# THE GARBAGE BEDS.

## A Secret History of Contracts and Contractors.

## The Board of Health Stops the Dumping on the Flats.

## DISINFECTANTS TO BE USED.

### President Chandler Declares the Contractors Could Be Fined.

### Disbecker Will Send the Stuff to Nova Scotia to Pacify the Public.

The persistent exploration by the HERALD of the hidden mysteries of the "Harlem flats" and the scandalous transactions connected therewith develop new features every day. Digging down to the foundation, as it were, of the whole matter the investigation lays bare the stratification of ugly facts which underlie it and form the basis on which a colossal indictment of the delinquent officials can be erected. It is not only necessary to bore to great depths to find the truth, but it must also be fairly dug out from the mass of official lying and misstatement which has covered it in the past and which is now sought to be presented as an irresistible obstacle to inquiry. It is necessary therefore to go back to the beginning and trace the progress of this monstrous evil step by step until the true position it holds in our midst is established.

THE LEGISLATURE OF 1871

passed an act entitled "An act to provide for the proper drainage of lands within the corporate limits of the city and county of New York, being chapter 566 of the Laws of 1871, passed April 18, 1871. The first section of the act reads as follows:—

SECTION 1.—Whenever it shall appear to be necessary for the protection of the public health that any part or parcel of land within the corporate limits of the city and county of New York needs to be drained by other means than by sewers, and it shall be so certified by the City Sanitary Inspector, and said certificate is filed among the records of the Board of Health of the Health Department of said city, the said Board shall direct that the same shall be done by and under the direction of the Department of Public Works of said city and county.

Acting under the authority of this act and in accordance with a recommendation from the Sanitary Superintendent and the local Health Inspector, the Board of Health directed the Commissioner of Public Works to take the necessary steps to drain and fill in the tracts referred to in the reports of the sanitary officers mentioned. The form of requisition on the Department of Public Works is as follows:—

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 301 MOTT STREET, NEW YORK, July 9, 1873.

Hon. GEORGE M. VAN NORT, Commissioner, &c.:—

SIR—At a meeting of the Board of Health held on the 8th inst., it was—

Resolved, That a copy of the certificate of the Sanitary Superintendent in regard to the plots or parcels of land lying between and bounded by Ninety-second and 109th streets, Third avenue and East River, within the corporate limits of the city and county of New York, be placed on file in this department, and that said certificate be forwarded to the Department of Public Works, and that said department be and is hereby respectfully requested and directed to cause the said plots or parcels of land to be drained by other means than by sewers under and by virtue of the provisions of chapter 566 of the laws of 1871. EMMONS CLARK, Secretary.

LETTER OF SANITARY SUPERINTENDENT.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SANITARY BUREAU, No. 301 MOTT STREET, NEW YORK, July 3, 1873.

TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

In accordance with an act to provide for the proper drainage of lands, &c., passed April 19, 1871, chapter 566, I hereby certify that it is necessary for the protection of the public health that those parts and parcels of land lying within the limits of the city and county of New York lying between and bounded by Ninety-second and 109th streets, Third avenue and East river, need to be drained by other means than by sewers. These lands or parts of them lie below the levels of the sewers in the avenues adjacent thereto, and have natural water courses running through them, and are moreover subject to tidal overflow, by reason of which they are kept constantly wet and detrimental to public health.

The accompanying map indicates the location of the ground, with the natural water courses and ponded water remaining thereon.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Health direct the Department of Public Works to provide for the necessary drainage of said lands by the construction of blind sewers or by such other means as may best effect the desired object. Respectfully submitted,

WALTER DE F. DAY, M. D., Sanitary Superintendent.

AFFIDAVIT OF HEALTH INSPECTOR—INDORSED "COMPLAINT."

TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

I, Augustus Viele, holding the position of Health Inspector in the Health Department of the city of New York, do report:—That on the 15th day of August, 1872, I did inspect carefully and personally examined the land situated north of Ninety-second street, east of third avenue and south of 109th street, east of Third avenue extending to East River, in the city of New York, and found the facts to be as follows:—

Lands referred to consist of vacant and sunken lots lying north of Ninety-second street, extending from Third avenue to East River, and as far north as 109th street, and are in a condition dangerous to life and detrimental to health for the following reasons:—They are in a sunken and offensive condition, subject to a tidal overflow and an accumulation of surface and stagnant water east of Second avenue, from Ninety second to Ninety fifth street, to the East River; east of second avenue, from Ninety-fifth to 109th street, to the East River; west of Second avenue, from Ninety-third to 109th street, lying east of Third avenue, nearly the entire portion is sunken and requires drainage and grading and filling, as will be shown by reference to accompanying map or diagram.

The section extending east of Second avenue, from Ninety-fifth to Ninety-eighth street, has been filled and graded, but no proper means of drainage has been established.

