1862

**Miller's New York as it is; or, Stranger's guide-book to the cities of New York, Brooklyn and adjacent places**

James Miller

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/oml_rare_books](https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/oml_rare_books)

Part of the Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons, and the Urban, Community and Regional Planning Commons

**Recommended Citation**

Miller, James, "Miller's New York as it is; or, Stranger's guide-book to the cities of New York, Brooklyn and adjacent places" (1862). *Osher Map Library Rare Books*. 13. [https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/oml_rare_books/13](https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/oml_rare_books/13)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Osher Map Library Rare Books by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.
MILLER'S
NEW-YORK AS IT IS
WITH MAP
1862.
NEW ENGLAND
LIFE INSURANCE CO.,
PURELY MUTUAL . . . BOSTON, MASS.

Accumulated capital, January 1860, over $1,400,000
This remains after paying losses (during fifteen years) amounting to over 738,000
And dividends in Cash to the Policy-holders, amounting to 600,000

WILLARD PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT.

DIRECTORS.
Charles P. Curtis, | Sewell Tappan, | A. W. Thaxter, Jr.,
Marshall P. Wilder, | Charles Hubbard, | George H. Folger,
Thomas A. Dexter, | Wm. B. Reynolds, | Francis C. Lowell,

B. F. STEVENS, Secretary.

The surplus is divided among all the policy holders, in Cash, thus affording a good and certain rate of interest upon the outlay of premiums, and avoiding the large and unnecessary accumulations of unpaid dividends of uncertain tendency, and erroneously called capital.

One-half of the first five annual premiums on life policies loaned to insurers if desired; the remaining half may be paid quarterly.

The premiums are as low as those of any reliable Company.

This is the oldest American Mutual Life Insurance Company, was established in 1843, has had an uninterrupted success, and is purely Mutual, dividing all the surplus profits among all the insured.

Insurance may be effected for the benefit of married women, beyond the reach of their husband's creditors.

Creditors may insure the lives of debtors.

Blank form of application for Insurance, or the Company's pamphlet, containing the charter, rules, and regulations, also the annual reports, showing the condition of the Company, will be furnished gratis, upon application by post or personally.

Branch office in New York City, Metropolitan Bank Building, 116 Broadway, corner of Pine Street.

JOHN HOPPER,
Agent and Attorney

International Art Institution,
694 BROADWAY,
CORNER OF FOURTH STREET, NEW YORK.

Wm. AUERBRENN, Director.

The Professors of the Academys of Design at Berlin, Dusseldorf, Munich, and Dresden, in Germany, have long been desirous of making the American public acquainted with the Works of their Living Artists of eminence, and they have finally concluded to establish a permanent Exhibition of Paintings in the City of New York. For that purpose, they have made an arrangement with Mr. AUERBRENN to act as Director of this new Institution.

The Collection of Paintings now presented to the public is one of the finest and most valuable ever exhibited in this country. It will be kept up by new accessions from time to time from the hands of Living Masters.

For the accommodation of visitors, advertisements with the designation of the running numbers in the Gallery, as well as the names of the Artists, will be found at stated periods in the journals of the city.

Every Painting exhibited will be offered for sale; and in order to secure the public against imposition, a Special Committee has been appointed for each of the cities from which the Paintings are sent. Nothing will be shipped to New York for exhibition which has not first undergone the inspection of one of these Committees, and they will scrupulously reject every Painting not particularly deserving of merit. More especially, it will devolve upon them to fix the prices of the works exhibited. At the head of these Committees are the following well-known names:

Professors SCHRAMM, KNILSMAR, and MEYER VON BREMEN, in Berlin. Professors EM. LEITZER, ANDRE ASCHEBACH, and ALEX. MICHAELS, in Dusseldorf. ROBERT KURMANN, in Dresden; and Professor Dietz, in Munich.

By the adoption of the course thus marked out, and which is specially provided for in the contract between Mr. AUERBRENN and the various Academies,

THE INTERNATIONAL ART INSTITUTION
will be placed on the same footing, and conducted on the same plan, as the Academies of Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, and Italy.

Eminent Artists in America, England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Italy, have kindly offered their encouragement to this new Institution, by contributing their Works to its Gallery, in order to make it what it was intended to be—International in the true sense of the word.

Information in regard to prices may be had at the Office.
D. W. EVANS & CO.,
THE NO.
PIONEER 677
GIFT BOOK
BROAD-
WAY,
STORE, NEW YORK.
THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED
GIFT BOOK HOUSE.
BOOKS.

By constant additions to our stock we have collected the largest and most varied selection of Books ever offered by any publishing house in the country, all of which are fresh from the publishers' hands, and are warranted perfect in every form.

DISPATCH.

Those who regard a prompt reply to their orders will be sure to send us their patronage, as the central location of New York City, with its many diverging means of transportation, gives us unrivalled advantages in forwarding to the most distant points. The business arrangements of our Establishment have been so thoroughly perfected, that orders received by the evening mail, the next morning are on their way to their destined nation, and no orders are delayed over twenty-four hours from the time of their reception.

SAFETY.

We take the risk of all loss through the mail if the directions are followed as in Catalogue, which is not done by other Gift Book Houses. Money sent in the form of draft, payable to our order, or letters inclosing funds, if reg. stored according to law, are insured a safe return.

SEND FOR A CATALOGUE.

Direct all communications to D. W. EVANS & CO., 677 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

PHRENOLOGY.

"KNOW THYSELF."

