

Rumblings of a Rebellion Against the Rigid Rule, "Keep Off the Grass." Objections to the Demands of the People.

ARE THEY VALID?

There is a good deal of poetry about Central Park. At this season it is a poetical and refreshing to the mind. The richest as well as the poorest can enjoy nearly all its benefits, can breathe its fragrant air, can see its lovely trees, shrubs and flowers, can wander along its pleasant bypaths and shady lanes, can delight in its lakes and its picturesque paths, can stroll here, there and everywhere, see and be seen, but must "keep off the grass."

For a long time our citizens have been silently rebelling against this injunction. No people in the world have ever been more observant of order and decorum in a public place than have the citizens of New York in Central Park. They have obeyed every whim, fancy and order of the Park Commissioners with a fidelity unsurpassed elsewhere. They have quietly submitted to any and every restriction imposed upon them in the carrying out of regulations which were believed to be for the common good. They have given more than abundant proof that they know how to be more themselves as good citizens and as well as as good people. And the reason for all this is no doubt, that one and all of our citizens feel a pride in the Park and look upon it to be a boon to the city, which should be cherished for its universal advantages. It cannot be said that New York does not appreciate its public garden, or that the attractions offered therein are not accepted with a full gratification by the people. The thousands who daily visit the Park during the spring and summer months attest that

THE PARK IS A BLESSING to young and old, rich and poor, and that it is a necessity. In a cosmopolitan city like this people are apt to bear for a long time a grievance, and to bear the same extent in other cities which do not have the same "What's everybody's business is nobody's business," and for a similar reason it can be imagined that gentlemen having charge of a pleasure ground like ours would be both wary and fastidious in watching over their trust. That the Park has been well cared for in all its aims, and it is true that every embellishment it received and every anxiety manifested in its regard added to the personal interest felt in it by citizens. It was so young, so full of promise, so rich in seed which would grow into noble proportions, that people were anxious to let it alone, to let it have a full chance to mature, to enjoy as much of it as they were allowed, and while wishing that they might feel when they entered within its gates that it was to them as if every sod was their own, every tree and flower and every beauty unfolded to their eyes not in any sense in the possession of a "boon." They did not grumble because they were made to feel they were restricted, and that the "Keep off the grass" rule was a restraint in his hand to enforce an order. Everybody, however, kept off the grass, and, whatever was thought, there was no grumbling about it.

WHO THE OWNERS ARE. But our city garden is now of a fine, sturdy growth, and does not by any means need all that delicate treatment which tender plants demand when gaining their first budding strength. It is no longer a doubtful stripling which a rude blast might shake to the roots; it has been well nurtured, well developed, and is well grown and healthy. Those who watched over it when it was reaching its present proportions, and who took so much pride in it, as, year after year, it was advanced and extended to the real level of its growth, and its beauty, with the leaves of its trees, destroy its flowers, or root up the green grass which delights the eye and recalls to the memory of the past the scenes in the long ago, which are well high rubbed out of the memory by the hard friction of daily thought.

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every one visiting the Park on foot is going to walk on the grass for the more purpose of trampling it. The cool and shady lanes and bypaths would be spoiled, and the flowers and shrubs would be destroyed or very much mutilated; for, so far from taking away from the enjoyment of the city garden during the day, the presence of the many groups of sauntering and strolling people would be a great addition to the pleasure of the people. The demand is undeniable. Even if the Commission were put to some extent in expense in making good whatever of damage to the grass might be done by the people, the derelict of the unrestrained freedom of every inch of soil in the Park would be more than sufficient justification for the restriction. The Park is already beginning to look with longing eyes upon the inviting carpet of green, so fresh and so suggestive of country scenes and summer life.

THE ARMY.

PROMOTION IN THE ARMY—THE LAW ON THE SUBJECT AND THE MAKER OF ITS ENFORCEMENT—HOW THE ARISTOCRATIC WEST POINT FEELING MILITATES AGAINST MODERN MERIT.

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1876. During the last fifteen years the HERALD has repeatedly called attention to the want of promotion from the ranks in the United States Army. It has shown that the laws and regulations relative thereto have not been fully carried out. The matter has at length gained the attention of Congress, and has been forcibly and practically presented to the war authorities, first, by that provision in the army bill now before the Senate, which closes all avenues of approach to commissions in the line except through West Point and the recruiting rendezvous; and second, by a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War "to inform the House whether the act of August 4, 1854, since incorporated in the Revised Statutes (section 1214), has, according to the true intent and meaning of said act been carried into effect."

