SARATOGA.

Arrival of the President at Congress Hall.

SCENES ON THE LAKE.

Appearance and Manners of the College Boys.

THE "SCIENTIFIC" STROKE.

Heroic Confidence of the Harvards.

FEELING OF THE OTHER CREWS.

SARATOGA, July 14, 1874.

To-day the sun came up quite gloriously and stuck there, shining bright in the face of Old Probabilities, who predicted clouds. As we all came out from breakfast, praising the efficacy of our favorite spring—a subject we all differ about and quarrel about—we saw a rush of people, and supposed there to be a runaway. No, it was only the President of the United States in a white linen duster, with an umbrella, getting out of a carriage and climbing up the steps of Congress Hall, a lady on his arm and a secretary behind.

APPEARANCE OF THE PRESIDENT.

He was stoop-shouldered, bowed of head, humble and solid, as usual. He was always unpretending, and this year, coming to a new place, he was less like a fashionable character than ever before. That way of creeping up stairs, morbidly modest and shrinking away, habitual to him, looked more humble in the light of these tall façades and long, architectural porticos of Saratoga. He makes a point, without intending it, when he enters a new town this way. As I stood on the steps of the Grand Union, right opposite, and saw him go up the other portico, I thought of the hundred or more times I have seen him walking as queer and creepingly, like a man made sensitive in early life by some community's frown or malappreciation. If Time was long harsh with him, the best has been done to make reparation.

An Ohio man right behind me remarked:—

"Well, that's the first time I ever saw him before, and this time I have only seen him behind. He's a puzzle. He's respected, anyway. Battering away at him seems to do him good with another big class. There's only one way to make him President again—that is, a war between the races in the South, and if that comes he's inevitable. We'll beat him, if there aint, with old Bill Allen, unless Jim Blaine or Washburne beats old Bill."

The President, received by the Boss of Congress Hall at the top and chased below by a multitude, who, perhaps, wanted to be touched for the King's evil, quickly disappeared and was seen no more all the forenoon. Babcock was also still as the golden eunuch of a grand vizier. The ladies put on their best dresses, the bands prepared their most resounding national music, Saratoga wore high-heeled shoes all day because a President had come. There is a good deal yet in being President, as all the great governments now have Presidents and are republics—*vide* Serrano and MacMahon. The office will be desirable as long as the ladies dress for it.

The hotels had been crowded the night before the President arrived, and in the morning there were wild expostulations at the counter because certain persons had been removed from their quarters, not having previously engaged them beyond a specified date.

"You push my baggage out of my room," said one in my hearing, "because you thinks I am a Sharman Shew, and travels for a housh of commerce."

"No offence intended," said the sundued hotel clerk, who appeared to have become devout, like all his class, since all the hotel keepers have become mainstays of churches. "Your room was engaged, and you were so notified when you took it."

YESTERDAY

was employed by many people in visiting the lake and looking at the athletes.

After days of rain and wet, everything weeping and exuding from the elm trees to the grass, so that even the dipper boys at the springs said, "We ain't dippin' no mo' now; it's riley"—after all the imprisonment of a grand hotel, with everything about it but a fire and an out-of-doors, Monday morning of regatta week broke with a sunup. The streets still shone, the elms still dripped, but the sight of the sun was better than the taste of the springs. By six o'clock all the hack teams were out; by eight o'clock the streets were full of promenaders; by nine o'clock breakfast was done, and Saratoga looked in season.

THE COLLEGE BOYS.

There was so much to do that everybody was a bit puzzled. Out came the little papers of the place, with here a notice of the great amateur individual rowing pull; there the base ball encounter between Yale and Harvard; again the walking match at the Glen; the performance of the Yale Glee Club at the Town Hall; the great regatta of Thursday overtopping all; the expected arrival of the President of the United States; besides a dozen lesser and parasite things, disconnectedly paragraphed; and out in the street were all manner of college boys, wearing the colors and badges of their schools, hastening here and there, bright or self-important, filling the piazzas, and their generally careless dress but ball comporting with their refined manners and easy speech. This was the first great treaty between fashion and athletics, gown and town.

It could not but be evident that the shrewd and experienced self-interest of Saratoga had wisely separated the regatta from all previously tolerated forms of competition—the race track, the pool room, even from ordinary money-gathering devices. The pool room was not open at all, and no public pools are sold upon the college races. The college boys are not encouraged to frequent the club house, and the professional sporting men sit back askant, afraid that their interest might discourage the affair. The grounds on the lake shore are freely opened, without charge, to spectators of the general and the minor rowing and practising matches, and because one of these proprietors, the celebrated Moon, of potato shavings fame, has broken the general obligation and put up a money stand, these watering-place journals mock his rapacity and insinuate that his potatoes are greasy.

"Public opinion is fearfully aroused," said a Saratoga landed proprietor. "It takes Moon at the mill. He hadn't no business to make money off these yer college boys and their friends!"