Phrenological Examinations and Advice,

With Charts and written Descriptions of Character,

Given, when desired, by FOWLER & WELLS, 308 BROADWAY, New York. They also publish three good Journals, well adapted to all readers in every family:

LIFE ILLUSTRATED;
A FIRST-CLASS PICTORIAL FAMILY PAPER, devoted to News, Literature, Science, the Arts; to ENTERTAINMENT, IMPROVEMENT, and PROGRESS. Published weekly at $2 a year.

THE WATER-CURE JOURNAL;
HYDROPATHY, its Philosophy and Practice; PHYSIOLOGY, ANATOMY, and the Laws of Life and Health. $1 a year.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL;
Devoted to all those Progressive Measures for the Elevation and Improvement of Mankind. Illustrated. $1 a year.

For Three Dollars, all three Papers will be sent for one year.

FOWLER & WELLS, 308 Broadway, New York.

Agents wanted.
HEATH,
CARD ENGRAVER,
92 FULTON STREET,
NEW YORK.

WEDDING
AND
VISITING CARDS
Executed at this establishment

25 Per Cent. Below Broadway Prices,
And the work guaranteed to give entire satisfaction.

DOOR PLATES,
SEAL PRESSES, AND DIES,
AND EVERY DESCRIPTION OF
Engraving and Printing.

A PLATE AND 50 BEAUTIFUL VISITING CARDS,
ONLY ONE DOLLAR.
NEW YORK AS IT WAS.

HISTORICAL LOCALITIES.

The denizens of New York are such utilitarianists that they have sacrificed to the shrine of Mammon almost every relic of the olden time. The feeling of veneration for the past, so characteristic of the cities of the Old World, is lamentably deficient among the people of the New. Still, as there are some who may take an interest in knowing even the sites of memorable historic places of the city, we will briefly refer to some of them.

Few, we presume, are not patriotic enough to gaze with interest as they pass through Franklin Square, on the site of the old town mansion of Washington, which stood at the northeast angle of Franklin Square and Pearl Street; or tread the sod of Fort Greene, Brooklyn, that battle-ground of the Martyrs of Liberty.

Taking the Battery as a starting-point, the first object of historic interest we encounter, is the old Kennedy House, No. 1 Broadway. During the war of independence, it was successively the residence of Lord Cornwallis, Gen. Clinton, Lord Howe, and Gen. Washington. This house was erected in 1760, by Hon. Capt. Kennedy, who returned to England prior to the Revolution. It subsequently came into the possession of his youngest son, from whom it ultimately passed into that of the late Nathaniel Prime. Talleyrand passed some time under its roof.

From this house anxious eyes watched the destruction of the statue of George III., in the Bowling Green; and a few years afterwards, other eyes saw,
from its windows, the last soldiers of that king passing forever from our shores. Still later, others looked sadly on the funeral of Fulton, who died in a house which had been built in what was once the garden.

Here Arnold concerted his treasonable project with André at the Clinton's—his head-quarters at the time. Arnold also occupied more frequently the third house from the Battery, in Broadway. Arnold is said to have had a sentinel at his door. When his traitorous character had become known, he used to be saluted in the streets by the epithet of "the traitor-general." He was guarded by an escort from Sir Henry Clinton. Gen. Gage's head-quarters, in 1765, was the small low building since known as the Atlantic Garden.

The Bowling Green was originally inclosed, in 1732, "with walks therein for the beauty and ornament of said street, as well as for the sports and delight of the inhabitants of the city."

In 1697, it was resolved "that the lights be hung out in the darke time of the moon within this citie, and for the use of the inhabitants; and that every 7th house doe hang out a lanthorn and a candle in it," &c.

The site of the old Government house is now occupied by a range of dwelling-houses, at the south side of the inclosure, called the Bowling Green. It was subsequently used as the Custom House (from 1790 to 1815), when it was taken down. Earlier recollections even belong to this location; here the Dutch and English forts were erected. At the corner of Wall and William streets, now the Bank of New York, once stood the statue of William Pitt. The old Stadt Huys stood at Coenties Slip. On the site of the present Custom House, was situated the Town Hall, or "Congress Hall," which included also the Law Courts and Prison. In front of this building were the stocks, a pillory, and a whipping-post. This edifice was subsequently converted into a hall of legislature.

It was in its gallery, on Wall street, in April, 1789, that Gen. Washington was inaugurated the first President of the United States. This important public ceremony, the oath of office, took place in the open gallery in front of the Senate Chamber, in the view of an immense concourse of citizens. There stood Washington, invested with a suit of dark silk velvet, of the old cut, steel-hilted small-sword by his side, hair in bag and full powdered, in black silk hose, and shoes with silver buckles, as he took the oath of office, to Chancellor Livingston. Dr. Duer thus describes the scene of the inauguration:

"This auspicious ceremony took place under the portico of Federal Hall, upon the balcony in front of the Senate Chamber, in the immediate presence of both Houses of Congress, and in full view of the crowds that thronged the adjacent streets. The oath was administered by Chancellor Livingston, and when the illustrious chief had kissed the book, the Chancellor, with a loud voice, proclaimed, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States." Never shall I forget the thrilling effect of the thundering cheers which burst forth, as from one voice, peal after peal from the assembled multitude. Nor was it the voices alone of the people that responded to the announcement, their hearts beat in unison with the echoes resounding through the distant streets; and many a tear stole down the rugged cheeks of the hardiest of the spectators, as well I noted from my station in an upper window of the neighboring house of Col. Hamilton."

Washington's farewell interview with his officers took place at France's Tavern, corner of Pearl and Broad streets.

