before the recent advance in the Bank of England rate of discount, says:—

Only one cause, however, seems likely to operate in promoting an outflow of the precious metals, and of gold in particular—namely, the great speculation in foreign (including American) securities. With the facilities of telegraphic communication speculation is materially assisted, and the periodical settlements which have to take place frequently derange the exchanges. During the early part of last week the exchanges were mostly in our favor, the demand for gold for export almost entirely subsided, and it was thought that as a few arrivals had taken place some small parcels would not improbably be sent into the Bank. On Friday, however, the position was quite changed. Bills on Paris became in active request, the whole of the supply of gold in the market was absorbed, and exporters were under the necessity of applying at the Bank for £25,000 to meet their requirements. Since then there have been further withdrawals, but as they must be due to the speculation in progress, they may cease at any moment, only, perhaps, to revive after the lapse of a few days. But while money is so cheap in Paris, and while so large a stock of bullion is held by the Bank of France, it would seem to be quite impossible for us to lose any serious amount of bullion. Even in the event of gold passing freely away from us, it is in the power of the Bank to check the movement by advancing their minimum to 4 per cent, for money on this side would then be 1½ per cent dearer than in Paris, and a speedy correction of the exchanges would be the result.

Annexed is a comparative statement showing the shipments of specie from this port last week and during the year to date, together with those for the corresponding periods in 1868:—

	1868.	1869.
Fourteenth week	$891,897	$326,350
Previously reported	16,005,361	9,352,612
Total	$16,897,258	$9,678,962

The exports of specie from New York to date in the previous sixteen years compare as follows:—

1867	$7,080,022	1859	$11,076,831
1866	5,697,774	1858	6,790,146
1865	5,153,102	1857	6,753,991
1864	11,780,995	1856	5,058,346
1863	16,196,788	1855	5,182,153
1862	11,065,059	1854	5,414,649
1861	2,333,136	1853	3,431,025
1860	5,208,400	1852	7,177,128

Subjoined is the total valuation of foreign imports at the port of New York for the week ending April 9, compared with the previous week:—

	April 2.	April 9.
Dry goods	$2,173,266	$2,288,958
General merchandise	5,509,226	5,693,865
Total for week	$7,682,492	$7,982,823

The imports of dry goods for the week and since January 1, 1869, compare with the corresponding periods in the two preceding years as follows:—

	1867.	1868.	1869.
For the week.			
Entered at port	$1,407,926	$1,283,873	$2,288,958
Thrown on market	1,554,653	1,590,147	2,288,479
Since Jan. 1.			
Entered at port	33,350,992	24,359,656	32,472,225
Thrown on market	36,957,038	26,169,592	32,267,601

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

SATURDAY, April 10—6 P. M.

ASHES.—Receipts, none. Pot were in light supply, and, being in fair request, prices were firm at $7 75 a $7 87½. Pearl were dull and nominal.

COTTON.—For this staple there was a brisk demand from exporters and a moderate inquiry from spinners and speculators, and the business was again large. Prices were rather better, closing strong at our quotations appended, with moderate offerings. The sales were 3,343 bales, including 1,530 for export, 377 for spinners, 375 on speculation and 461 were in transit. For future delivery the sales were as follows:—400 bales low middling, for May, at 27½c.; 200 do., for May, at 27¾c., and 200 do., for June, at 28c. We quote:—

	Uplands and Florida.	Mobile and Memphis.	N. Orl. and Texas.
Ordinary	25¾	25¾	25⅝
Good ordinary	26⅞	26¾	27
Low middling	27⅝	27¾	28
Middling	28⅛	28¼	28
Good middling	29	31	29

COFFEE.—Rio was firm at our last quotations, with a fair demand, the sales being 2,918 bags ex Æolus and 150 do. ex St. Ursula on private terms. Other kinds were quiet, but steady.