Would recommend as a sanitary necessity that the section comprised within the boundary of Ninety-second street on the south, 109th street on the north and east of third avenue, extending to the East River, be certified to the Department of Public Works as requiring drainage, it being the only means of overcoming and remedying a great existing evil, as these lands lie below the level of sewers in Second and Third avenues and adjacent streets.

AUGUST VIELE, M. D., Health Inspector.

Sworn to before me this 15th day of August, 1872. LOUIS T. BRESSER, Notary Public.

Dated August 16, 1872.

PETITION OF PROPERTY OWNERS INTERESTED. (In the handwriting of Health Inspector Viele.)

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS:—

SIR—The undersigned owners of lots lying north of Ninety-fifth street and south of 109th street, between Third and Fifth avenues, would most respectfully request that you will order said lands drained and graded, agreeable to the certificate requiring the same from the city sanitary inspector, and forwarded by the Board of Health on the 14th day of September, 1871, being in accordance with the provisions of chapter 566 of the Laws of the State of New York, passed April 18, 1871, for the purpose of draining certain lands within the corporate limits of the city and county of New York.

THOMAS A. TYSE, Jr., J. PHILLIPS, W. H. RAYNOR, WILLIAM LALOR, WILLIAM A. TRACY.

Dated November 9, 1872.

In pursuance with the law and under the written instructions of the Health Board the Department of Public Works advertised for bids for the building of drains and filling in the tract known as the Harlem flats on October 9 and opened the bids on October 21, 1872.

The following parties did for the filling:—

| | Per Cubic Yard. |
|---|---|
| R. & J. Cunningham | $1 20 |
| J. Everard | 99 |
| M. Baird | 90 |
| C. C. Reed | 79 |
| Jones & McQuaid (accepted) | 65 |
| A. Dowdney | 83 |
| E. H. Fairchild | 92 |
| J. G. Lane | 60 |

The bid of Jones & McQuaid being lowest was accepted, and the work commenced. It is very evident from the above exhibit that the successful bidders had a sure thing on filling—that they knew where to get it very cheap and plenty, and that they were not disappointed. From the beginning of the work the street sweepings were used. Mr. Towle insists that nothing was done during the whole time McQuaid & Jones worked for the city, under the contract mentioned, that could call for censure, so far as the character of the filling used is concerned, but added that the refuse matter brought by the Police Department scows to the work, and which was rejected by the department as unfit for use, as fast as brought up to the dock was at once carted off by McQuaid & Jones and used as filling on lands immediately adjoining those on which the city contract was being executed. Evidence of the acceptance by the Department of Public Works of Jones & McQuaid's work as being done according to contract and specification is furnished by the following certificates from the engineer in charge of sewers and the sub-inspectors under him attached to the official returns of the work done:—

*City and County of New York, ss.*:—Stevenson Towle, engineer in charge of sewers, being duly sworn, says that the within is a correct return of all work done under the contract for

Sworn before me this —— day of ——, 187—. STEVENSON TOWLE.

*City and County of New York, ss.*:—James Gallagher, being sworn, says that he was duly appointed by the Commissioner of Public Works to inspect the work done under the above named contract, to wit, and that the same has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor. JAMES GALLAGHER.

Sworn before me, this —— day of ——, 18—. A. B.

Another inspector's certificate, signed by Hugh McCutcheon, further attests the fact of the acceptance of the work.

So much for the Department of Public Works.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

Almost from its organization this department has been harping on the Harlem flat string, and denouncing the terrible nuisance that threatened New York with a pestilence. The local inspector, Dr. Viele, reported in 1870:—"A sick person could hardly be expected to get well in a place where a well person would be almost sure to get sick," "and unless the filling in of sunken lots and streets with garbage and refuse material is abandoned the buildings which are erected in such localities must become permanent abodes of disease." Again, in 1871, the same inspector writes of the same locality:—"A large proportion of these lands east of Second avenue, from Ninety-fifth to Ninety-ninth street, have been filled above tidewater with garbage and ashes." "It is a lamentable fact to record that 104th street, from the East River to Fifth avenue, Eighty-sixth and Eighty-ninth streets, from East River to Second avenue, have been graded and filled with ashes and garbage. No more pernicious material for the filling of streets can be found, especially where the streets are so often opened for sewers, water and gas connections and repair."

"Experience has taught us that the exhalations from the never ceasing decomposition of this material will continue to percolate and gain the surface for years after the original deposit has been made." "As guardians of the public health and the future sygienic prosperity and sanitary condition of this city, we should earnestly protest against the depositing of this noxious and offensive material in any of the streets or vacant lots."

The writer desires to nail these official opinions on the platform of discussion, so that no evasion of responsibility on the ground of ignorance of the facts can be made by any member of the Health Department or its employés.

Dr. Moreau Morris, City Sanitary Inspector in 1871-72 truthfully asserts in his report on epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis or spotted fever, which swept the city of New York in 1872, when noting the predisposing causes of this dreadful disease, that among these may be classed "the water saturated soil of the undrained portions of the city where former living streams had been obstructed in their courses, or land has been made from the débris of the city over its marshy marginal portions."