New York is noted for its pageants and processions. That on the occasion of the last visit of Gen. Lafayette, presented the most imposing spectacle of its time. In ancient times boats were used to convey passengers across Pearl street. Canal and Cliff streets derive their names from a like circumstance. The Old Dutch records show that the outskirts of the town were di-
vided into farms—called "Bouwerys;" From this fact the Bowery derived its name.

The hills were sometimes precipitous, as from Beekman's and Peck's hills, and in the neighborhood of Pearl, Beekman, and Ferry streets, and from the Middle Dutch Church, in Nassau street, down to Maiden lane; and sometimes gradually sloping, as on either hills along the line of the water, coursing through Maiden lane.

When Hamilton acted as Secretary of the Treasury, he wrote the "Federalist," at a house in Wall street, between Broad and William streets, its site being now occupied by the Mechanics' Bank. His last residence was the Grange, at Bloomingdale. He lived also for some time at Bayard House on the banks of the North River. His hapless duel with Burr, near Weehawken, is pointed out to visitors—a stone marks the spot where Hamilton fell.

Leisler and Milbourne, the proto-martyrs of popular liberty in America, met with a sanguinary death, May 16th, 1691, on the verge of Beekman's swamp, near the spot where Tammany Hall now stands.

Where Catharine street now stands, was the spot where the stamps were burnt, at the dead of night, by citizens, in the year 1776.

Benjamin Franklin, while residing in New York, used as an observatory for experimenting on electricity, the steeple of the old Dutch Church,—now the Post-Office, in Nassau street. Who will not gaze with interest at this starting-point of that luminous train which now encircles the globe, and by which we communicate in letters of light, with our antipodes, almost with the celerity of thought.

The old City Hotel, in Broadway, the site of which is now occupied by a row of brown stone buildings, was for a long time the most notable edifice of the kind in the city. Here Washington, with his suite, attended the brilliant assemblies of his days.

A still more interesting relic of the past, was the old Sugar House Prison, which, till within a very few years, stood in Liberty street, adjacent to the Dutch Church, now the Post-Office. It was founded in 1689, and occupied as a sugar-refining factory, till 1777, when Lord Howe converted it into a place of confinement for American prisoners. Here is a sketch of it.

The old Walton House, in Pearl street (No. 326), was one of the memorabilia of New York city. This celebrated mansion was erected, in 1754, by Walton, a wealthy English merchant. It continued in possession of the family during the Revolutionary war, and was the scene of great splendor and festivity.

Washington's city mansion stood at the junction of Main and Pearl streets—the northern angle of Franklin Square. Here the General was accustomed to hold state levees.

The Old Brewery, at the Five Points, recently taken down, is deserving of some notice. Its purblind were those of wretchedness and crime; they have been fitly described as "an exhibition of poverty without a par-
10 NEW YORK AS IT WAS.

...a scene of degradation too appalling to be believed, and too shocking to be disclosed, where you find crime without punishment,—disgrace without shame,—sin without compunction,—and death without hope."

During the past few years, the attention of the benevolent has been attracted to this locality, and a missionary station has been erected there, under the direction of Mr. Pease. The entire cost of the establishment has been estimated at over $80,000.

The old Methodist Church in John street, nearly facing Dutch street, is an object of antiquarian interest. In William street, about midway between John and Fulton streets, stands a range of modern houses, about the centre of which was the birth-place of Washington Irving.

Old Governor Stuyvesant’s house, a fine view of which is annexed, stood upon his “Bowerie Farm,” a little to the south of St. Mark’s Church, between the Second and Third Avenues. A pear-tree, imported
HISTORICAL LOCALITIES.

from Holland in 1647, by Stuyvesant, and planted in his garden, yet flourishes on the corner of Thirteenth street and Third Avenue, the only living relic which preserves the memory of the renowned Dutch Governor. This patriarchal tree is two hundred and twelve years old.

We present the reader with a fac-simile of Governor Stuyvesant's seal.

He lived eighteen years after the change in the government, and at his death was buried in his vault within the chapel. Over his remains was placed a slab (which may yet be seen in the eastern wall of St. Mark's), with the following inscription: “In this vault lies buried Petrus Stuyvesant, late Captain General and Commander-in-Chief of Amsterdam, in New Netherlands, now called New York, and the Dutch West India Islands. Died in August, A. D., 1682, aged eighty years.”

At the corner of Charlton and Varick streets stood a wooden building, formerly of considerable celebrity, known as the “Richmond Hill House.” It has had many distinguished occupants, having been successively the residence of General Washington, John Adams, and Aaron Burr. It has been the scene of great festivities. Baron Steuben, Chancellor Livingston, and numerous
other notable men of their times, having met within its walls.

Aaron Burr once lived at the corner of Cedar and Nassau streets, and, after he held the office of Vice-President, at the corner of Pine and Nassau.

Cobbett kept his seed store at 62 Fulton street. His farm was at Hempstead, Long Island.

Grant Thorburn's celebrated seed store, which was one of the notable objects of the city, in its time, was in Liberty street, between Nassau and Broadway, and occupied as large a space as the present establishment in John street. His store was previously used for a Quaker meeting-house, the first that that society had erected in the city.

The brick meeting-house, built in 1764, in Beekman street, near Nassau street, then standing on open fields, was the place where Whitefield preached.

On the site of the present Metropolitan Hotel, once lived the diplomatist—Talleyrand, when ambassador to the United States. He published a small tract on America, once much read; he it was who affirmed that the greatest sight he had ever beheld in this country, was Hamilton, with his pile of books under his arm, proceeding to the court-room in the old City Hall, in order to expound the law.

James Rivington, from London, opened a bookstore in 1761, near the foot of Wall street, from which his "Royal Gazetteer" was published in April, 1773.