Great things grow little as we draw near the man's exceptional disposition to turn a penny is a feature of the day here, and you will probably think it an insignificant one.

But the lake where the regatta is to take place does not grow insignificant by familiarity. That is the weak point about the regatta. It is a large lake, with a volatile and easily ruffled disposition, but partly protected by its now bold, now depressed shores; and the strength of the climate in these high parts, between the Laurentian and the Green Mountains, makes a gale blow quick and blow strong. The ruffled water then takes a black, intimidating hue, and the rain drops appear to raise blisters like waves upon the surface compared to Quinsigamond. It is a Lake of Tiberias beside one of the skating ponds in the Central Park. The buoyant little shells in which the rowing is done, each weighing less than the average rower of each crew, seem a trifle out of place upon this great stretch of alternating white and dark water.

As it was the first business of the day with all, let the visit to this lake be the staple of this Monday's instruction. A short half hour's ride from Saratoga by hack or omnibus, driven by vociferous native Jehus, takes the visitor to this lake, on which he comes in a minute of time and beholds it, nearly a mile wide, rising from the foot of the terraced scarp of Moon's place to the horizon line and on to the far distance where disappearing steamboats intimate regions yet beyond. About four miles from the eye is a hilly promontory which shelters a cove, and in the chord between this hill—Snake Hill—and the shore is the starting line, three miles away from the shore at our feet. The boats, therefore, ranged in line at three miles from the mass of spectators, come straight as they can steer down the lake and at no point are above half a mile from one shore or the other until they have made two miles and a half. Here they enter the neck of the lake, which is for half a mile only about 1,200 feet wide, and both shores will be crowded with spectators for this half a mile. The grand stand, on Frank Leslie's property, adjoining Moon's place, will be right at the turning point. Thence the race done, rowing back through the half mile of people the crews will again enter upon the bosom of the broader portion of the lake.

Along the west shore of the lake there is a carriage road close to the water for the whole distance, which is, by land, following the topographical curves, fully four miles. The villas, cottages and farmhouses whose grounds and lawns are to be invaded by this great multitude, are nearly all clumped together along the narrow neck of the lake nearest Saratoga; but the west side of the lake is also sparsely settled, and but one stream of any significance enters Saratoga water on either shore.

THE BUSINESS OF THE RACE.

Over this whole course the University crews are at present scattered, at such disconnected points that they may be said to live suspicious of each other. Five of them are neighborly, residing along the short half mile of neck or inlet aforesaid, viz.:—Brown, Williams, Wesleyan, Harvard and Cornell. Three miles away, at points difficult of access, on the east side, are Princeton and Trinity, not very intimately put together. Across the lake, on the west side, near the starting point, is Columbia, in the least metropolitan position of any of them. A third of the way down, on the same side, is Dartmouth, and Yale is another third on the way toward the spectator. There are a self-reliance, self-reservation and business isolation of these crews, far out of the way of their comrades and of Saratoga pleasure, which indicate a sturdy determination to race as men and not as lads at play. A spectator, of a business turn, expressed this when he said:—

"What crew is that living the furthest off, under Snake Hill, like a squad of hermits?"

"Columbia."

"Well, I'll bet on them. I bet on the boys furthest away from Saratogey. They'll have nothing to do at that distance but row."

Very steadiest, cheerful and vigilant care has been taken by the Saratoga community to insure safety for these racing crews, and make the regatta such a satisfaction to the college lads that they will return annually. The adaptability of the lake and the weather to shell racing is as yet experimental, and a postponement has been resolved upon if Thursday should be inauspicious. To race under any circumstances of danger is not meditated. The lads are all water rats, who might upset, but could not sink; yet the extraordinary number of boats and crews makes the coming occasion a peculiarly delicate one. If put together in line lengthwise the ten shells would quite bridge over the neck or inlet of the lake at the grand stand. Spectators will, therefore, have very perfect advantages as to seeing the race in its full spirit and in the very pitch of exertion.

THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

next Thursday will give a salutary official recognition of the propriety and the need of good physical exercise as a part of the American curriculum, and will put an importance upon aquatic sports above what has yet been awarded to equine games. The President has systematically kept aloof from the running races of Monmouth Park, where he resides in the season, and has promptly come out of his way to attend the college games. Here, indeed, he has both social and religious warrant for what he does. When we see Congregational Yale, Baptist Brown, Presbyterian Princeton and even Methodist Wesleyan uniting in a regatta whereon men may bet money if they wish, the Rubicon of devout criticism has been passed, and if there is any efficiency in prayer the Wesleyan crew will get the united petitions of all Round Lake camp meeting next Thursday. That solemn encampment, indeed, may present a debilitated scene during the middle part of the day of the race.