This exactly describes the conditions and factors of disease of the Harlem flats. The marsh and the garbage are there; the process of decomposition is ever active; the intense heat of the summer sun, which is capable of penetrating by induction and conduction to a depth of over sixty feet, according to Professor Forbes, below the surface, or to that point where the heat absorbed and the heat radiated by the earth meet, as it were, on a neutral line. The fluctuations of temperature cause a more or less active generation and condensation of poisonous vapors from the laboratory of putrid matter below the surface. These alternately expand and fill the air with their fatal presence to great distances from the point of generation, or lie like a heavy pall over the earth, equally dangerous to life in either state.

The wild assumption of ignorance or the insidious falsehoods of corrupt interest may seek to banish from the minds of the public the dreadful truth that garbage is a constant source of disease when used in filling, no matter how much fresh earth is laid on it; but science and, above all experience, tells us that such is the fact, and no specious arguments can overturn it.

The Mills & Ambrose contract at 106th street is marked by an almost exclusive use of city filth; indeed, so reckless have these men been that not many days ago a horse slipped into the water hole now being filled at this point and was drowned there, and remains there still covered with garbage—a sure foundation, perhaps, for some future pestilence.

A certain street, it is asserted, was filled with similar garbage in 1863. It was hoped that time had destroyed the poisonous matter and that it had become inocuous, but in 1874 the ground was opened for some repairs and the imprisoned accumulations of foul gas were liberated into the air and caused sickness almost immediately. Instances like these are innumerable, but space will not admit of their recital here.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The officials of this department are loud in their expressions of willingness to do anything and everything needed to satisfy the HERALD and the public in the matter of disposing of the city garbage. They complain that it costs too much to send the offal to sea—$50 per scow load or $400 for a daily collection on eight scows. They also claim that when the stuff was sent to sea it was dumped about two miles eastward of Coney Island point, and that the weather is often too bad to venture out with ill-balanced barges or scows.

In the first place, it will not cost $50 per scow to carry this garbage seaward, because any one of common intelligence knows that a tug can be hired to tow the eight scows out to sea for a little more than what Inspector Thorne says one will cost. The point selected for dumping is one of

THE WORST THAT COULD BE FOUND

in the harbor, and the distance out to sea should be increased, if possible, to not less than five miles clear of Sandy Hook.

Properly constructed trap-sided iron barges, similar to those of the Dock Department, can be safely loaded and carried to sea, and by a simple disengagement of a trigger bolt the whole cargo can be "let slide" into the water in a minute. The use of such barges is very common in Europe. No trouble whatever arises in their loading and unloading; all that is required is to have two men on each barge to let go the traps, and the barge unloads itself.

Matter like that collected by the Police Department, being very light, is quickly washed ashore if dumped too near land, and especially so near Coney Island, where

THE LITERAL CURRENTS TEND TO ACCUMULATE DEPOSITS

on the bar, or East Bank.

ROOM FOR A MARGIN.

It looks exceedingly suspicious for the Police Department to sell the garbage at $10 per scow load, or two and a half cents a yard, to a contractor, who receives for the same material sixty-five cents per cubic yard. A contractor could afford to pay $150 per day to the good men and true of the department and still get his filling for less than ten cents per yard. He need only take six scow loads to do this; just the number sent to the "Harlem flats."

TALK AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

Yesterday was a regular "field day" at the Police Headquarters. Almost all day long Commissioners Matsell and Disbecker were in conference with the Sanitary authorities—Drs. Chandler, Janeway, Day and Viele—trying to devise means for remedying the abuses complained of by the HERALD. This secret consultation was followed by meetings of both boards, in which the measures agreed upon were embodied in formal resolutions, which are given further below.

THE SECRET CONFERENCE.

The secret conference was held at the office of the Board of Health. Commissioner Disbecker gave the following account of it:—"I appeared before the Board of Health in reference to the filling up of the Harlem flats and for the purpose of asking them to take such action as they might deem most conducive to the public health. I told them that I wished they would take charge of the entire matter as far as possible, as it was a matter affecting the public health. Dr. Day, the Sanitary Superintendent, said the principal objections to the stuff dumped on the flats arose during the course of transportation, and after considerable discussion they finally came to the conclusion that the best way of obviating the present difficulty was to use suitable and thorough disinfectants—one barrel of lime and eight to ten gallons of deodorizing oil to each scow load of 250 cubic yards. A great many other suggestions were made, such as to run all the stuff through large kilns so as to destroy all the garbage and leave but a pure residuum of ashes, and that was the final conclusion of the Board. He told them, then, that in order to have this disinfection performed in a manner satisfactory to them, we should request that they take charge of it and station an agent at each of the eight dumping places on the east side, who would supervise the process of disinfection. They said that they had not the funds to undertake that additional task, and computed the expense of such supervision at $5,000 for this summer. They then asked us if we (Mr. Matsell and myself) were willing to consent to a transfer of that sum from our unexpended balance of last year to the Health Department, and we gave the consent asked for on the part of the Police Commissioners."