Gaine's "New York Mercury," in Hanover Square, was established in 1752; Holt's "New York Journal," in Dock (Pearl) street, near Wall, commenced in 1776; and Anderson's "Constitutional Gazette," a very small sheet, was published for a few months in 1775, at Beekman's Slip.

Gaine kept a bookstore under the sign of the Bible and Crown, at Hanover Square, for forty years. Among the early publishers and booksellers, may be named, Evert Duyckinck, who lived at the corner of Pearl street and Old Slip; and Isaac Collins, George A. Hopkins, Samuel Campbell, and T. & J. Swords.

William Barlas, of Maiden Lane, was himself an excellent scholar. He published classical books. He was the friend and correspondent of Newton—Cowper's friend.

HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

In the year 1607, the memorable year in which forty-seven learned men began the English version of the Bible, Henry Hudson sailed in search of a northeast passage to India. For two seasons he strove in vain to
penetrate the ice barriers, and then turned homeward. His patrons abandoned their enterprise, and Hudson went over to Holland and entered the service of the Dutch East India Company, whose fleets then agitated the waters of almost every sea.

On the 3d of September, 1609, the intrepid navigator first entered the Bay of New York. Here commence the acknowledged chronicles of European civilization on these shores of the newly-discovered continent, over which, till then, the wild Indian had held undisputed sway. According to Scandinavian records, it is affirmed, the Norsemen visited our shores even prior to the discovery of the continent by the famed Genoese.

Among those supposed early navigators, was Prince Madoc; and Verrazani, who, in the year 1514, is believed to have anchored in these waters, and explored the coast of what was then known as part of ancient Vinland. We shall take a cursory glance at the leading events which have been handed down to us, since they will serve to illustrate the progressive advancement of the civilized, over the savage forms of life, of which this memorable island has been the theatre.

Although Hudson has not recorded, in his diary, his landing in the harbor of New York, we possess a tradition of the event, by Heckewelder, the Indian historian. He describes the natives as greatly perplexed and terrified when they beheld the approach of the strange object—the ship in the offing. They deemed it a visit from the Manitou, coming in his big canoe, and began to prepare an entertainment for his reception. "By-and-by, the chief, in red clothes and a glitter of metal, with others, came ashore in a smaller canoe; mutual salutations and signs of friendship were exchanged; and after a while, strong drink was offered, which made all gay and happy. In time, as their mutual acquaintance progressed, the white skins told them they would stay with them, if they allowed them as much land for cultivation as the hide of a bullock, spread before them, could cover or encompass. The request was gratified; and the pale men, thereupon, beginning at a starting point on the hide, cut it up into one long extended narrow strip, or thong, sufficient to encompass a large place. Their cunning equally surprised and amused the confiding and simple Indians, who willingly allowed the success of their artifice, and backed it up with a cordial welcome." Such was the origin of the site of New York, on the place called Manhattan (i.e., Manahachtaniens), a revelling name, importing "the place where they all got drunk!" and a name then bestowed by the Indians, as commemorative of that first great meeting.

Hudson afterwards proceeded to explore the North River, since called after his name—the Hudson. The Half-Moon anchored at Yonkers, and the Indians came off in canoes to traffic with the strangers. But the river narrowed beyond the Highlands, and Hudson, after sailing up as far as the site of Albany, retraced his way to Manhattan, and at once sailed for Europe. His favorable reports gave rise to an expedition of two ships in 1614, under Captains Adrian Block and Hendrick Christianse. It was under their auspices that the first actual settlement was begun upon the site of the present New York, consisting in the first year of four houses, and in the next year of a redoubt on the site of the Bowling Green. To this small village they gave the name of New Amsterdam. The settlement was of a commercial and military character, having for its object the traffic in the fur trade.

At the time Holland projected this scheme of commercial settlement, she possessed 20,000 vessels and 100,000 mariners. The city of Amsterdam was at the head of the enterprise.

From its earliest period, "Nieuw Amsterdam" had a checkered history. The English turned towards it a wistful eye, and took it from the Dutch in 1664, who succeeded, however, in recovering it in 1673. Not more than a year after, it was ceded again to the British, and underwent a change of name, from New Amsterdam
to New York, in honor of James, duke of York, to whom it was made over by Charles the Second. From this period it began to make progress, although slowly, in buildings, population, and municipal arrangements.

The city, prior to British rule (that is in 1666), was laid out in streets, some of them crooked enough, and contained “one hundred and twenty houses with extensive garden lots,” and about one thousand inhabitants. In 1677, another estimate reports that it comprised three hundred and sixty-eight houses, while its assessed property amounted to ninety-five thousand pounds sterling.

During the military rule of Governor Colvile, who held the city for one year under the above-mentioned capture, for the States of Holland, every thing partook of a military character; and the laws still in preservation at Albany show the energy of a rigorous discipline. Then the Dutch mayor, at the head of the city militia, held his daily parades before the City Hall (Stadt Huys), then at Coenties Slip; and every evening at sunset, he received from the principal guard of the fort, called the hoofd-waag, the keys of the city, and thereupon proceeded with a guard of six, to lock the city gates; then to place a burger-waag—a citizen guard, as nightwatch, at assigned places. The same mayors also went the rounds at sunrise to open the gates, and to restore the keys to the officers of the fort.

In 1683, the first constitutional assembly, consisting of a council of ten, and eighteen representatives, was elected, to aid in the administration of public affairs. In this year the ten original counties were organized. In 1685, on the demise of Charles II., the Duke of York ascended the throne, with the title of James II. This bigoted monarch signalized himself by forbidding the establishment of a printing-press in the colony.