THE ACT OF 1854. The act of August 4, 1854, since incorporated in the Revised Statutes (section 1214), has, according to the true intent and meaning of said act been carried into effect. It provided that no person should be promoted from the ranks to a commission in the line of the army unless he had served in the ranks for a certain period of time, and had been recommended by his superiors. The act also provided that no person should be promoted from the ranks to a commission in the line of the army unless he had served in the ranks for a certain period of time, and had been recommended by his superiors.

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ASHORE AT HELL GATE.

THE STEAMER C. H. NORTHAM ON THE RISK OF A BACK REEF.

Yesterday afternoon the steamer C. H. Northam, bound for New Haven, with freight and passengers, got ashore on the rock in Hell Gate passage known as the Hog's Back, and was not got off until ten minutes to ten P. M. She did not sustain any very serious injury, so far as could be ascertained, and she proceeded on her journey to the Sound as soon as she floated.

HOW SHE GOT OFF.

The C. H. Northam is one of the finest of the Sound boats, and is commanded by Captain Bownes the elder. She left pier 23, East River, at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, with a large general cargo and passengers. She reached Hell Gate Point about half past three P. M. at slack water or the last of the ebb. She was going at a fair rate of speed, according to the statement of the workmen who saw her at this place. Inside the gate there was quite a low way setting over on the Ward's Island shore, a few rods from which is the reef known as the Hog's Back. Several smaller vessels were bound to New York, and coming through the narrow channel at this time, the wind being from the north-west, they had to beat through, working very short tacks. Just inside the point and standing right off to the starboard tack where the Northam was steaming up was a large schooner which, according to custom, naturally had the right of way. The steamer and she were abreast at the point at the same time, and the chance of their colliding when the pilot on board the former started his helm and sent his vessel over the reef was a very serious one. The pilot of the schooner, which caught her abeam and aboved her upon the ugly Hog's Back. The shock, of course, was great and created a great deal of confusion. It was certainly thought that the vessel was going down. At this moment the engines were reversed and every effort was made to work her off the reef, but they were unable to do so. She was then towed by the tugboats of the Birkbeck, Fidelity, Self and others, and came to her assistance. As she appeared to be lost by the lead hawser were run out from the steamers, five of which at one time were striving hard to pull her into deep water. The pumps were sounded and kept going, but she did not give any signs of leaking. The tugboats were then ordered to stop, and the schooner was towed by the tugboats of the Birkbeck, Fidelity, Self and others, and came to her assistance. As she appeared to be lost by the lead hawser were run out from the steamers, five of which at one time were striving hard to pull her into deep water. The pumps were sounded and kept going, but she did not give any signs of leaking. The tugboats were then ordered to stop, and the schooner was towed by the tugboats of the Birkbeck, Fidelity, Self and others, and came to her assistance.

THE SCHOONER SUNK. Yesterday morning, while the schooner Alice, of Gloucester, was making a landing at pier No. 23, East River, she collided with the sloop John Lockwood and immediately sank. No person was injured.

A DANGEROUS FIX.

During the terrible squall which raged on the bay on Wednesday evening a small party of two gentlemen and two ladies had a most miraculous escape from drowning opposite Bay Ridge. The parties were comparative strangers in the neighborhood, and in the afternoon, wishing to enjoy the pleasure of a sail on the bay, they engaged a yacht from Brooklyn and had proceeded nearly as far as Fort Hamilton. As they became overcast and a stiff breeze began to rise, they wisely resolved upon a sudden return. The impetuous storm, however, was too quick and violent for them; and before they could pass Bay Ridge they were overtaken in a most merciless gale, which for some time threatened a melancholy termination to their afternoon's enjoyment. By great exertions they were able to keep their heads above water, but in doing this they as the same time lost almost all command of the boat. The wind blew a hurricane, the sea ran up to the mast, and the vessel was tossed about in helplessness and despair. A sudden and more violent gust of wind, with a heavy rolling sea, dashed the boat and occupants upon the rocks of the bay, and the party was scattered in all directions. The ladies especially escaped the greatest danger, and while they all regret the disaster, they may yet congratulate themselves on their escape. The boat was injured, but not very seriously.