But athletic sports had already passed out of censure before the Saratoga regatta was thought of. Camp meetings of themselves are a defence and an incitement of healthy exercise, whether it be in shouting or rowing. The President of Wesleyan University visited his boys at their training quarters last Thursday, as they sat around bare-legged, burnt a licorice brown, with ragged hats and shaved heads, and he admonished them to pull the oar of resolution with the arm of power. Fervent exclamations of "You bet!" and "You can gamble on that!" are reported to have been delivered by outsiders.

RISE OF A UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION.

In another point of view the Saratoga Regatta of 1874 would appear to indicate the rise of a true university organization in the United States, a series of colleges independent of each other, but of some mutuality of habits and co-understanding, as Oxford and Cambridge are cities of colleges and not merely a single college. That the initiative has been taken by the students and not by the professors is merely a repetition of the original story of the rise of universities. "They happened together;" first a few, then many, until learning built its own system and city. No spot is more central among American colleges than Saratoga, whence the railways radiate to Cornell, Princeton, Columbia and the colleges of New England. While the university spirit is yet fresh among us, being at best, in its physical demonstration, only twenty years old, it is already shown in more versatile ways than anywhere abroad. Rowing, walking, ball playing, leaping, running and chorus singing are the congregated sports of this spirit at Saratoga already. Transposed to another Commonwealth, under a milder encouragement and in the midst of a more tolerant spirit, the occasional rowdyism which distinguished the Freshmen of Yale and Harvard at Worcester is not to be seen at Saratoga this year. There is no perambulating of hotels here with monosyllabic thunder, as I have heard at the Bay State House in the dead of night, saying:—

Hash for breakfast.
Hash for breakfast.
Hash for breakfast.
Hash!—

THE "SCIENTIFIC" STROKE.

There is, however, a mystery in the air wherever the college boys gather on the subject of stroke. Which has the proper stroke, if any, and whether there be any such thing as a scientific stroke, and if so what is the size of it to the minute, agitates the undergraduate mind most deeply. The superior rowing of the English University crew on the Thames over the best effort Harvard could make, and the general criticism of the English press upon the faulty manner and overstrained and overhasty way in which the American boys pulled their oars, have led to great differences among the crews assembled here. The greater number appear to hold to the idea that the stroke which will beat is the best, and that the result of the race justifies the method of winning it. A few hold that the stroke which can be sustained with power without exhausting the rower will, in the long run, make its way, and the English style of rowing is gaining appreciation, if not favor. I have also heard the opinion advanced that the temperament, food, climate, &c., of America and the Americans find their own expression in the rower, and that as our running horses differ in style and movement from the parent English stock, human exercise will as widely differ. There is almost perfect ignorance of probabilities as to the winning or even the leading crews in Tuesday's race. Widely remote from each other, each assembled with generally discursive training, some being inland crews, others river crews, others again used to the briny water, and all uninformed of the physical character of their competitors, they give at least this advantage to a university race—nobody can gamble on the result, as none are informed in the premises.

The Columbia crew has a good deal of superstition in its favor among town talkers, but this may arise from the excess of New York city people here. While Saratoga is cosmopolitan, it is also metropolitan, and New York furnishes the vast majority of summer boarders. The opinion, if not the sentiment, leans towards that crew which rows on Harlem River; but this is not to the liking of the Columbia boys themselves, who would rather be less prominent until the event is over.

In another direction the belief runs in favor of the older racing colleges, Harvard and Yale. I have heard it said repeatedly that the various extraction and non-homogeneous mixture of the Yale men deprive it of that discipline and spirit which the Bostonians acquire from native understanding and Yankee resolution. Still others hold that the nationality of the Yale crew will be compensation for any weakness here or there concomitant upon too much in-breeding and equality of strength. The disposition shown to leave out Brown University on a technicality led in some quarters to the inference that Brown was held in wholesome fear and might, therefore, win the race. As there are six New England college crews, omitting Brown, there is a little betting for and against New England collectively. Among the crews not schooled in New England Columbia is the favorite.

LATER IN THE DAY.

Later in the day the Monday weather at Saratoga grew both sunny and warm. The puddles disappeared at noon; the grass became dry. During the day there were at least 1,000 people at the lake. The boats were darting about mysteriously, closely scrutinized, and reflections passed as to the advantage or disadvantage of position, Yale and Harvard occupying positions in the middle of the line, alongside of each other, Trinity and Williams at the two ends, Wesleyan between Harvard and Columbia.

This afternoon about two o'clock a rain storm sprung up, which in a few minutes poured down like a torrent, and soon reversed the bright anticipations of the forenoon. The crews put back to quarters, and all seemed to feel discouraged at the prospect. It is barely possible that the regatta may be over from Thursday to Friday, and from Friday to Saturday, or even over to the following week. It will in no event be run unless the lake is perfectly safe, as the interests of Saratoga are bound up in preserving what has previously been the savor and reputation of the town—security of life and limb. The cost of these exhibitions is considerable. To build the boat houses on the lake required $2,700, or $300 each. Harvard has the Schuyler mansion, a valuable property, furnished for the Harvard crews only, as it had previously been dismantled. The only expense attending the college men is $10 a week each for board at adjacent farm houses.

The Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad pays $1,000, and the large hotels $500 each, and the Saratoga Rowing Association $40 per man. The whole expense will be not less than $10,000, and the race in August, between miscellaneous river and city crews, will cost as much more.

I ascertained to-day that the Harvards were very sanguine, having acquired both the English and the American stroke, and will be much disappointed if they do not succeed. The Yale Freshman crew is expected to walk over the course in that particular race. Yale is also confident of winning the University Race, as they row the English stroke, though provided with a somewhat impulsive captain. The crews are all well housed, and will hold over until the race comes off, no matter what delay there may be.

The Foot Races on Friday—The Prizes and List of Entries—Condition of the Boat Crews.

SARATOGA, N. Y., July 14, 1874.

The Bennett prizes to be awarded to the victors in the foot races on Friday are on exhibition at the Grand Union. The following judges for the foot races were elected to-day:—A. L. Devine, of Harvard; S. H. Olin, Wesleyan; G. M. Spiers, Columbia; Delancy Nicoll, Princeton. The fifth judge will be elected from Cornell at the next meeting.

THE ENTRIES

for the foot races up to the present time are as follows:—

ONE MILE RUNNING RACE.—S. A. Reed, Columbia; E. Copeland, Cornell; David Paton, Princeton; J. R. Vandeventer, Princeton; A. B. Ellis, Harvard; R. B. Curtis, Harvard; C. M. Marsh, Wesleyan.

ONE HUNDRED YARD RACE.—H. C. Beach and David Paton, Princeton; R. W. Van Buskirk and J. Martinez, Columbia; E. H. Herrick and H. C. Leeds, Harvard; G. C. Webb, Yale; J. W. Whitney, Wesleyan.

THREE MILE RUNNING RACE.—T. J. Goodwin, of Columbia; E. L. Phillips, of Cornell; Allen Marquand, of Princeton; J. H. Vandeventer, of Princeton, and W. H. Downs, of Wesleyan.

HURDLE RUNNING RACE.—120 yards, over ten hurdles, forty-two inches high.—H. C. Beech, of Princeton; Allen Marquand, of Princeton, A. B. Nevin, of Yale; J. W. Whitney, of Wesleyan; E. H. Herrick, of Harvard.

SEVEN MILE WALKING MATCH.—J. H. Southard, of Cornell; C. H. Hubbell, of Williams; P. T. Timpson, of Columbia; J. E. Eustis, of Wesleyan; H. C. Hermans, of Wesleyan; J. C. Griswold, of Columbia; C. Eager, of Dartmouth; T. G. Lee, of Princeton.

NEW YORK CITY.

Comptroller Green reports the following disbursements and receipts of the treasury yesterday:—Disbursements, $37,215; receipts, $35,088.

The Young Men's Woman Suffrage League are to hold to-day, at eight P. M., their first regular public meeting at Plimpton Hall, No. 30 Stuyvesant street. Dr. Fuller Walker will deliver an address which is to be followed by a discussion, with free platform, under five-minute rule.

BROOKLYN.

Mayor Hunter has been invited to attend the Swiss Schuetzenfest, which is to be held on Union Hill, New Jersey, from the 20th to the 23d of July, inclusive.

City Treasurer Cunningham reports that the amount of money remaining in the several banks to the credit of the city was $1,663,561 21 on June 30; received from that time to July 11, $747,553 17; warrants paid, $996,696 01.

The Coroner was notified yesterday to hold an inquest over the body of Miss Catharine Noonan, who cut her throat at her place of residence, No. 30 Carlton avenue, at an early hour in the morning. Deceased had been in delicate health for some time past and her mind was affected by her physical ailments. She was about thirty years of age and was very respectably connected.

Kate Stoddard, the Goodrich murderess, was brought before Judge Moore, in the County Court, again yesterday for the purpose of continuing the examination touching her sanity. The deposition of Dr. Norton Folsom, Resident Physician of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and formerly Assistant Physician of the Taunton Lunatic Asylum, was read. The affidavit recounted the story of her violent behavior while an inmate of the latter institution, from April to November, 1867. She was frequently put in a strait jacket, and was not cured when discharged. The case was adjourned until this morning, when the case will be concluded and the prisoner committed to the Lunatic Asylum.

The Aldermanic sub-Committee on the Budget of the Department of City Works met yesterday and reviewed the items thereof. The department calls for $434,944. Secretary Northrup, of the Board of City Works, in discussing the appropriation for repairs, sewers, &c., stated that there was 255 95-100 miles of sewers in the city, and all that the Board of Estimate proposed to allow for maintenance, repairs, &c., was $75,000. There are 302 42-100 miles of streets and 37 miles of intersections in the city. With $80,000, the amount allowed by the Board of Estimate, President Palmer, of the City Works, said they would not be able to keep all the streets and patent pavements in repair. It was resolved by the committee to recommend an increase of that item to $100,000.