Gov. Dongan was far better than his sovereign, and at length was recalled in consequence of his remonstrances against other arbitrary measures he was instructed to carry out with regard to the confederate

Indian tribes and the Jesuits. Andros was appointed to supersede him, but his also was but a short reign, for the populace grew disaffected, and in a civil commotion, one Jacob Leisler, a Dutch merchant, was proclaimed leader, and ultimately invested with the reins of government.

He also summoned a convention of deputies, from those portions of the province over which his influence extended. This convention levied taxes, and adopted other measures, for the temporary government of the colony; and thus for the first time in its existence, was the colony of New York under a free government. The strong prejudices, however, which had been awakened by Leisler's measures, soon produced in the minds of his adversaries a rancorous bitterness, which was, perhaps, never surpassed in the annals of any political controversy.

This condition of things existed for nearly two years. To the horrors of civil commotion, were added the miseries of hostile invasion by the French in Canada.

The earliest dawn of intellectual light—for the diffusion of popular intelligence had been hitherto wholly neglected—was the establishment of a free Grammar School in 1702. In 1725, the first newspaper made its appearance; and four years later, the city received the donation of a Public Library of 1642 volumes, from England. In 1732, a public Classical Academy was founded by law; and with the advance of general intelligence came a higher appreciation of popular rights. But New York was destined to be convulsed by a series of commotions; and among them the memorable one known as the Negro Plot, which resulted in a great destruction of life.

The trade of New York increased. Her ships were already seen in many foreign ports; neither Boston nor Philadelphia surpassed her in the extent of her commercial operations. Provisions, linseed-oil, furs, lumber, and iron, were the principal exports. From 1749 to 1750, two hundred and eighty-six vessels left
New York, with cargoes principally of flour and grain. In 1755, nearly thirteen thousand hogsheads of flax seed were shipped abroad.

The relations of the colonies with the mother country were assuming a serious aspect. In 1765, a congress of delegates met at New York, and prepared a declaration of their rights and grievances. The arrival of the stamped paper, so notorious in the colonial annals of America, towards the end of this year, marked the commencement of a series of explosions that were not to terminate until the city and colony of New York, in common with the other colonies, were forever rent from the dominion of Great Britain. The non-importation agreements of the merchants of New York, and other places, in 1768, were followed by stringent measures on the part of the British government. War was the result.

On the 28th of June, 1776, the British army and fleet, which had been driven from the city and harbor of Boston, entered the southern bay of New York. The troops were landed upon Staten Island. On the 22d of August, the British forces crossed the Narrows and encamped near Brooklyn, where the American army was stationed. The battle of Long Island ensued, in which, owing to unfortunate circumstances, the Americans were entirely defeated. Washington, with consummate skill, crossed the river the succeeding night, without observation; but the previous disasters, and the subsequent successful landing of the British troops at Kip's Bay, rendered it impossible to save the city.

For eight years New York was the head-quarters of the British troops, and the prison-house of American captives. Public buildings were despoiled, and churches converted into hospitals and prisons. A fire in 1776, sweeping along both sides of Broadway, destroyed one eighth of the buildings of New York.

On the 25th of November, 1783, the forces of Great Britain evacuated the city, and Washington and the Governor of the State made a public and triumphal entry.

This important national event, forming the brightest day in the American calendar, is annually celebrated with appropriate military pomp and parade.

In ten years after the war of independence, New York had doubled its inhabitants. Yet the city had repeatedly suffered from the scourge of the yellow fever, from calamitous fires, &c. Notwithstanding all, its commercial enterprise has been rapidly and largely increasing, while its shipping has gallantly spread over every sea, and won the admiration of the world. The first establishment of regular lines of packets to Europe originated with New York, and it is also claimed for her the honor of the first experiments in steam-navigation.

Improvements hitherto had been principally connected with foreign commerce. But an impulse was now to be given to inland trade by the adoption of an extensive system of canal-navigation. Several smaller works were cast into the shade by the completion of the gigantic Erie Canal, in 1825. The union of the Atlantic with the Lakes, was announced by the firing of cannon along the whole line of the canal and of the Hudson, and was celebrated at New York by a magnificent aquatic procession, which, to indicate more clearly the navigable communication that had been opened, deposited in the ocean a portion of the waters of Lake Erie.

Municipal history is a narrative of alternate successes and reverses. For many years nothing had occurred to mar the prosperity of the city. Again misfortune came. In 1832 the Asiatic cholera appeared, and 4360 fell victims to the disease. This calamity had scarcely passed, when the great fire of 1835 destroyed, in one night, more than 600 buildings, and property to the value of over $20,000,000. The city had not recovered from the effects of this disaster, when the commercial revulsions of 1836 and 1837...
shook public and private credit to their centre, and in­
volved many of the most wealthy houses of New
York in hopeless bankruptcy.

The completion of the Croton Aqueduct, in 1842, re­
moved the inconvenience of a deficiency of water, and
left an imperishable monument to the glory of New
York.

A temporary check in the progress of the city was
sustained by the great fire of 1845, which destroyed
property to the extent of about $7,000,000; but shortly
afterwards a new and vigorous impulse was again given
to the commercial enterprise of the metropolis, by the
constant influx of gold from the seeming exhaustless
resources of the El Dorado of the Pacific.

GENERAL VIEW.