FREIGHTS.—The market was still quiet, but rates were a shade higher in some cases. The chartering business was dull; the engagements were:—To Liverpool, per steamer, 15,000 bushels corn at 3½d. and 750 bales cotton at 3-16d.; to Antwerp, 300 bbls. rosin at 2s. 6d. The charters were:—A Norwegian bark with 2,000 bbls. petroleum to Cronstadt at 8s.; an American bark with 300,000 feet lumber from St. Johns to the river Plate at $19; a British schooner, 1,650 bbls. to the West Indies and back, at $1,700, gold, port charges paid, and a Liverpool ship, 600 tons, from Doboy Island, Ga., to Cork for orders, with timber, at 40s.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Receipts, 5,683 bbls. flour, 4,150 bags do., 1,555 bbls. corn meal, 92 bags do., 728 bushels wheat, 16,492 do. corn and 3,200 do. oats. The flour market remained in the same dull and nominal state, though there was rather more steadiness, there being less disposition to force sales. California remained dull and nominal. The sales were only about 5,000 bbls. Southern flour was dull and nominal. Rye flour was dull. The sales were 325 bbls. Rye flour was quite steady. The sales were 250 bbls. Corn meal was steady, with sales of 350 bbls. Marsh's caloric at $4 75. We quote:—

No. 2 State	$5 40 a	$5 90
Superfine State	6 10 a	6 30
Extra State	6 40 a	6 75
Choice do	6 75 a	7 50
Superfine Western	6 10 a	6 30
Extra do	6 40 a	6 25
Round hoop Ohio, shipping brands	6 75 a	7 25
Round hoop Ohio, trade grands	7 50 a	9 00
St. Louis low extra	7 50 a	8 00
St. Louis straight extra	8 00 a	9 00
St. Louis choice double extra	9 50 a	10 00
St. Louis choice family	11 00 a	13 00
Southern superfine and extra	10 50 a	12 50
Southern superfine and extra	6 00 a	9 00
California flour (sacks and bbls.)	7 00 a	10 00
Rye flour	5 00 a	7 00
Corn meal, city	4 20 a	4 50
Corn meal, Brandywine	4 75 a	5 00
Corn meal, Jersey	4 25 a	4 50

—The wheat market was very quiet, but firm. No. 2 spring was nominally $1 48 a $1 50 for full grades, but the sales were only in small lots, comprising about 25,000 bushels (mainly California) at $1 48 for No. 2 spring delivered, $1 52 for No. 1 do. in store, $1 55 for white Michigan, $1 62 a 1 66 for small lots California, $1 90 for white Canada, and $1 72½ for amber Michigan. Corn was quiet, but firm. The sales were about 55,000 bushels at 86c. a 90c. for new mixed Western, 91c. for yellow Western, and 92c. a 92c. for white do. For old, 89c. was bid, in store, and 90c. asked. Oats were quiet, but steady at 76½c., in store. The sales were 7,500 bushels at that price. Barley was dull, with sales of 1,500 bushels State at $1 80, and 4,000 do. German at $2. Barley malt was dull and unchanged. Rye, though quiet, was firm. The sales were 4,500 bushels Western at $1 40.

GRASS SEEDS were dull and we heard of no sales. Prices were nominal at 9½c. a 9¾c. for Western, and 20½c. a 21c. for cloth.

HAY.—With a fair demand and moderate receipts the market was firm at 60c. a 70c. for shipping and $1 a $1 10 for retail lots. Rye straw was selling at 65c. a 75c. for short and $1 a $1 10 for long.

HOPS.—The market continued to rule quiet, but prices were unchanged, ranging at from 5c. to 15c. for inferior to choice grades. Sales 25 bales.

HEMP.—Manila was firm at 12½c. a 13½c., gold, though we heard of no transactions. Jute was dull and nominal at 4½c. a 5c., do. white Sisal was dull at 10c. a 10½c., do.

MOLASSES.—The market was dull and we heard of no sales of moment. Prices were nominal at our last quotations.