MR. DISBECKER ON HIS METTLE.

Mr. Disbecker being rather stout would not have been thought a ferocious man by Julius Cæsar, but yesterday he was decidedly on his mettle.

EFFECT OF THE HERALD'S EXPOSÉ.

"Yes," Mr. Disbecker went on talking with a rapidity which shows the wonderful flow of his ideas, "we'll take the dirt anywhere they like; we'll take it to Nova Scotia if they say so."

Mr. Disbecker then went on in a rambling manner to detail the precautions that were to be taken in the filling up of the Harlem marshes. For the better separation of the garbage from the ashes he intended to order a partition to be made in every cart. As to carrying all the dirt out to sea, this was simply impossible, for the scows would easily be capsized, and even now the bureau had to wait for a fine day before daring to send the refuse out to sea in one of those awkward vessels. "If we did that," he said in his dramatic style, "the HERALD would not be after us, but Mr. Blunt would be after us." And in an argument which was almost as brilliant as that of ex-Judge Porter, he positively convinced the reporter that the dirt was rather beneficial than injurious to health. "You ought to see our scow trimmers! The dirt falls right upon their heads, and in what an excellent physical condition they are!" The picture drawn by Commissioner Disbecker was supplemented by a still more enticing one from the fertile brain of Inspector Thorne, and the reporter left almost like applying at once for a position so refreshing and strengthening to body and soul. Mr. Disbecker then said that the men employed by the bureau were to be paid off in the afternoon, and made the following very funny suggestion in that connection:—

"You ought to suggest that these men should be disinfected, for their effluvia is far worse than the stench of the Harlem flats." And with this the young Commissioner ended the interview and resumed his arduous duties.

GETS A PERMIT AT LAST.

Mr. Ambrose, of the firm of Ambrose & Mills, the contractors who do most of the filling up on the Harlem flats, appeared yesterday before the Board of Health, and, in order to avoid possible prosecution for dumping without authority, took out a permit. The Board of Health granted this permit with certain reservations, which will compel the contractors to conform to the rules of the disinfectors of the Board of Health. The scow loads now waiting to be unloaded at the marshes are to be disinfected to-day by order of the Board and at the expense of the contractors. It was also suggested that they should provide screens at each dock through which all the stuff should pass to the exclusion of all coarse vegetable and animal matter. This would be an excellent safeguard against mixing the refuse with the ashes, but Mr. Ambrose would only undertake to furnish these screens on condition that the contractors receive all the stuff that was "screened out." Whether this will be done the Commissioners of Police have yet to decide. Dr. Chandler, the President of the Health Board, strongly advises the adoption of this safeguard.

DR. DAY'S PROMPT ACTION.

It will be remembered that the HERALD'S first *exposé* was published on Sunday. Already on Monday Dr. Day, the Sanitary Superintendent, went to the Harlem flats, as reported in yesterday's paper, and stopped all further dumping, to the great surprise and dismay of the contractors. He had policemen with him and was ready to enforce his command. His action gives the lie to the magnates of the Street Cleaning Bureau, who pretended that the stuff dumped there was not offensive. If it had been would Dr. Day have taken such action? Dr. Day says the stench was "very bad," and he thought it arose from the handling of the putrescent garbage. However, he thought the filling up of the flats with the stuff had been a necessity, as it would have been impossible to fill them up with fresh earth. The cost would be far too great. There was no probability of this marsh ground ever being used for dwelling purposes.

PRESIDENT CHANDLER'S VIEWS.

President Chandler says that in view of the strict care to be used in separating the garbage from ashes, of the disinfection which will destroy the smallest particles of refuse, of the placing of the dirt below or near the water, level and above the foul mud, and of the covering of the filling with three feet of fresh earth, the provisions made yesterday will be quite sufficient to guard the interests of the public health. The lime and oil would be properly mixed and scattered over each scow load by an inspector before it started. The expense would be about $1,100 a month. He thought the stuff might not be proper filling material for high ground, but it was certainly preferable to the low ground itself, where the mud of the salt water marshes was in itself equally or more noisome. Besides, there was no other material with which to fill these flats, for it would be impossible to obtain the necessary quantity of fresh earth.

IT IS DELETERIOUS.

"I did not know that they were dumping garbage as well as ashes," Dr. Chandler said frankly. "They claim the stuff they have dumped is not deleterious, but we say it is, and when Dr. Day made his report to-day he immediately stopped the present mode of dumping, and insisted upon the process of disinfection and the other precautions we have devised. In fact, Dr. Day stopped it yesterday, before even waiting further instructions. It takes us a week or two to find out these things, but when we do find them out we stop them. The fact is, our inspectors are greatly overworked by the smallpox epidemic, and many had to be taken from their regular rounds to act as vaccinators. Our force is entirely insufficient from the great want of funds."