SUICIDE IN A CEMETERY.

Sulphuric Acid Increases the Population of the Evergreens Cemetery by One—A Strange Case.

About one o'clock yesterday afternoon the attention of Mr. William A. Cummings, President of the Evergreens Cemetery, was called by a workman to a man, who the informant said was dying. Following the laborer, Mr. Cummings was conducted to a grave, in the section of the grounds known as Evergreen Hedge. Here, seated on a chair, resting in a stooped posture, he discovered a man cold in death. The sun beat hotly down upon the back of the neck of the corpse, but the forehead was icy cold and the features blue and congested. On the chair, which was at the head of the grave of a woman who, from the inscription on the tomb, would have been old enough, had she lived to this time, to be the mother of the man, was found a lager beer glass and a bottle, labelled "Sulphuric Acid, Charles Klinen, German Apothecary, No. 67 Forsyth street, New York." About one table spoonful had been taken from the bottle, and the impression is that the unknown man committed suicide through the agency of that powerful poison. Deceased, who was five feet eight inches in height, weight 160 pounds, had sandy and gray mustache and goatee. He was very well dressed, wearing a black broadcloth coat, pantaloons and vest, dark kid gloves, cane, woollen socks, fine boots, high black silk hat, made by "Mettouz." Two fingers were missing from the left hand. Justice Slocum, who took charge of the body, will hold an inquest to-day. One of the gravediggers reports that the deceased was seen walking through the cemetery at seven o'clock yesterday morning. There was no name on his linen nor any means of identification other than above set forth.

REDUCED TO THE RANKS.

Brooklyn Detectives at Coney Island—Conclusion of the Investigation Before the Police Commissioners.

The investigation as to the charge made against several detectives of Brooklyn of having betrayed their orders to the gamblers on Coney Island, was concluded yesterday. The accusation was to the effect that on last Sunday week nine detectives were ordered to make a raid on the three card monte men, who infest that popular resort of the masses, when one of the number communicated the fact by messenger to the "sharpers" at the island in time to enable them to make a safe retreat before the arrival of the police. One of the detectives concerned, Special Officer Riggs, of the Eighth precinct, represented to the Commissioners that Detective Williams was the man who "gave it away," meaning the information, to the monte men. The Board of Commissioners, President Jordan, D. D. Briggs and J. Jensen, gave the subject a most exhaustive investigation yesterday afternoon, and finally adopted the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That Detective Riggs has manifested his unfitness for detective duty in many ways, but in none more so than in that of his groundless charge against Detective Williams, which he utterly failed to substantiate; therefore

Resolved, That the order detailing Detective Riggs to detective duty be, and the same is hereby, revoked. Officer Riggs will report to the commanding officer of his precinct for patrol duty.

Both Riggs and Williams are veteran officers of the Brooklyn Police Department.

THE BRIDGE ENTERPRISE.

The Aldermanic Action in the Premises and What the Effect Will Be—Brooklyn Likely To Vote the Requisite Amount.

Mayor Hunter, in a conversation with a HERALD representative yesterday in regard to the failure of the Aldermen to take any action looking to the appropriation of the first $1,000,000 towards the East River Bridge enterprise, in accordance with the provision of the act of the Legislature, said there was no haste necessary on the part of the Board; that he believed the Bridge Company had money enough for the present. In answer to a question as to whether the Bridge Company had money enough to carry them through until after the end of the recess of the Board, he replied, he thought they had, and if they had not, why they could easily borrow it. The work, he said, having been commenced must go forward. Several of the Aldermen, who were spoken to yesterday upon the subject, were of the same opinion as the Mayor, and expected that some action would have been taken at their last meeting upon the report which the Bridge Committee had prepared and were anxious to submit. The committee say that the bridge should be completed as soon as possible, and it would be foolish to wait a year or two for New York to take action, and in the meantime allow the work to stop, as they would only be losing the interest on the large amount already invested.

The opinion of some of the members of the Board is that New York will take some action as soon as Mayor Havemeyer is powerless to interfere in the matter. They would, therefore, prefer to wait until Mayor Havemeyer is removed or serves out his term. Among those who strongly oppose any initiatory steps on the part of Brooklyn is Alderman Ropes, who declares most emphatically that he shall oppose making any appropriation whatever until New York has paid its share toward the enterprise as provided in section three of the act. Alderman Strong, it is said, is of the same opinion, and, in fact, all of the Aldermen from the Eastern District, with a single exception, are opposed to making any appropriation at all. They argue that the people of that section of the city will never receive any benefit from the bridge, and they should not be obliged to contribute towards it. The matter, however, has been canvassed among the members of the Board, and it has been found that there are nineteen Aldermen who are ready to vote for the appropriation at any time. A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen has been called, to be held one week from next Monday, when Alderman O'Rielly, who is a member of the Committee on Parks and Bridges, says he has no doubt that the report recommending the appropriation for the work will be made by the Common Council, and the enterprise will be carried steadily forward to completion.