NAVAL STORES.—Spirits turpentine was in better demand, but with fair offerings the market was heavy and prices depreciated to the extent of ½c. per gallon, closing at 49½c. a 50½c. for merchantable and shipping lots. The sales were 150 bbls. at 49½c. and 25 do. (New York bbls.) at 51c. Rosin was in less demand and but little business was consummated; prices, however, were without change of moment. There were sales of 600 bbls. good strained at $2 50 a $2 62½, 250 do. No. 2 at $2 70 and 1,600 do. strained on private terms, but understood at $2 45. We quote:—No. 2, $2 55 a $2 60; strained, $2 45 a $2 52½; No. 1, $3 a $3 25; pale, $4 50 a $5 50, and extra do., $6 a $8. Wilmington tar was in good supply and heavy at $3 40 a $3 62½. No sales were reported.

OILS.—Linseed was still slow of sale, but steady in value, jobbing lots commanding $1 03 a $1 05, and wholesale lots being quoted at $1. Of lard there were small sales at $1 55 for prime winter. Other kinds were quiet, but steady at yesterday's quotations.

PROVISIONS.—Receipts, 339 bbls. pork, 100 packages beef, 15 tcs. cut meats. The demand for pork was decidedly more active, but the market was unsettled and heavy, and prices declined. The sales were about 2,300 bbls. at $30 75 a $31 for new mess, $30 75 for old do., $27 for Western prime mess and $21 25 for city mess. For future delivery we heard of no sales. Dressed hogs were a shade higher, city being quoted at 13½c. a 14c. Live hogs were moderately active and higher, being quoted at 10½c. a 11c. Beef was in moderate request at steady prices, the sales being 120 bbls. at $11 a $16 for plain mess and $12 a $18 for extra do. For beef hams the demand was fair, and prices were steady. The sales were 100 bbls. at $26 a $31 50. For tierce beef there was an improved demand, but prices were in buyer's favor. The sales comprised 400 tierces at prices within the range of $23 a $28 for prime mess, and $29 a $34 for india do. Cut meats, though quiet, were steady in value. The sales were only about 50 packages at 13c. a 13½c. for dry salted and pickled shoulders, 15½c. for smoked do., 16½c. a 17c. for pickled hams, and 20c. a 21c. for smoked and bagged do. Bacon was dull, but firmly held at former quotations. The sales were 150 boxes Cumberland cut at 16½c. a 16¾c. Lard and short clear were quoted at 17½c., and short rib 16½c. Lard was in moderate request at steady prices, the sales being 300 packages at 17½c. a 18½c. for No. 1 to prime steam and kettle rendered; also 750 tierces at 18½c., seller May and April, on private terms.

PETROLEUM.—Receipts, 1,324 bbls. refined. For crude, in bulk, the market was quiet, but firmer, holders demanding 17½c. a 17¾c.; 500 bbls. were sold at 17c. and 250 at 17¼c. Refined firmly held, though the business was light, the sales being 1,600 bbls. standard white at 32c., closing at this price, and 1,500 do. for the balance of this month at 32½c. In Philadelphia the market, though quiet, was stronger, closing at 31½c. a 32c. There were sales of 1,000 bbls. for the last half April at 32½c., closing at 32½c. a 32¾c; 1,000 do. for the first half May at 32c.; 82,000 do. on private terms; 2,000 do. for the last half do. at 32½c. a 32¾c., and 1,000 do., buyer's option, for the balance of the year, at 33½c.

RICE was quiet, but prices were quite steady. There were small sales within the range of 8¾c. a 9½c.

SEEDS.—Linseed was dull and prices were heavy, at $2 27½, gold, duty paid. Grass was dull, but unchanged in value, clover being quoted at 14½c. a 15½c., timothy $3 50, and rough flax $2 70 a $2 80.

STEARINE continued to rule steady. There were small sales at 18c. a 18½c. in hhds. and tierces.