Dr. Chandler said the contractors could be fined for grossly violating the law, but he did not thirst for revenge, and was satisfied if the people were only protected in the future.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF POLICE.

At a meeting of the Board of Police yesterday morning the Commissioners, aroused by the Harlem flats agitation, unanimously passed the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the Board of Police request the Board of Health to take immediate steps to properly disinfect the ashes, street sweepings, &c., received at the various dumping grounds of the Street Cleaning Bureau.

Resolved, That the President of the Board of Police and Chairman of the Street Cleaning Committee be requested to attend the meeting of the Health Board this afternoon and urge prompt action in the matter.

Commissioner Disbecker supplemented the resolutions by a sort of personal explanation, in which he took occasion, in a few disconnected remarks, to disparage the efforts of the HERALD in concentrating public attention upon the pestilential Harlem flats, characterizing its reports as exaggerated.

The Board then adjourned.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The following is the resolution adopted by the Board of Health at its meeting yesterday afternoon relative to the dangerous nature of the filling used at the Harlem flats:—

Whereas the use of ashes, garbage and street refuse in their present condition for filling sunken lots in the upper part of the city is dangerous to life and detrimental to health; and whereas the Board of Police has requested this Board to disinfect the material at the dumps before it is used for filling; and whereas this Board recognizes the sanitary importance of such disinfection and will gladly undertake the work, but has not the necessary means at its disposal therefore,

Resolved, That the Board of Apportionment be and hereby is respectfully requested to transfer from the unexpended balance of the Police Department for the year 1874 to the fund for disinfection of the Health Department for the year 1875 the sum of $5,000, the Board of Police having consented to such transfer.

Resolved, That the sanitary superintendent be and is hereby directed to cause the disinfection of the ashes, garbage and street sweepings now on the scows of the Street Cleaning Department at the foot of Ninety-sixth street, the contractors, Messrs. Mills & Ambrose, to provide the material.

THE DUMPING GROUNDS.

Owing to the rain the work of filling in the flats was discontinued yesterday. A cloud of poisonous vapor overhung the place, and the only signs of life visible were a few stray curs who frolicked in the paradise of filth.

There being nothing to examine here, not even smell, the reporter turned his attention to the people in the neighborhood to ascertain if any of them had been, as yet, affected by the fever. Several physicians were called upon, but none of them had been called to attend patients where trouble could be directly traced to the gases from the dumping grounds.

Dr. Hays Kneustler, of 105th street, was waited on by the reporter, and from him some interesting particulars were learned.

He told the reporter that he had several cases which were decidedly interesting medical studies, and which were brought about by the terrible condition of the atmosphere in the neighborhood. In his practice he had been called upon to attend no less than five persons who complained of terrible headache. The pain generally began about eleven o'clock in the day and lasted in various cases from ten to fifteen hours. It is no ordinary headache. Its victims are rendered incapable of doing any kind of work. All they can do is walk up and down. Some of the ladies who have the headache, the Doctor says, become partially insane. They cry, pull their hair and do many strange things. A peculiarity of the complaint is that quinine has no effect on the patients; neither has arsenic nor iron, and instead of improving with time the malady becomes worse and worse.

In 103d street the Doctor has a patient suffering from a sort of intermittent fever, which has been caused by the foul gases from the swamp. In 106th street he has another who is suffering similarly.

All these cases are on the outskirts of the swamp, and, strange to say, those who live in the shanties, in the very marsh, have not yet been effected. But the doctors in the neighborhood say that from the well known uncleanliness of the shanties there must be some sickness when the hot weather comes. Aside from the threat of the gases, their habits of life would be sufficient to insure unhealthiness.

Several public spirited gentlemen of Harlem have, encouraged by the HERALD, decided to petition the Board of Health and the Police Board, asking that the garbage be covered over by at least twelve inches of clay. Two years ago, when the filling-in began, a petition was sent to the Board of Health, and for a short time the work was discontinued and disinfectants used, but in a few weeks the work went on as before. Yorkville and Harlem are both to present petitions, and it is hoped that some attention will be paid to them.

## BOARD OF HEALTH.

ALARMING INCREASE OF SMALLPOX—VITAL STATISTICS.

The regular weekly meeting of the Board of Health took place yesterday afternoon, President Chandler in the chair.

On motion the counsel to the Board was directed to bring action against Dr. Creskatts for failure to report a case of smallpox, at No. 145½ Attorney street, as provided by the sanitary code.

The Secretary was, on motion, directed to call the attention of horse-car corporations to that section of the code requiring the abolition of cushions from the seats of their cars and to bring suit in cases of non-compliance with the law.