WORMS AT SEA.

A SHIP'S BOTTOM REDUCED TO PULP—SOME ACCOUNT OF THE RAVAGES OF MARINE INSECTS ON THE ABBIE B.

The bark Abbie B. is now lying high and dry on the sectional dock of the New York Floating Dry Dock Company, East River. She is of graceful model, only about eighteen months old, full rigged, and was built at New Brunswick, Nova Scotia. Around the gang of ship carpenters yesterday working at her bottom a good many curious persons were assembled, who annoyed the workmen not a little by their questions as to her unusual appearance. The fact was, the outside sheathing or plank of her hull below the water line was almost reduced to pulp; indeed, so completely honeycombed was it that a man could walk his hand over the strips of the timbers and strike the ribs of the vessel without much effort. Upon inquiry of Mr. P. L. Hewitt, one of the officers of the Dry Dock Company, the following interesting facts were stated:—"The Abbie B. is a new vessel and constructed of the best materials. She is engaged in no particular trade, but will go to any port in the world. She was built at New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and was launched in the month of her owner is C. B. Bertieau, and I suppose the vessel to be worth in the neighborhood of \$50,000. A short time since she went to Cape Breton, and remained there for some time. She was then ordered to return to New York, and during that time the marine worms got to work at her bottom and reduced it to the present state. It is wonderful how they can do it. I will, perhaps, cost her owner nearly \$5,000 for repairs." Here one of the workmen interposed the remark, "We call the worms, 'worms.'" "Yes," said Mr. Hewitt, "and indeed, if it were not for the little insect we would lose many a good day's work."

DR. WILLIAM H. HALL.

This gentleman, whose name is well known throughout the country in connection with Hall's Vegetable Compound, died at the residence of Cornelius Vanderbil, Jr., in Thirty-fourth street, on Wednesday. He fell in a fit on the sidewalk, and died in a few moments after being removed to Dr. Vanderbil's house. Dr. Hall was born in Kentucky, and graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1850, and was educated partly in Switzerland and in England. For forty-five years he was an active preacher of the Lutheran Church, and was also an intimate friend of Merie D'Aubigne, the historian, and of Adolph Frederic Monod. About ten years ago he relinquished his parish, and for the sake of his wife's health, made his home in Valence, on the Rhone river. He died of apoplexy, caused by a stroke of paralysis. He had gone to take the place of an absent clergyman.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

CONY-SMITH.—On Thursday, May 11, 1876, by the Rev. Dr. D. Embury, at St. James' Episcopal Church, CONY and SMITH, both of this city. DAVIDSON-Lewis.—In New York city, May 10, 1876, by Rev. G. H. Gregory, FORKES DAVIDSON, of Brooklyn, to LENA M. DAVIDSON, of New York City. DUNSMORE-KIRK.—On May 10, at the Church of the Holy Communion, by the Rev. Dr. Lawrence, CLARENCE DUNSMORE, of New York City, to MARY KIRK, of New York City. MARRIAGE.—On Thursday, May 10, 1876, at the residence of the bride's parents, Woodhaven, L. I., by the Rev. W. H. Hill, HENRY L. NORTHAM, of Jamaica, N. Y., to FRANK W., only daughter of Dominick NORTHAM, of New York City. TAYLOR-MILLER.—On May 10, 1876, by the Rev. G. H. Gregory, WILLIAM W. TAYLOR, of New York City, to MARY MILLER, of New York City.

A MOUNTAIN OF SALT.

A mass of 90,000 tons of pure, solid, compact rock salt, located on an island 185 feet high, which rises from a miserable sea marsh on the route from Brazer to New Iberia, up the River Teche, in Louisiana, is one of the wonders of the world. How this island, containing over 300 acres of excellent land, has been covered in such a manner is a matter of conjecture. Vegetation is prolific and the scenery is beautiful and varied. Here is an immense bed of parrot rock salt, which is as yet only estimated, and scientific men are puzzled.

only laid there for the space of six weeks to sink at their anchorage. There is a marine copper patina that sometimes acts well as a defence against rust. I have seen vessels before now on a ten months' voyage to Rio Janeiro and they have come back with their hulls as clean as when they started. The hulls of Texas and their bottoms have been fairly eaten out by the worms."