SUGAR.—For raw there was an active demand, principally from refiners, and the market was firmer, while prices appreciated ¼c., closing strong at 11¾c., 12c. for fair to good refining Cuba. The sales amounted to 2,900 hhds., part at 11¾c. a 12c. for Cuba, and 11½c. a 12c. for Porto Rico; also 1,125 boxes, part at 12c. a 12½c. Refined was in brisk demand, and about ¼c. higher, hard closing at 16½c., soft white at 15c. a 15½c., and yellow at 15¼c. a 14¾c., and extra C at 14½c.

TALLOW.—Was steady, with sales of 60,000 lbs. at 11½c. a 11¾c.

WHISKEY.—Receipts 299 bbls. But little business was transacted, and prices were weak. There were sales of about 40 bbls. at 92½c., tax paid.

STATEN ISLAND.

A Tour of the Island—Description of Its Principal Villas—Prices of Real Estate and Present Rates of Rent—Improvements in Progress and in Prospective—A Grand Opening to Those Looking for Homes.

Situated at the entrance of our harbor—its picturesquely bold heights along its western shore commanding a broadly stretching view seaward through the Narrows and the limitless expanse of ocean beyond, its undulating summits swelling into grander, though less abrupt heights as we approach its more northern confines, affording the finest view to be had anywhere of our beautiful harbor, and its shore along the Kill von Kull to where the waters of this stream again unite with the ocean presenting to view a perpetually pleasing landscape—is Staten Island. And yet this island occupies but a small space on the map. The fact is that the whole island is only about sixteen miles long by eight wide; that the population is not much over 20,000; that there are but a few small villages within its boundaries, and that the influx of temporary residents and visitors during the summer has, until within the last two or three years, only saved it from positive inanition. The great masses of our population, however, still know but little of the island. Only till quite recently, indeed, except on the part of very few, has there been anything like a realizing sense of its natural beauties and superior advantages, either as a temporary or permanent place of residence, over all the other suburban surroundings of our great city. Its propinquity to the city; its convenience of access by steamboats, so much pleasanter than by rail; its elevated position; the healthful sea breezes that continually sweep over it; the comparative cheapness of rents and relatively low price of land to those wishing to buy, are gradually directing the attention of our citizens—those seeking houses away from their business and the city, with increasing health and comfort to themselves and their children—more in this direction than ever before. The Quarantine was a long and irresistible barrier to its success. People did not care to breathe the air of contagious diseases, did not relish the perpetual pest of malaria breeding at their very doors. It is true the evil was magnified—for the health of the island was never seriously affected by the Quarantine being there—but they expected it might be, and so waged a bitter and implacable war against what they deemed their worst and relentless foe, and so petitioned and remonstrated against its continuance, and so, when begging and bribery accomplished nothing, set fire to the buildings and with the torch of incendiarism freed themselves of their enemy. The island's prospects have been brightening ever since. The population of the island has doubled. The price of real estate has quadrupled, having just doubled within the past two years. A spirit of enterprise is showing itself on every side. The villages are growing and being paved. Churches and schools, and banks and stores, and manufactories and business of all kinds are multiplying rapidly. New steamboat routes are being established, new railroads are being built. The island, in short, is showing symptoms of shaping out its final grand destiny—that of becoming a great and chiefly popular suburb of New York. Along the Hudson river, along the route of the Harlem Railroad and along the line of the New Haven Railway towns have multiplied and increased in the number of their inhabitants till they are overflowing with our surplus population, and real estate commands fabulously high and unreasonable prices. It is the same on Long Island. Along the rivers railroads of New Jersey, notwithstanding