The City of New York, from its geographical posi­
tion, having become the great centre of commercial
enterprise, is justly regarded as the Metropolitan City
of the New World. In mercantile importance it bears
the same relation to the United States that London does
to Great Britain. Its past history is replete with in­
terest, for it has been the theatre of some of the most
important events that pertain to our country's memo­
rable career: and although it possesses fewer historic
shrines than are to be found in many cities of the Old
World, yet its chronicles still live as treasured relics in
the hearts of its people, and on the page of its national
records. If we take a retrospective glance, we shall
find that a little more than two centuries ago, this
island of Mannahata—its earliest recorded name, had its
birthday of civilization in a few rude huts, and a fort
situated where the Bowling Green now stands; and, in
this comparatively brief interval in the lifetime of a na­
tion, it has bounded from the infant Dorp or village into

a noble city of palaces with its half million of inhab­
ants. It is now the great workshop of the Western
world—the busy hive of industry, with its tens of
thousands of artisans, mechanics, and merchants, send­
ing out to all sections of its wide-spread domain, the
magic results of machinery for all departments of hand­
craft, and argosies of magnificent vessels for garner­ing
in the wealth of foreign climes.

If we glance prospectively, how shall we venture to
limit its progressive march in opulence and greatness?
In less than half a century hence, it will doubtless
double its present numerical importance. As illustra­
tions of the enormous increase in the value of real
estate, it may be mentioned that a lot on the northwest
corner of Chambers street and Broadway, was pur­
blished by a gentleman who died in 1858, for $1000.
Its present value is now estimated at no less a sum than
$125,000.

The lots lately sold at auction, by Ludlow & Co.,
under the direction of the executors of Judge Jay,
were a part of the fifteen acres bought by the late
John Jay, at $500 per acre. One lot out of said pur­
chase, situated on Broadway, we are informed has
been sold within the past month for $80,000. Fabu­
lous as is the advance from $500 per acre to $80,000
per lot, it is fully justified, as the present owner—who
is now erecting a store on the lot—has refused a rent
of $16,000 per year for the same.

A little more than two centuries since, the entire
site of this noble city was purchased of the Indians for
what was equivalent to the nominal sum of twenty­
four dollars. Now the total amount of its assessed
property tax is ten and a half millions of dollars. If
such vast accessions of wealth have characterized the
history of the past, who shall compute the constantly
augmenting resources of its onward course? Half a
century ago, the uses of the mighty agents of steam
and the electric current were unknown; now the whole
surface of our vast country is threaded over with a
network of railroads, and our seas, lakes, and rivers are thickly studded with steamers; stately vessels, freighted with the fruits of commerce, all tending to this city as the central mart of trade. Half a century ago it took weeks to transmit news from New York to New Orleans—now our communications are conveyed over the length and breadth of the land almost with the velocity of the lightning's flash. Within a like interval the most rapid printing-press was slowly worked by hand-power—now the winged messengers of intelligence are multiplied with the marvellous rapidity of 60,000 copies an hour. While the mechanic arts have thus revolutionized the social condition of the past, a corresponding change has marked its history, in the establishment of numerous schools of learning—diffusing their beneficent influence on the minds and morals of the masses.

Then, again, as respects its costly stores and private residences, New York seems to vie with London and Paris. All along Broadway, and its intersecting streets, the eye is greeted everywhere by long lines of marble and stone buildings, many of them of great architectural elegance. The several broad Avenues and Squares, in the upper part of the city, are studded with a succession of splendid mansions—in some instances costing from $50,000 to $200,000 each. There are, it is estimated, some three hundred churches, many of them of costly and magnificent proportions; while its superb hotels—the boast of the metropolis—are, in some instances, capable of accommodating about one thousand guests.

How mighty and far-reaching must its influence become in its future progress, it were difficult to compute: since its numerical extent, numbering at present, if we include Brooklyn and the adjacent places on the west, over a million of souls, will ere long place it, in the scale of cities of the world, in the foremost rank.
net-work of railroads, and our seas, lakes, and rivers are thickly studded with steamers; stately vessels, freighted with the fruits of commerce, all tending to this city as the central mart of trade. Half a century ago it took weeks to transmit news from New York to New Orleans—now our communications are conveyed over the length and breadth of the land almost with the velocity of the lightning's flash. Within a like interval the most rapid printing-press was slowly worked by hand-power—now the winged messengers of intelligence are multiplied with the marvellous rapidity of 60,000 copies an hour. While the mechanic arts have thus revolutionized the social condition of the past, a corresponding change has marked its history, in the establishment of numerous schools of learning—diffusing their beneficent influence on the minds and morals of the masses.

Then, again, as respects its costly stores and private residences, New York seems to vie with London and Paris. All along Broadway, and its intersecting streets, the eye is greeted everywhere by long lines of marble and stone buildings, many of them of great architectural elegance. The several broad Avenues and Squares, in the upper part of the city, are studded with a succession of splendid mansions—in some instances costing from $50,000 to $200,000 each. There are, it is estimated, some three hundred churches, many of them of costly and magnificent proportions; while its superb hotels—the boast of the metropolis—are, in some instances, capable of accommodating about one thousand guests.

How mighty and far-reaching must its influence become in its future progress, it were difficult to compute: since its numerical extent, numbering at present, if we include Brooklyn and the adjacent places on the west, over a million of souls, will ere long place it, in the scale of cities of the world, in the foremost rank.
Society in New York has many phases—it is cosmopolitan—an amalgam, composed of all imaginable varieties and shades of character. It is a confluence of many streams, whose waters are ever turbid and confused in their rushing to this great vortex. What incongruous elements are here commingled—the rude and the refined, the sordid and the self-sacrificing, the religious and the profane, the learned and the illiterate, the affluent and the destitute, the thinker and the doer, the virtuous and the ignoble, the young and the aged—all nations, dialects, and sympathies—all habits, manners, and customs of the civilized globe.