Mr. James S. T. Stranahan, speaking on the subject yesterday, said he attributed the failure on the part of the Aldermen to make the appropriation on Monday to a little feeling of spite, which was not unexpected, as there must always be obstacles in the way of great efforts.

LONG ISLAND.

Charles Tracey, one of the escaped prisoners from the Queens County Jail, was arrested near Port Washington, early yesterday morning, while attempting to steal a boat with which to cross the Sound.

The three camp meetings at Sea Cliff Grove are announced to begin on the 22d of July, August 12 and August 27, and last ten days each. The cottages at the Grove have been occupied by their owners for some time past, and religious services are held upon the grounds daily.

Through the carelessness of a party of boys, who had built a fire on the Sound shore near Strong's Neck, to roast clams, yesterday afternoon, the fire got beyond their control, and communicating to the woods, destroyed 100 acres of valuable timber before it could be subdued.

The Great South Bay is now swarming with blue and weak fish, and immense quantities are taken daily both by amateur and expert anglers. The fishermen who follow the Bay for a living, notwithstanding the immense number of fish taken fare but poorly, as the markets are glutted and they are obliged to sell their edible fish to the oil factories.

The farmers on the Island are now busy harvesting their hay and grain. The hay crop is the finest and largest gathered in many years. Rye and wheat also promise an abundant yield. Oats and corn are looking finely. At the west end the vegetable gardeners are busy digging their early potatoes, immense quantities of which have been planted. The yield is large, but, as with all early vegetables this season, the wholesale prices are low, so that in many instances the farmers are heavy losers; peas, which bring in market but forty cents per bag, costing thirty cents per bag to pick, to say nothing of the labor and manure required to raise them. All other vegetables sell in about the same proportion. If the late crops do not bring better prices the farmers will fare poorly. The show for wild and cultivated berries never was better, and a large crop will be gathered.

SHOCKING DISASTER.

Several Men Killed During the Launch of a Vessel.

Port Jefferson, L. I., was the day before yesterday the scene of an accident which resulted in the death of four men and the injury of two others. The following are the main facts as ascertained by a reporter of the HERALD:—

A three-masted schooner was launched from the shipyard of C. A. Bayliss & Son. After all the blocking had been removed it was found impossible to get the vessel off without the use of battering rams, which are heavy pine timbers, with one end of a rope attached to their centres and the other end secured to the bow of the vessel.

By drawing the timber forward and permitting it to swing back, thus balancing it in an effectual manner, a powerful shock is caused. During one of these manipulations the vessel started off and it became necessary to immediately detach the timbers, as they might tear up the ways, injure the vessel and imperil the lives of the workmen and the many people who were present from idle curiosity.

As soon as it was necessary to detach the ram the rope was cut by a workman who had received special instruction in regard to the matter. The bystanders had received absolutely no warning whatever, and the enormous weight of the timber

DESCENDED WITH TERRIBLE FORCE

upon the heads of the spectators, who were utterly unconscious of their great peril. The effect was crushing. Four men were killed instantly, and three others—Thomas Bayles, Oakley Rowland and James Lorns—were badly wounded. A number of persons received severe bruises or contusions; but all these are, of course, greatly thankful for having got off with their lives. The owners of the launch and their employes are generally held accountable for the accident, and an investigation will be held at once. Some of the men who were killed and badly injured have large families, who blame those in charge of the launch for the sudden loss of their bread winners.

WESTCHESTER.

During the temporary absence of its occupants the residence of Frederick B. Conklin, situated on what is known as the Grassy Sprain road, in the city of Yonkers, was broken into yesterday morning and robbed of table silverware, a pair of opera glasses, a revolver, silver coin and other articles, valued in all at about $125. The burglars have thus far escaped detection.

STATEN ISLAND.

Martino Orena, who was severely beaten at Tompkinsville on the 9th inst. by a man named Ulkner, is now lying in a critical condition from the wounds received. The Coroner has been notified and a warrant issued for the arrest of Ulkner.

The Stapleton yacht regatta, which was to have taken place on the 16th inst., has, owing to the absence of the commodore of the club and the impossibility of obtaining a suitable steamer to accompany the yachts, been postponed until the 26th inst.

A TUNNEL ACCIDENT.

More Lives Sacrificed by Carelessness in Building—One Man Killed and Two Injured.

Another of those distressing and harrowing accidents occurred yesterday in this city which can only be attributed to flagrant recklessness in building. The safety of many lives is generally dependent on but small precautionary measures, but it seems that these even are grossly neglected in the erection of vast and precarious structures. Thus lives are frequently lost and helpless children are rendered fatherless.

The columns of the HERALD have repeatedly contained detailed descriptions of the long tunnel now building in the upper part of Fourth avenue. It was this locality which was the scene of this sad accident. The top of the tunnel, between Ninetieth and Ninety-first streets, caved in suddenly with a fearful crash. A large number of workmen were at work in the immediate vicinity of this portion of the tunnel, and the confusion which ensued was indescribable.