> Its low, level lands
> And great Sahara sands,

to say nothing of its multitudinous marshes and mosquitos, are inconveniently massed communities of those doing business in New York, but obliged to live there to enjoy the benefits of cheaper rents and more room and more cubic feet of wholesome air. All other places are getting to be so crowded and real estate and the cost of living so high that our boiling-over population are now beginning to look to Staten Island for their future homes. A seeming untoward combination of circumstances, but which is proving to have been most fortunate in its results, has prevented the splendid advantages this island possesses over the other suburbs of our city being properly appreciated and turned to available account. Four days foot tramp over the island—for this was the only way to see it properly—has enabled us to study its chief points of attraction, to observe the growing footprints the march of improvement has already made, and to take note of prospective improvements foreshadowing for the island a prosperous and brilliant future. Our tour of inspection has brought us directly *vis-à-vis* with the magnificent villas crowning its dizzy heights and beautiful shores. It is astonishing how many of these villas there are, and the elegant taste displayed in their style of architecture is equally but more pleasingly wonderful. These villas, with turreted towers looking down from their frowning heights, or hid amid the umbrageous shades of the lower slopes and deeper dells, numerous as they are, and their rapidly increasing number shows a growing appreciation of the island but the beginning of what the future is destined to develop. We give below the results of our tour of inspection with brief references to the more prominent villas. Our object is to act as a guide to the thousands in our city who are now looking anxiously about them for some place where they can secure for themselves and families comfortable and permanent homes, and stepping aside from the beaten pathway of mere stereotype chroniclers, throw out suggestions of value to those of little means, to those of moderate means and to those whom wealth has made not only more fortunate, but through its possession raised above the hard and earnest striving of others in working out that great life problem, "to be, to do and to suffer"—a problem so curiously and inexplicably interwoven into the tangled web of so many sad human destinies.

To tens of thousands of our citizens Staten Island is as unknown as the far off islands of the Hebrides. Myriads of our school children can define its geographical position with fluent accuracy who have never been there. The mingled beauties of its majestic heights and wooded dells have gladdened the eyes of those gazing at it from a distance, whose hearts have never been gladdened by roaming over its nooks and through its dales, and while drinking in its health-giving air, the balmy breath of the ocean breezes—drink in deeper draughts of pleasure and inspiration from the perpetually varying landscape and the glistening foam and silvery spray of the surrounding bay and rivers washing its sea girt shores. Taking a steamer from the foot of Whitehall street, though there are other ways of reaching the island by steamers from the foot of Barclay and Dey streets, and by railroad to Bergen Point or Bayonne City, as the latter place in the full fledged dignity of its recent incorporation into a city has been ambitiously christened, and thence passing over the Kill von Kull in a ferryboat the island is quickly reached. By the first named route the sail occupies half an hour, the distance being seven miles, but a most magnificent sail it is through the very heart of our grandly expansive bay to which the far famed bay of Naples and all its legendary beauties are only ideal fictions of faint and sickly fancy. As New York and its steeples and warehouses and busy wharves and forests of shipping recede from sight; as we pass Governor's Island panoplied with the grim armaments of war; as we take a hasty glimpse of Bedloe's and Ellis' Islands, those tireless sentinels of our harbor, showing alike from the summits of their massive gray granite walls the huge "dogs of war;" as we give a hurried glance at Brooklyn Heights and the City of Churches in its receding expansiveness, mingling into shadowy outline with the farthest horizon; as our eyes take in the Long Island shore stretching itself out seaward and the neat villas dotting its graceful slopes, as we look in the opposite direction and let our gaze linger for a moment upon the further shore of New Jersey and see pictured before us along the gentle sinuosities of its distinctly outlined coast city and village and picturesque villas, we look forward, and Staten Island grows more tangible to our view. The soft hazy veil of blue mist gradually disappears, and what seems at first a hugely rising mass of dense clouds as we approach dissolves itself into an island of grandly towering heights covered with turreted villas—an isle of beauty, surpassing poets imagining and seeming more like the enchanted isle of some remembered romance than a veritable reality of villa plots and village lots at so much per foot, of growing commerce and railroads and the busy schemings of plodding men. We stop at the old Quarantine landing. Possibly with a view to dispel every memory and association connected with the Quarantine that so long kept people from coming here, they have changed the name from Tompkinsville to Edgewater. Poetically this may be an improvement, but practically nearly everybody still insists on calling the place by its former name. At the wharf there are carriages and "Jehus" of the metropolitan implacable school, who stand ready to drive you to any portion of the island and swindle you if they can. There are also refreshment saloons, where, by paying Delmonico prices, one is served with what approximates the sumptuousness of a third-rate charity school dinner. Drinking saloons likewise abound, but the character of the drinks dispensed give convincing though very unsatisfactory proof that the Bohemian conservators of good morals in trade and good drinks have not yet honored this rural retreat with a visit. If one in a moment of unguarded rashness, or undue confidence in the integrity of human nature as developed under the ennobling influences of liquor selling, takes a drink at any of these places, the result will be