City life everywhere presents protean aspects; let us take a glance at some of its more striking features, notwithstanding the mixed multitudes that are incessantly thronging its various avenues. There are yet certain localities that exhibit distinct characteristics: life in Wall-street presents an epitomized view of its mercantile phase. Here are its banks, its money-exchangers, and their great place of rendezvous, the Exchange; beneath the dome of which many mighty projects have had their birth. Here have been concocted vast schemes of commercial enterprise, and here, too, have originated many noble acts of public benevolence.

Up Nassau street, to its junction with Chatham street, of mock-auction notoriety, we catch a glimpse of another phase of city life. To denizens of New
York, society is usually known under the generic divisions of Broadway and Bowery. Each has its distinct idiosyncrasies: the former being regarded as patrician, and the latter as plebeian. Looking at New York longitudinally, we may say that Canal Street, at present, marks the boundary of the great workshop. In the precincts of Union Square and Madison Square, and especially the Fifth Avenue, we find the monuments of the wealth, taste, and splendor of its citizens.

The southern part of the city—its original site—exhibits all kinds of irregularity—the streets are narrow, sinuous and uneven in their surface; but the northern or upper portion is laid out in right angles. There are some twelve fine avenues, at parallel distances apart of about 800 feet. There are about 200 miles of paved streets in the Metropolis, extending to Forty-fourth street; exclusive of projected streets not yet paved, over 100 streets more. The city has been laid out and surveyed to the extent of 12 miles from the Battery. The portion occupied exceeds in circumference more than extent.

Perhaps the densest parts of the Metropolis,—its very heart, from whence issues the vitalizing tide of its commerce,—is the junction of Nassau and Fulton streets, and its vicinity. The collision of interests which all the stir and traffic of these crowded scenes involve, brings human nature into strong relief, and intensifies the lights and shades of character.

It is in these dusty avenues to wealth—these vestibules where fraud contends with honor for an entrance into the temple, that we read the heart of man better than in books.

The great characteristic of New York is din and excitement,—every thing is done in a hurry—all is intense anxiety. It is especially noticeable in the leading thoroughfare of Broadway; where the noise and confusion caused by the incessant passing and repassing of some 18,000 vehicles a day, render it a Babel scene of confusion.

New York has been ever and justly renowned for its catholic and liberal public benefactions and charities. Among her many glories, this is most conspicuous. New York may be called the asylum for the oppressed and distressed of all nations. Abounding in beneficent institutions suited to the relief of the various "ills that flesh is heir to," and enriched with the most liberal endowments for classical and popular instruction, she bears the palm in all that pertains to the moral, intellectual, and physical advancement of society. It is true we are a mercantile and money-making people, but the empire city is an illustration of some of its noblest uses.

By way of introduction to the city in detail, we recommend the visitor first to get a bird's-eye view of it from the steeple of Trinity church. A view from this elevation, over 320 feet in height, affords a good idea of the general extent and topography of the city. The tower is accessible to the public at any time of the day, excepting the hours devoted to divine service, morning and afternoon. To facilitate the ascent of the church tower there are landing-places; at the first of these you have a fine view of the interior of this Cathedral-like edifice. At the next resting-place is the belfry, with its solemn chimes: here too is a balcony allowing us a first view of the city. Still higher up we gain a magnificent panoramic view of all we have left below us,—which amply repays our toilsome tour of many steps. The varied scene stretches out in every direction, with new beauties—north and south lies Broadway with its teeming multitudes and its numberless vehicles; west and east are crowded streets of house-tops terminating only with the waters of the inclosing rivers. Looking eastward, we see Wall street immediately below us, with the Custom House on the left, and a little further on the right the Merchants' Exchange, the Wall-street ferry, and the East River which separates New York from Brooklyn; with the New York bay stretching to the southeast,
Sandy Hook, the Highlands of Neversink, and the coast of Staten Island. To the northeast, the eastern district of Brooklyn, formerly known as Williamsburg, the Navy Yard, &c., and still further to the north, the rocky channel called Hurl-gate,—so pernicious to our Dutch forefathers; near by Randall and Blackwell's Islands, with their City Asylums. Transferring our gaze to Broadway, we notice on the corner of Wall street the Bank of the Republic, and on the next street the Metropolitan Bank. Passing several fine marble buildings, we notice Barnum's Museum on the east side of Broadway, and opposite to it St. Paul's Church, then the Astor House, the Park, and the City Hall; the brown-stone building on the east side being that of the Times Office. Beyond the City Hall enclosure is Stewart's marble palace, then the City Hospital, surrounded with trees, and opposite it, Bowen & McNamée's fine marble building; further north are numerous elegant stores, including Brooks' brown-stone structure, Lord & Taylor's marble edifice, St. Nicholas Hotel, the Metropolitan, and still further on in the distance, Grace Church, with its beautiful white spire, Union Park, &c.

Turning to the opposite point of view, the Hudson river, with Jersey City, and Hoboken, with its beautiful walks, its distant hills and valleys; on this side of the river, the steamers, ships, and docks. This superb river has been often compared with the Rhine for its picturesque beauty, we can here get but a faint idea of it, for its bold scenery is seen only after journeying some 40 miles to the north, we catch merely a glimpse of the Palisades, beginning at Weehawken and extending about 20 miles. Veering to the south, we see the fortified islets of the lower bay, with Staten Island, Richmond, &c., with their numerous picturesque cottages, villas, and castellated mansions, and to the southwest, the Raritan bay, the Passaic river, leading to Newark in the distance, &c.