FEARS WERE ENTERTAINED

that other portions of the tunnel would also fall, and these groundless suspicions spread terror among the workingmen. Meanwhile, however, it became necessary to remove the débris, especially as some of the laborers declared that they had heard faint and painful cries issue from under the confused mass of stone. One man who had only barely escaped with his own life—he stood but a foot or two from where the top of the tunnel had fallen—urged the men to go to work instantly, as the victims might yet perhaps be saved. So they went to work with a will, and their efforts were not fruitless. Patrick Gullloyle and Joseph Granger, both workmen engaged on the tunnel, were dug out. Gullloyle, who resides at 1,326 Third avenue, had severe bruises on his right foot, and Granger, a Canadian, who lives at 1,559 Third avenue, had several ugly bruises about the body. They were both unconscious and at once removed to their homes. Although their injuries are severe there seems but little doubt that they will ultimately recover.

The work of clearing up the wreck, however, was not yet finished, and, subsequently, the men dug up the body of William Haley, of Ninety-sixth street and Lexington avenue. The corpse was horribly mangled, and gave evidence that he had died an exceedingly painful death. The diggings were continued without interruption, but the workmen failed to find any more victims of criminal carelessness. Word was sent to the Coroners' Office, and it is expected that a thorough and searching investigation will be held without any unnecessary delay. It is, as yet, impossible to fasten the responsibility for this awful calamity upon the guilty parties, but it is sincerely to be hoped that the Coroner will ascertain all the facts, and that the death of these poor workingmen will, at least, result in the signal punishment of every one who is in any way responsible for the disaster.

THE BATTLE OF BABYHOOD.

An Appeal for Floating Hospitals for Sick Children.

DIPHTHERIA AND CHOLERA INFANTUM.

Seven Hundred Children Visit Mr. William Butler Duncan at Staten Island.

MORE MONEY WANTED.

St. John's Guild, the well known volunteer organization which fed 35,000 of the hungry poor last winter, nursing the sick and clothing the naked, is again to enter the field with vigorous measures for lessening the mortality among the sick children of the city.

It will be observed from reading the letter of Dr. Harris, of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, to the Sanitary Committee, that, while the average health of the adult portion of the community is better than at any time since 1868, the death rate among children is rapidly increasing. This increase is ascribed mainly to diphtheria, which Dr. Harris finds to be steadily gaining ground, for while the reports now give double the number of cases of last year, the doctor is of the opinion that not more than one case in five is reported at all.

What does the statement from Dr. Harris really mean? It means that in cellars thick with miasmatic gases, babes are dying in their mothers' arms for want of wholesome food and wholesome air; that in close rooms of tenements, where the strongest and coarsest natures languish from heat, children are stretched on a handful of rags on the floor, pleading, begging, as only a dying child can beg, for cooling drinks, for air—for life. It means that, when the fashionable thousands have sought the seaside, the mountains, the baths and the springs, where they may search out the most pleasant places and find the shadiest nooks, they leave behind them a skeleton in the homes of the poor for the poor to fight. For the poor alone? No. To-day and to-morrow, perhaps, but not for very long, will the grim figure of contagion hang about the squalid pallets of poverty. It will feed a little while upon this hothouse fruit, and then it will move to the homes of the rosy cheeked children of wealth. Reeling under the intoxication of success, it will throw wide the doors to pleasant homes, and, scattering the ices and cordials from the bedsides of little sufferers, will lay its cold, bony fingers on many a heart and brow.

Few among the general public are aware to what an extent the condition of the lower wards has rendered contagion possible. In addition to diphtheria, the cholera infantum, which every summer carries off large numbers of children, has appeared, and will for the next two months require constant care and attention among the poor.

To meet this emergency the same course pursued last summer, with the best results, by the volunteer visitors, under the direction of the Rev. Alvah Wiswall, the Master of St. John's Guild, will be adopted. This will include the use of a barge or floating hospital for sick children and their mothers, which will make frequent excursions on the river and bay, accompanied by numerous physicians. The sail will furnish an abundance of pure air to the sick, while they will be supplied with wholesome food. To the convalescent, bright scenes on water and shore, and music from the volunteer band on the deck appropriated to them, will insure the best results.

The work in the streets and alleys lined with filthy tenements and cellars will not be neglected in the meantime, and all that patient effort can accomplish may be hoped for.

The fact that the Department of Charities and Correction has discharged its physicians and visitors and abandoned its work among the poor renders the prompt action of the Guild important, if, in fact, it will not be indispensable.

St. John's Guild will depend upon the aid of the kind hearted everywhere for support. To the world of wealth and fashion the little pinched children of the tenements and cellars appeal for even the morsel of ice that may drive the fever from their brow and for the breath of pure air that will allay the burning fever that consumes them. God knows that with the riches that surround us their appeal should not be in vain. Children, who are dying while their parched lips ask longingly for cold drink and fruit till the mother is well nigh driven to madness, are whispering in the breeze over land and sea to the pleasure-seekers afar off—whispering a prayer for help.