Coal tar and other covering for hulls have been tried, but the only sure defence seems to be metal. There is a composition now very generally used instead of exclusive copper; it is mainly composed of speck, iron and copper. The worms do not eat into it, but they do eat into the copper. It is not usually so much damaged as we see in the case of the Abbie B. They will, however, as you have heard, until they have eaten away the hull is made by the joining of planks, and generally will not cross it.

OBITUARY.

BARON VON SINAI, THE EMINENT BANKER.

The Vienna (Austria) papers contain accounts of the occurrence of the death and the funeral ceremonies of the celebrated banker and financier, Baron Von Sinai, who expired on the 15th of April in the sixty-seventh year of his age. He was a member of one of the Greek Fanariote families of Constantinople, but the branch to which he belonged had been settled in Hungary for a couple of generations, and he was a magnate of that country, enjoying the rights and privileges of the Order of Nobles. He had been for a time Greek Minister at the Court of Vienna, but upon the death of his father, Simon Sinai, he gave up diplomacy and devoted himself exclusively to the business of banking. On his estate at Bapatokirchen he lived with splendid magnificence, and his name was synonymous with benevolence. In Vienna, where he had a splendid mansion in the Hohe Markt, his yearly expenditure for purely benevolent objects amounted to \$50,000, and the poor always found in him a prompt and generous friend. His body having been embalmed in the most costly fashion by the Court Surgeon, Rokitsansky, was laid out in one of the principal drawing rooms in a metal coffin covered with white flannel. The coffin was clad in black, his folded hands held a little prayer book bound in red and ornamented with an arabesque design. The coffin was surrounded by wreaths and other floral ornaments sent by relatives, friends, &c. Some came from remote places, one was sent from Baron Bourgeois, the Secretary of the French Embassy, in the name of Marshal MacMahon. One embossed at the foot of the coffin lay the insignia of the various Orders which had been conferred upon him, his paternal coat of arms being a picture of a Redoubt and Hungarian magnate. This had attracted the special admiration of the thousands who visited the solemn scene. The coffins of the deceased were placed in the vault of the family, and the lights burning in them were fed with spirits of wine. The walls were adorned with the portraits of his ancestors, and the floor was covered with the remains of his family. The funeral services took place early on Tuesday, April 18, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Vienna, at the church of St. Stephen, in the presence of a large number of the nobility and the diplomatic corps. The Emperor and Empress of Austria were specially represented by a chief-of-de-camp and Grand Master of the Household. All the imperial archdukes were likewise represented. Most of the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers and many members of the diplomatic corps were present. The service was very solemn and lasted fully three-quarters of an hour. All present bore in their hearts a feeling of grief. The coffin was placed on a splendidly adorned wagon drawn by eight large black horses and the funeral procession passed through many of the principal streets of Vienna, and finally deposited in the family vault at Bapatokirchen.

REV. ADRIAN L. ROSECRANS.

Yesterday morning, at seven o'clock, the Rev. Adrian Louis Rosecrans, a member of the Order of Paulists, died at the monastery of the community, in Fifty-ninth street. Father Rosecrans was the son of General Rosecrans. He was born on the 28th of May, 1840, at Newport, R. I. In his youth he discovered a liking for reading the works of the great writers on religious topics, and before he went to college he was educated at New York University, in Indiana. His father graduated at the same university, and various tributes to his culture and to the friendly feeling he had inspired in the breasts of his associates and teachers. From his earliest years Father Rosecrans was a devoted member of the Lutheran Church, and his mother was a fervent Catholic, to which his father and mother were converts. Accordingly, as soon as he was of age he was baptized into the Lutheran faith, and was there taught theology. In 1872 he was ordained to the priesthood by his uncle, Bishop Rosecrans, of Columbus, Ohio, and shortly after was sent to the monastery of the Holy Trinity, in New York, where he was sent to the West, where in Ohio and the neighboring States he labored for a long time in the rural districts. From those States he came to Indiana to conduct his missionary efforts, and there he thought his indomitable energy and devotion to duty exposed him to the disease—consumption—which he contracted in his youth. He returned to New York, and during his residence here it has been constantly declining. He was ultimately confined to his bed, and died of the disease which he contracted in his youth. He was a man of great energy and devotion to duty, and his death is a great loss to the community.