The following is a comparative statement of cases of contagious diseases reported at this Bureau for the two weeks ending May 22, 1875:—

| Diseases. | May 15. | May 22. |
|---|---|---|
| Typhus fever | 9 | 1 |
| Typhoid fever | 7 | 0 |
| Scarlet fever | 32 | 44 |
| Measles | 12 | 13 |
| Diphtheria | 55 | 70 |
| Smallpox | 97 | 111 |
| Cerebro spinal meningitis | 4 | 5 |

Sixty persons sick with smallpox were removed to the hospital and 5 dead bodies to the Morgue by the ambulance corps.

The Registrar of Vital Statistics reported that 548 deaths occurred in the city last week, against 544 which were verified the previous week. The hospitals and other public institutions reported 117 and 109 in these two weeks respectively. The death rate was equal to 27.20 in the 1,000 inhabitants annually, and was the same as the average rate in the corresponding weeks of the last five years.

## STABBING AFFRAY.

During a quarrel yesterday afternoon between William Tierney, residing on 136th street, near Lincoln avenue, and Thomas Mahan, of 114th street and Second avenue, the former was stabbed in the right side, receiving a dangerous wound. He was taken to the Ninety-ninth street Reception Hospital and Mahan was arrested and locked up in the Twelfth precinct station house.

# F. AND A. M.

## Great Preparations for the Opening of the Temple.

## THE EDIFICE.

## A Complete Description of the New Headquarters.

## A GALA SEASON OF PARADES AND BANQUETS.

## A Small Army of Good Knights Expected.

The coming week will be replete with unusual interest to the Masonic world; for its events will not only bring together many of the most prominent members of the craft, but will freshly stimulate the silent energy with which the entire organization have moved onward in achieving the noble purposes of their Order. While our country has been growing great in developing its vast material resources; while our literature, art and industries are everywhere showing the handiwork of genius; while civilization and progress are planting fresh milestones by the wayside and bringing to the front fresh forces wherewith to continue the battle of life, Freemasons of the country have not been a step behind in contributing to the aggregated results of the age. Look where we may we find representatives of the craft among the first in almost every field. At the Bar, on the press, in the pulpit, giving vigor to commerce, holding the threads of finance, never forgetting the grand corner stone of charity and brotherly love; penetrating mysteriously through a myriad of channels into thousands of homes, where the hand of Want would otherwise rest merciless; doing good by stealth, interfering nowhere with religion or conscience, yet illustrating always the counsel of our Saviour in His Sermon on the Mount, who shall say that the Masonic Order is not an element of the world's advance, a power to accomplish good, and an agency which, not misused, may continue to exert a potent influence in the principal affairs of our national and social life?

The ceremonies are expected to be of an unusually interesting character. A partial description has already been published in the HERALD. Further details appear below.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE.

The exterior of the Temple is in what is called the pure French *renaissance* style. This architectural method, though an outcome of the Middle Ages, is one thoroughly adapted to modern building. It accords grace to a structure, while at the same time it allows for the application of those features to an edifice which the utilitarianism of modern times demands. It is a style which Freemasons claim as the invention of their mediæval brethren. When the craftsmen of that period were debarred from building churches and cathedrals, in whose constructions during several centuries they had elaborated the Lombardian idea into the Gothic style of architecture, they found that they were left without occupation unless they devised some new system of architecture suited to the growing needs of the people. The Gothic and the purely classic styles were all unsuited to houses fit to be lived in; but the talent of the architects was able to supply their lack. Classic features were too dear to be cast aside, so they were taken as a starting point, and through an entire century the process of combining them with new conceptions went on in Italy and France, until in the latter country and in the sixteenth century the style which the new Masonic Temple expresses was produced. The Temple is considered a good example of the effect of the method of the *renaissance* period. It is dignified by some elements of grace and beauty and many more of utility. It is massive, yet does not look heavy; it is big and not rambling or apparently incongruous in parts. In its construction all the classic styles are used with success. Each story has an exterior design differing from the plans of its companions. The first story is of the Tuscan order, the Doric simplified, massive and quiet. The second is supported by Ionic columns, the third by Corinthian and the fourth by composite. Thus richness and lightness are approached by easy degrees. The fifth story is the Mansard. The massiveness and stability of the first story are emphasized by the character of the facing stone used in it, which is Quincy syenite, darker of hue than the granite of which the Temple is mainly built; and this appearance of sturdiness in the Tuscan story is also heightened by the depth to which the windows and doors are sunk, and the consequent bold relief of the columns, pilasters and buttresses. The Twenty-third street *façade* of the Temple has five divisions; a central columniated pavilion, constructed entirely of granite, and rising to a quadrangular apex. Flanking this pavilion are two sections of the building which are somewhat retired from the line which marks the limit of projection of the central section and of the two smaller pavilions which rise up at the angles of the *façade*. These retired sections are technically called "curtains," perhaps because they appear to try to hide themselves. Their roofs are lower than those of the pavilions; each has in its face four niches, in which allegorical figures are to be placed. The central pavilion is 50 feet wide; the lesser pavilions are each 26 feet across, and the curtains have each a width of 18½ feet. The distance from the sidewalk to the main cornice is 94 feet; the top of the Mansard is 30 feet beyond that, and the summit of the main pavilion is 165 feet above the level of the curb. The Sixth avenue *façade* of the Temple is enclosed by two pavilions, one of which is the southwest buttress of the central section of the Twenty-third street side of the edifice. The space between these pavilions, which, by the way, is heavily rusticated, is 46 feet wide, and is decorated with pilasters to agree with the column of the front of the main section of the Temple. The first floor of the Temple is divided into stores, except two spaces reserved on Twenty-third street, one for the principal entrance, another being prepared as the office and safe room of a safe deposit company, and an interval on Sixth avenue for a private entrance to the building.