PARKS AND PUBLIC SQUARES.

BATTERY.

Commencing our descriptions of the notabilia of New-York with its pleasure-grounds and parks, we ought first to mention the Battery, situated at the southernmost terminus of the metropolis. These grounds cover an area of about twelve acres, of the crescent form, having a profusion of stately trees, which afford a delightful place of retreat in the summer-time, for pleasure-seekers, who prefer to inhale the fresh sea-breeze under their shade to the crowded throngs of fashion in the city. The walks stretching along the margin of these grounds were formerly much frequented, but of late years, in consequence of the rapid growth of the city, all private residences having been transferred to the upper or northern part of the city, are consequently now not so much an object of attraction. Connected with the Battery is Castle Garden. Originally a fortification, it was subsequently let on lease as a place of public amusement. It was probably the largest audience-room in the world. It was the scene of Jenny Lind's first appearance in America. This building has now little architectural beauty to boast; having been for some time used as a depot for emigrants. An enlargement of the grounds of the Battery has been recently in progress, although yet incomplete.

BOWLING GREEN.

Close to the Battery, at the entrance to Broadway, is the small enclosure so called, from having been used as such prior to the Revolution. At that time it contained a leaden equestrian statue of George III., which the populace in their patriotic zeal demolished,
and converted into musket-balls. On this site there is now a fountain, which is during summer to be seen bubbling up with the clear waters of the Croton.

**THE PARK**

Is a triangular inclosure of about 11 acres, containing the City Hall and other public buildings. At the southern part there is a beautiful fountain, inclosed in a basin 100 feet in diameter. The iron is in the shape of an Egyptian lily, around it are numerous perforations through which small jets of water are projected, which descending form a mist, while the main jet throws up a column of water to a great height, amidst the surrounding trees.

**ST. JOHN'S PARK,**

Or Hudson Square, situated between Laight, Varick, and Hudson streets, is a small, but beautiful inclosure thickly planted with lofty trees. It is the property of the vestry of Trinity Church.

**WASHINGTON SQUARE,**

Formerly the site of a Potter's Field, occupies about nine acres, and is decorated with numerous gravel-walks, and an elegant fountain in the centre of the grounds. It forms a pleasant up-town park, situated a little to the west of Broadway, between Fourth and Eighth streets. It is surrounded by rows of fine buildings—private residences on each side, and at the east end by the New York University and Dr. Hutton's Church—each fine Gothic structures.

**UNION PARK**

Is in Union Square, at the upper or northern end of Broadway—extending from 14th to 17th streets. This pleasure-ground is inclosed by a handsome iron railing, and contains a variety of fine trees, gravel-walks, and also a fountain. At the south side is the bronze equestrian statue of Washington and the Union Place Hotel, at the opposite extremity are the Everett House and the Clarendon, and at the western side, Dr. Cheever's Church and Rev. Mr. Abbott's "Spingler Institute" for ladies.

**GRAMERCY PARK,**

Situated a little to the northeast of the above, is a select and beautiful inclosure on a smaller scale. This park is private property, having been ceded to the owners of the surrounding lots by S. B. Ruggles, Esq. It forms the area between 20th and 21st streets, and the 3d and 4th Avenues.

**STUYVESANT PARK**

Extends from 15th to 17th streets, and is divided by the intersecting passage of the Second Avenue. The Rev. Dr. Tyng's Church is upon the west side of this park. The ground was presented by the late P. G. Stuyvesant, Esq., to the corporation of the church.

**TOMPKINS SQUARE**

Is one of the largest parks of the city. It occupies the area formed by Avenues A and B, and 7th and 10th streets.

**MADISON SQUARE,**

Comprising 10 acres, is at the junction of Broadway and Fifth Avenue. On the west side stands the monument of General Worth. The houses surrounding this park include some of the most elegant of the city.

**THE CENTRAL PARK,**

Now in progress, will comprise that tract of land including the Arsenal and Croton Reservoir grounds, consisting of 776 acres. It is one of the largest parks 3*.
in the world. The Bois de Boulogne is, of course larger; but this is twice as large as most of the London parks.

Its location is bounded on the west by the Eighth Avenue, on the east by the Fifth Avenue, on the south by Fifty-ninth street, and on the north by what has been marked One-hundred-and-tenth street. It possesses already the several essentials of a picturesque park—pond, stream, hill, rock, plain, and slope. The ridge which rises near the Battery, and forms the back-bone of the Island of Manhattan, traverses the Park from end to end; forming, in the journey, at least two admirable points of view from which delicious views of the adjacent scenery may be obtained. Through the valleys beneath, course little streams, which, with the help of thorough drainage, may be converted into large streams. There is a swamp, or deep declivity, which, under discreet engineering, will be converted into a lake, one hundred acres in extent, fed from the Croton springs. This lake will, in fact, be the receiving reservoir for the city. There are hills, too, with rough, rocky sides, which will pass, with a little trimming, for mountain scenery; and there are passes, which, with appropriate foliage, may well figure as Alpine valleys. Nature has done so much, that there is little left for the engineer but to beautify and trim its excrescences.

The Park contains, besides the large structure formerly used as an Arsenal, and the Croton Lake and distributing reservoir, a parade ground of fifty acres in extent, on which infantry, cavalry, and artillery can manœuvre together. A short distance south of the parade ground will be found the Botanical Gardens. From botanical surveys already made, it appears that the ground is adapted to the cultivation of an unusual variety of plants and flowers. It can be reached by the cars of the Third, Sixth, and Eighth Avenue Railroads.—See page 89.