> Then a scowl and a howl and a scoff and a sneer,
> For strychnine and whiskey and ratsbane and beer

make up the principal summary of the villanous compounds. But these are the necessary evils of our growing modern civilization, and we only refer to them here as a bit of prelatory caution to those visiting the island to bring their lunch and private bottle with them. Passing up the street from the landing we find the old gateway, and quite a continuation beyond of the old Quarantine wall, still standing. Entering this gateway the scene is very different from what it used to be. The gateway is open; there is no turning of a huge lock; there is no burly doorman to question your business; there is no hospital smell filling the nostrils, which no amount of disinfectants is ever able to wholly dispel; there are no saffron-hued convalescents wandering listlessly about; there are no pompous doctors strutting along the gravelled walks; there are no beds airing with ghosts of yellow fever and ship fever and smallpox and cholera couchant and grinning malignantly at you; no groans of the sick and dying grate harshly on the ear; there is not a vestige of the Quarantine remaining saving the portion of the wall and gate to which we have referred, and the luxuriant rows of tall boxwood, indicating the former abode of the health officers of the port. A street is being cut through the grounds and graded and the remainder laid out in building lots. With the tearing down of the old wall and extension of the village in this direction, it is easy to foresee the thriving, busy, bustling town this soon will be. The location is very fine and it requires no effort of the imagination, seeing the town spreading itself still further on either side along the border of the water, and creeping up the slopes of the hillsides till Vanderbilt Landing and New Brighton and Port Richmond and the heights above them are embraced within its extended area, and a vast and beautiful and picturesque city covers this entire section of the island. Meantime the lots on the Quarantine ground, the nucleus of the grand city of the future, are being sold for about $1,500 each.