THE MAIN ENTRANCE

is in the southwest "curtain" in the Twenty-third street *façade*. It is approached through a fine portico formed by a plain entablature supported by four Tuscan columns, two on either side of the passageway. On the sidewalk in front of each pair of columns is a handsome pillar of pure French bronze. Each of these pillars is fourteen feet high and stands upon a pedestal or ashlar of rose-colored Scotch granite, highly polished. Both are representatives of the pillars Jachin and Boaz, which Hiram, of Tyre, who "was filled with wisdom and understanding and cunning to work in all kinds of brass," made and set up in the porch of the Temple of Solomon. They were modelled after a careful study of the description of their prototypes in the first Book of Kings and of the latest results of archæological research. Their plinths, which are thirty-two inches square, are surmounted by cushions. Out of these spring the shafts, each twenty-seven inches at its greatest diameter. The lower portions of the shafts are ornamented with lotos leaves, semi-incised. Approaching the capitals the shafts are ornamented with images of reeds. The chapiters or capitals of the pillars are decorated with pomegranates in high relief and lines. A globe surmounts each shaft, and is set in a sort of basket-work. The globe on the westerly pillar is marked with the signs of the zodiac; that on the easterly pillar bears a map of the world. Passing between these pillars, up several steps that traverse the porch, the vestibule of the Temple is reached. This is a narrow apartment, but long from wall to wall. It is rich in adornment, but all the decorations are of such shades of colors that it would be gloomy but for the light which floods it by reflection from the white ceiling and sides of the main corridor above the stairway. It is wainscotted with parti-colored marbles; its upper walls are painted a maroon color and its ceiling is finely frescoed. The visitor will upon entering it at first not note these details. The eye will probably then be attracted by two bronze Sphinxes, symbols of the awful secrecy belonging to the craft of Freemasonry.

THE MAIN CORRIDOR

of the Temple is reached from the vestibule by a grand stairway of marble, which the Sphinxes guard on either side. The walls between which this stairway ascends are panelled and decorated with slabs of marble of many hues. These walls are protected from the hands and feet of careless people by slight hand rails of bronze. The balustrade by which the well-hole of the staircase is guarded and shut in from the corridor is of bronze, handsomely figured and capped with rails of Belgian black marble. The corridor is 20 feet wide, 66 feet long and 28 feet high, and its architecture is of the Ionic order. Its plinth course is of polished marble, but the upper walls are merely painted white, without lustre. At intervals in these walls coupled pilasters run up to support broken entablatures, from which springs coffered arches, which have panelled sides, but plain *soffits*, or curving faces. This corridor, as well as all the other hallways of the Temple, and the main and private staircases, are all constructed in a fireproof manner. The entire second floor is also fireproof, being built with brick arches and iron beams. Thus the access to the upper part of the edifice of fire which originates in the first or basement floor is prevented.

THE WEST SIDE.

On the west side of the main corridor are the parlor of the Grand Master, the office of the Grand Secretary, the fireproof archive rooms, &c. All these apartments are lighted from Sixth avenue, and are handsomely furnished and decorated. The adornment of the Grand Master's room is particularly fine. Heavy lambrequins depend at its windows from carved and gilded brackets of rich walnut wood. The bases of the walls are sheathed with black walnut in panels, and their upper parts are painted a handsome dark shade of blue. The ceiling of the room is very finely frescoed. Altogether its appearance is in consonance with the dignity of the presiding officer of the largest Masonic jurisdiction in the world. On the eastern side of the corridor is the Grand Lodge room. Over the central entrance to this apartment, imbedded in the wall, is a piece of an ashlar or pedestal said to have been a part of the substructure of the Temple of Solomon. In a panel surmounting this relic is the coat of arms of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. In a similar panel, opposite to this one, is the coat of arms of the State of New York.

THE GRAND LODGE ROOM

is 85 by 92 feet, and 28 feet high. It has seats for over 1,000 persons. Its architecture is elaborate, of the Romanic-Ionic order, in which festoons are a prominent characteristic. A double row of columns adds largely to the beauty of the apartment, but is made to act as a real support to the enormous weight from the upper stories. In the eastern side of the room is an apsidal recess, into which the Grand Master's throne is let. At the right of the throne are the entrances to committee rooms, and on its left is a chamber for an organ. The ceiling and walls of the Grand Lodge room are painted a lackluster white, just as are those of most of the corridors and of some other rooms, all of which will eventually be decorated in polychrome.