COLONEL ROBERT B. LAWTON.

Colonel Robert B. Lawton died at his residence at Newport, R. I., yesterday afternoon, after a brief illness. Deceased was born in this city February 18, 1806. At the age of fourteen he made his first voyage to sea in the brig Ann Gadsden, from New York to Havana, and thence to ports in the north of Europe. He subsequently learned the machinist's trade in Pawtucket. He acted in the capacity of Second Lieutenant on the U. S. Frigate "Albatross" during the Mexican war in Florida. He resided at the close of the war, and when the Mexican war broke out he was appointed Captain of the Fort of Vera Cruz, and all through the war he distinguished himself by his bravery and valor. He was promoted to the rank of Major, and he did not accept the position, but took command of the First Rhode Island and New Hampshire Cavalry, and went with his regiment to Florida. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel, and he was obliged to return home. He has resided there ever since. He was an unusually ingenious man, very intelligent and energetic. His report has indeed lost one of her representative men.

REV. F. L. CHARLIER.

A telegram from France announces the death of the Rev. F. L. Charlier, a famous originator of the Protestant (Huguenot) Church, in the age of seventy-six years. Deceased was born in France in 1800, and was educated partly in Switzerland and in England. For forty-five years he was an active preacher of the Huguenot Church, and was also an intimate friend of Merie D'Aubigne, the historian, and of Adolph Frederic Monod. About ten years ago he relinquished his parish, and for the sake of his wife's health, made his home in Valence, on the Rhone river. He died of apoplexy, caused by a stroke of paralysis. He had gone to take the place of an absent clergyman.

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CONY-SMITH.—On Thursday, May 11, 1876, by the Rev. Dr. D. Embury, at St. James' Episcopal Church, CONY and SMITH, both of this city. DAVIDSON-Lewis.—In New York city, May 10, 1876, by Rev. G. H. Gregory, FORKES DAVIDSON, of Brooklyn, to LENA M. DAVIDSON, of New York City. DUNSMORE-KIRK.—On May 10, at the Church of the Holy Communion, by the Rev. Dr. Lawrence, CLARENCE DUNSMORE, of New York City, to MARY KIRK, of New York City. MARRIAGE.—On Thursday, May 10, 1876, at the residence of the bride's parents, Woodhaven, L. I., by the Rev. W. H. Hill, HENRY L. NORTHAM, of Jamaica, N. Y., to FRANK W., only daughter of Dominick NORTHAM, of New York City. TAYLOR-MILLER.—On May 10, 1876, by the Rev. G. H. Gregory, WILLIAM W. TAYLOR, of New York City, to MARY MILLER, of New York City.

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Bath in 1808, where he resided up to the time of his death. In the war of 1812 he enlisted as a private in the Pioneer company, under command of Captain Joseph Dean. He served in Colonel Dittmar's regiment, in General Jeremiah Johnson's brigade, and was honorably discharged from the army December 2, 1812. His memory of events connected with the early history of the village of Brooklyn was remarkably clear up to the close of his life. On November 19, 1810, he married Miss Hope W. Willett, who died in her new years ago. Three daughters, who are married, survive him.

CHARLES J. SHEPARD.

Yesterday the flags of the city of Brooklyn were displayed at half-mast out of respect to the memory of Charles J. Shepard, Alderman of the Third ward, who died at his residence, No. 322 Atlantic avenue, on Wednesday night. Deceased was elected member of the Common Council last fall, was born in New York sixty-one years ago. He was engaged in business in Water street in this city up to the time of his death. Mr. Shepard was a member of the Union League Club, and was a director of the Howery Savings Bank. In politics he was a Republican. A special meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Aldermen will be held on Wednesday night, to take action with respect to the memory of the deceased.

RON. WILLIAM P. WHEELER.

The Hon. William P. Wheeler, of Keene, N. H., died at the residence of Mr. Austin Corbin, in Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 10th inst. Mr. Wheeler was a prominent citizen of his State, and for many years ranked as one of the leading lawyers in