Considering that this old Quarantine ground and the water right in front of it were bought for $200,000 and the outrage allowed to be consummated, notwithstanding the reiterated exposure of the scheme in the HERALD, the result is likely to prove a most successful speculation to the parties in the plot. But people buying building lots of course do not inquire into this or trouble themselves beyond the questions of price and validity of the title. And what are dead men's bones to land speculators? The Quarantine burial ground—the bodies of those buried there having been taken away—is also being divided into building lots. The four acres of ground belonging to the United States and still used by the Lighthouse Department remains as yet intact; but whether the government will be robbed of this by scheming land speculators eventually, as was the State of the Quarantine grounds, is a question the future only can decide. Giving a look at the camping place of the Seventh regiment during the "Sepoy war" and noting the marked changes that have taken place here since that memorable period, and pursuing the course of the main street leading up the hill beyond the still remaining remnant of the Quarantine wall—a street rather narrow and crooked—and a medley of diminutive buildings on either side, some on the street and some back from it, some with a touch of Gothic, some with a touch of Italian, some native American and some of the original Celtic style of architecture, we come to New Brighton. All about very noticeable improvements are being made. On the heights in the rear of the town is a tract of thirty-four acres, bought several years ago by a firm in Boston for about $100,000. A street is being run through this tract by Mr. H. Tracy Arnold, its late purchaser, and it is otherwise being improved and adorned. The intention is to divide it into villa plots and sell the same at rates available by those of moderate means. From this height the view is as extended as from any point on the island, taking in not only New York Bay, New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City, but Bergen Point, Elizabeth and Newark. Scattered along Montgomery and Tompkins and other avenues, and on Stuyvesant place and about the heights, are a multitude of villas—some quite plain and simple as regards architectural display, and others ornately and expensively elaborate in style and finish. The residence of Mr. George Wetherspoon, the cotton broker, is most delightfully situated and of beautiful design. It is a three story frame building, with bay windows extending from the lower floor to the top. Quaintly delicate balconies of iron are at all the windows and a porch is on three sides. It is painted an old-fashioned light yellow, and though built many years ago, in the quaintness of its style, in its spacious lawn and the fine shade trees filling it, in the approach and drive leading around the house and the extended view from the water front, is almost as charming a residence as there is on the island. Mr. William Ruger, the Broad street shipping merchant, has erected for himself a beautiful model summer residence. It is a two story villa, of the French style, with capacious porticos on the front and sides, and a Mansard roof. On the top is a tower or observatory, most tastefully constructed. The grounds are spacious and well laid out, with a double terrace extending to the street. In the rear of Mr. Ruger's place is the country seat of Mr. Daniel Lowe, who is now traveling with his family in Europe. This is a two story brick mansion, stuccoed with porticos on the four sides. The grounds, embracing twenty acres, are beautifully laid out, with a winding drive through them, and filled with grand old trees. Mr. F. Hallett, the broker, has in the neighborhood a fine residence. His house is also built of brick, two stories high, with Mansard roof and wide and tastefully finished porticos. A pleasing style of modern built residence is that of Mr. A. Prentice, the lawyer. It is a two story frame building and painted dark brown. The porch is spacious, windows large, and the grounds compact, but tastefully laid out. Mr. Tompkins Westervelt has also a fine residence. His is a three story dwelling, with French roof, and the exterior embellished in accordance with the most approved rules of modern taste. In the rear of this residence is the dwelling of Dr. John Westervelt, formerly Health Officer of the port. It is a noble mansion of the old school, solid and massive, and has eight acres of ground attached to it. The doctor, whom the spirit of modern speculation has seized, has parcelled off part of the ground to be sold as villa plots. On Stuyvesant place are the residences of Mr. C. C. Norval, commercial editor of a daily newspaper; Duncan Norval, the broker; Judge Ruggles and others—all pleasant and substantial villas, but none of them in the style of architecture presenting any specially noticeable features.

Making our way further westward, through rows of delightful cottages, mostly of the Gothic style, and nearly all of which are rented residences, we come to the St. Mark's Hotel, covering, with its grounds and outbuildings, five and a half acres. Messrs. De Camp & Cole, the new proprietors, but old hotel men in the business, are making the busiest preparations for the coming summer season. A portion of this hotel, which is built of marble, with an immensely spacious porch and massive pillars, facing the water, was the former country residence of August Belmont. The entire hotel has a frontage of 200 feet, with two fronts, the front facing the avenue having three porches. This hotel, which will accommodate 300 guests, is being newly furnished throughout in first class style, and will be in readiness for the reception of guests on the 1st of next month. There are two beautiful cottages belonging to the hotel, a fine croquet ground and rustic arbors and plenty of large shade trees. This was the original homestead of Governor Tompkins. One of the best views of the bay and passing steamers and sailing vessels and New York and its environing cities and the country around to be had on the island is to be had from this place. As a place of summer resort, and so convenient to the city and business, it presents unparalleled attractions. Opposite here is the beautiful country residence of Mr. John C. Green, the retired merchant. This is a most lovely spot. The building is large and commodious, though built in a plain and unpretending style. The grounds embrace fifteen acres, which are laid out with all the elaborate care and taste of Central Park. Massive trees of the primeval forests fill the grounds and the lawn, which is smooth