At the northern end of the main corridor, beyond a light grille gate of bronze, is the main staircase and entrance to the passage elevator. Above the first half pace of the staircase is a niche, which is to be filled with a beautiful white marble statue of "Silence," which is now being sculptured in Rome. This statue will be the gift of a member and ex-officer of the Grand Lodge. In the mezzanine or half story, over the Grand Master's and Grand Secretary's room, is located

THE LIBRARY OF THE GRAND LODGE,

40 feet by 21 feet, surrounded with walnut bookcases, containing a large and valuable collection of books in every department of masonry, &c. South of the library is the room for the Masonic Board of Relief, 16 feet by 21 feet. Over the fireproof archive room is a fireproof safe room, in which eighty-four iron safety deposit boxes are placed for the records of the lodges meeting in the building. The reception parlors on the third and fourth floors correspond in size and position to the main corridor below, 20x60 feet, and are 21 feet 6 inches high. They are decorated with Corinthian pilasters, are floored over with Mosaic tiles and furnished with comfortable leather covered settees. To the east of these parlors are the entrances to the ante-rooms of

THE VARIOUS LODGE ROOMS.

These ante-rooms are skilfully and conveniently distributed, and are of ample size for their various purposes. The accommodations for each lodge room consist of a coat and hat room, or vestibule, 14x27 feet, opening into the above mentioned parlor; a tiler's room, to the right of which is the examination room, about 10x11 feet; to the left the candidate's preparing room, 10x11 feet. Over these various rooms is a mezzanine, or half story, reached by a staircase from the examination room. Here is the organ loft, from which the sound is communicated to the lodge room through open panels arranged in its western wall. Adjoining the organ loft is a room 14 feet by 27 feet, provided with twenty-four good-sized closets for the storage of regalia and other paraphernalia of the lodges.

THE TUSCAN ROOM.

The north room, on the third story, is in the Tuscan order. Its dimensions are 24 feet wide by 62 feet long, and 21 feet 6 inches high. The sides are decorated with coupled pilasters. The eastern side is given architectural prominence by the advancement of the columns, with their crowning entablature, into the room, thus forming a peculiar kind of canopy. The stations in the west and south are treated in a corresponding manner, though in a relatively subordinate degree. A blazing light in the eastern wall is arranged in a novel way to effect its purpose. The prevailing color in the Tuscan room is drab, which is a proper consort for the sober, simple, but massive style of the architecture.

THE DORIC ROOM.

The middle room on the third story is decorated in the Roman Doric style. Its arrangement in reference to architecture is the same as that of the Tuscan room. The color of its furniture, &c., is crimson, and hence there is in it a lustrousness which is very pleasing to the eye. It is 30 feet wide by 62 feet 6 inches long.

THE IONIC ROOM.

This is the south room on the third floor, and it is 26 feet 6 inches wide by 63 feet in length. The grace, the light character of its architecture is enhanced by its fine blue furnishings.

THE LIVINGSTON ROOM.

A room on the Sixth avenue side of the third floor, smaller than the rooms just described, is called as above. It is 21 feet wide by 47 feet long, and has attached to it anterooms and all other requisite accommodations. It is, besides, elegantly furnished.

THE COMPOSITE ROOM.

This is on the fourth floor, immediately above the Tuscan room, with which it is equal in size. Its decoration is of the composite order, and, in respect to the arrangement of its columns and entablature, it is the same as the room beneath. It is a very elegant apartment. The furnishings are of an orange hue.

THE CORINTHIAN ROOM.

This apartment is located over the Ionic room. It is the most richly figured room in the Temple, and in the future will be the finest chamber in the Temple. The architecture is not purely Corinthian. The Pompeian style is combined with it. The pilasters are capped with garlanded imposts. The decorations of the Pompeian order occupy the intercolumniations, and are surmounted by a broad frieze, which skirts all the walls. This frieze, when the polychrome decorations are done, is to be painted in archaic style, with a representation of the work of building the Temple in Jerusalem.

THE CLINTON ROOM

is a small lodge room, furnished in blue, on the fourth floor. It is similar to the Livingston room.

THE EGYPTIAN OR CHAPTER ROOM,

devoted to the "work" of the Mark and Royal Arch Masons, is in the fourth story, just over the Doric room. It has numerous anterooms, which have been carefully planned for the various needs of the Masonic degrees by whom the apartment will be used. The arrangement of the anteroom is pronounced the most complete ever made.

The architecture throughout has been designed with an accurate fidelity to detail. The room is 30 feet wide, 62 feet 6 inches long and 20 feet high, and represents the interior courtyard of a temple of the time of the Ptolemies, surrounded with massive columns having the lotos capital and bearing a scrolled and reeded entablature, which is continued around three sides of the room. The four