St. John's Guild moves responsive, and its volunteers stand eager for the work and waiting for the charitable everywhere to strengthen their hands. Not one dime contributed will be expended for office rent or salaries, but every dollar will go direct and intact to the relief of the destitute sick.

Contributions to the fund are earnestly solicited at once, and may be sent to

Mayor Havemeyer, City Hall.
Arnold Constable & Co., No. 885 Broadway.
D. Appleton & Co., No. 551 Broadway.
August Belmont & Co., No. 50 Wall street.
S. L. M. Barlow, No. 55 William street.
Ball, Black & Co., No. 565 Broadway.
Judge John R. Brady, No. 19 West Thirty-third street.
Henry Bergh, No. 109 Fourth avenue.
Henry Clews, No. 32 Wall street.
Fred. A. Conkling, President Ætna Insurance Company, No. 172 Broadway.
H. B. Claflin & Co., No. 140 Church street.
S. B. Chittenden & Co., No. 328 Broadway.
Chickering & Sons, No. 11 East Fourteenth street.
Samuel G. Courtney, No. 244 West Thirty-fourth street.
Rev. E. H. Chapin, D. D., No. 14 East Thirty-third street.
G. De Witt, Bro. & Co., No. 90 John street.
R. Ogden Doremus, No. 79 Union place.
Francis P. Furnald, No. 47 Warren street.
John P. Faure, No. 238 West Eleventh street.
Howland & Aspinwall, No. 54 South street.
Harper & Brothers, No. 331 Pearl street.
Hatch & Foote, No. 12 Wall street.
Hoyt, Sprague & Co., No. 170 Franklin street.
H. Hoe & Co., corner Sheriff and Grand streets.
Francis H. Jenks, President New York Safe Deposit Company, No. 141 Broadway.
Jones & Ryder, No. 432 Broadway.
A. A. Low, No. 31 Burling slip.
Lord & Taylor, No. 866 Broadway.
Arthur Leary, No. 73 William street.
William Lottimer & Co., No. 75 Leonard street.
T. Otis Leroy & Co., No. 261 Water street.
Andrew W. Leggat, Deputy Collector of Assessments, New Court House.
Gouverneur K. Lansing, Earle's Hotel.
Theodore Moss, Wallack's Theatre.
Miller & Co., No. 3 Union square.
William B. Ogden, No. 214 Broadway.
Park & Tilford, No. 921 Broadway.
Marshall O. Roberts, No. 177 West street.
Henry G. Stebbins, Department Public Parks, corner Sixteenth street and Fourth avenue.
David Salomon, German-American Bank, No. 120 Broadway.
Jackson S. Schultz, No. 63 Cliff street.
Tiffany & Co. No. 13 Union square.
William R. Travers, No. 19 Madison avenue.
Rev. S. F. Weston, D. D., No. 3 East Forty-fifth street.
George Wilkes, M. D., No. 16 North Washington square.
Wiley, Wicks & Wing, No. 150 Reade street.
Wheeler & Wilson, Nos. 543 and 625 Broadway.
William Watson & Co., No. 122 Church street.
G. J. S. Zabriskie, People's Bank, corner Canal and Thompson streets.

Or Rev. Alvah Wiswall, Master of St. John's Guild, No. 52 Varick street.

The Poor Children's Picnics.

NEW YORK, July 14, 1874.

The trustees of the Poor Children's Free Excursions Fund have received the following contributions to date:—

Previously acknowledged	$2,366 68
William N. Feit, New Britain, Conn.	1 00
Franklin	1 00
J. H. O.	5 00
George M. Miller	10 00
R. T. Auchmutz, Lenox, Mass.	100 00
Hallgarten & Co.	50 00
A Friend	25 00
M. E. B.	10 00
R. J.	10 00
X. X.	5 00
No Flowers (for funeral)	5 00
William Bospham	10 00
J. S. Baldwin	3 50
Mrs. Nicholas Ludlum	50 00
Collection taken in the Church of the Holy Trinity, July 12, per Rev. D. M. McAfrey	125 50
Cash	100 00
A. W. Sanford	100 00
Cash, E. B. H.	10 00
Cash, E. S.	5 00
Guests at Surf Hotel (additional)	52 00
J. A.	5 00
E. F. G.	2 00
Louise Cross, per New York *Times*	1 00
John Travers	25 00
Cash, C. H. M.	100 00
M. W. L., per *Tribune*	5 00
V. G.	2 00
Theodore Woolsey Heermance (a two-year old)	10 00
Bob and Bell	10 00
L. A. Bendit, Sharon Springs	5 00
Mrs. H. Anthon	10 00
J. P.	25 00
W. H. P.	25 00
E. P.	25 00