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WESTERN CANAL.

FROM THE NEW-HAVEN HERALD.

There is no subject of public interest, which so much attracts the attention of the Northern and Eastern people of the United States, as the Canals in the State of N. York; and of these, the Great Western Canal from the city of Albany to Lake Erie, ending at or near Buffalo, is the most important. This, when completed, will be from 340 to 350 miles in length; thereby connecting the waters of Erie with those of the Hudson, and thus uniting the navigable waters of all the Western Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. The shores adjoining these lakes, are of a greater extent than the whole of our shores on the Atlantic, from Maine to Georgia both inclusive. On this Canal, the produce of a fertile country, much greater in extent than all the New-England states, will be brought to market. The object then to be accomplished by this stupendous undertaking, is of more importance to the Eastern, Northern and North-Western states, than any other ever can be; and when executed, reflect more honor on the enterprize and character of the State of New-York, than can ever be achieved by any other State in the Union.

One hundred and five miles of this Canal are now completed, and the water let in for public use; beginning nine miles south of the village of Utica, and ending at Montezuma, 96 miles west of that village. The canal is 44 feet in width and 4 in depth. The first level, beginning 9 miles below Utica, is 69 miles without any lock. On this Middle Section (as it is called) there are 9 locks; of these, 7 fall, 2 rise. The greatest fall at any lock, is 11 feet; and the least 6: the greatest rise is 11 1/2 feet, and the least 6 1/2.

Two basins or harbours have been made by the village of Utica, in the limits of the village, within which a great number of boats can be conveniently accommodated, for the purpose of taking in and discharging the freight.—At Whitesborough, Oriskany, Lenox, Canastota and Cansera, are similar basins. At Chittenango is a side-cut canal, which runs to the turnpike road.—At Syracuse, is the junction of the side-cut canal to Salina, being one mile from the Onondaga Salt Springs, in which are several spacious basins. At the village of Geddes, is a large basin: at Nine mile Creek is a lock and basin; at a new village, called Weed's Basin, seven miles north of Auburn, is an important basin, and a fine situation for a large village, which will no doubt soon rise into commercial importance. At Bucksville is a lock and basin; and at Seneca river is a large basin above the lock. At all these basins, stores and dwelling houses are now erecting; and all kinds of country produce, together with salt and lumber, are there shipped in large quantities for Utica.

On this Middle Section of the Canal, the deepest cut into the earth is 22 feet, and the highest embankment, 36. There are aqueduct bridges, constructed of well wrought stone into arches, which carry the waters of the Canal from 20 to 30 feet above the level of the stream; which pass under it. These are all handsome specimens of workmanship. It ought to be here noticed, that in erecting the locks and other stone works conncted with water, the builders have used what is called water lime, which petrifies and hardens under water lime, which petrifies and hardens under water, (like the Duke of Bridgewater's lime.)—This lime is found adjacent to the canal, in a great abundance, and may well be considered a great acquisition in the United States.

It is impossible for the writer to state the number and size of the market boats now in use, yet he can assert, that there are many constantly passing & repassing up and down the canal. There are 2 packet boats, the *Montezuma* and *Oncid Chief*,* owned by the Erie Canal Navigation Company, (incorporated.)

These boats are 77 feet in length, and 13 in width; are each navigated by 7 hands, viz: a captain, 2 helmsmen, 1 townsman, a steward, a cabin boy and cook; and are employed exclusively for the conveyance of passengers. The forward cabin is used for lodgings, and is handsomely furnished off with 12 berths, each having a good bed of mattress, and every suitable accommodation. Next, and in the centre is a dining cabin, 18 feet by 13, where 25 passengers can be conveniently seated at the table; and on the side of this cabin are settees, so that, with these and mattresses, good lodgings for 30 can be had. More than this number cannot be well accommodated in their boats.—Next to this cabin is a gangway and bar, which are rented to the steward at \$250 for the season; at which bar, passengers are furnished with as good refreshments as can be had on board of our steam boats, and at as cheap a rate. Next and back of this, is a kitchen, with all the cooking apparatus, and lodgings for the crew.

These boats are drawn each by two horses, by means of a tow rope from 6 to 7 rods in length; the horses are harnessed tandem, with a small rider on the hind horse, and are exchanged every 8 miles. Each of these boats pass up and down this section of the canal every day, (Sundays excepted.) The fare of passengers is 4 cents per mile, and includes every expense, except such as may be voluntarily incurred at the bar. The tables are well furnished and every attention is shewn to passengers, so as to render them perfectly satisfied with their accommodations. The average number of passengers in these boats, for this season, thus far, has been about 20 each trip up and down.

These boats pass and repass night and day; so that, although they are prohibited a greater headway than 5 miles in each hour, yet in the course of 24 hours the progress is as great as that of our best stages.

The tow path on the canal is about 3 feet above the level of the water, about ten feet in width, and is made hard by gravel.

When two boats meet, each is by law required to turn to the right; and the horses drawing these boats are obliged to turn to the left; so that the horses which turn off from the tow-path, must stop as they come abreast of the other horses; the boat being under headway, causes the tow rope to fall slack under water; and in this situation, the boat next to the tow-path passes directly over the rope so slackened, and both proceed without any detention, and without any casting off or hitching to. In passing the locks, whether the boats ascend or descend, the detention at each will not exceed 4 minutes.

In these boats, travellers are regaled by viewing alternately the richest productions of cultivated earth, and the rudest display of forests, hills, morasses and swamps; which together with the rapidity and ease of their passage, makes the whole a delightful stretch of scenery, highly interesting to all who have never before witnessed any thing of the kind.

The canal from Montezuma to Rochester, on the Genesee river, is understood to be in great forwardness; that from Utica to the Little Falls on the Mohawk, is finished, and the water thus far will be let in next fall; and the remainder

* These packet boats, as toll, pay five dollars for each passage, making 60 dollars per week. Market boats pay toll on their freight, at the toll or custom house on the canal; of which, on this Middle Section, there are two,

down the river to the city of Schenectady, a distance of about 70 miles, will be completed in the autumn, but the water will not be let in until next spring; and, from the best information which could be obtained, the whole will be completed within two years from next November. Thus the state of New-York will then have effected and completed that which will redound more to her honor, than any thing which she has ever before accomplished, and than has been done by any other state in the Union.—She has, as it were, connected two empires.—Those only who best know the great extent and interest of the new world, and that is connected with this canal, can duly appreciate the importance of this stupendous work.

A TRAVELLER.

FROM ACKERMAN'S REPOSITORY.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT PLAGUE IN 1665.

By Thomas Vincent, an eye-witness.

It was in the beginning of the year of our Lord 1665 that the plague began in our city of London, after we were warned by the great plague in Holland, in the year 1664, and the beginning of it in some remote parts of our land in the same year; not to speak any thing whether there was any signification and influence in the *blazing star*, not long before that appeared in the view of London, and struck some amazement upon the spirits of many. It was in the month of May that the plague was first taken notice of; our bill of mortality let us know of but three which died of the disease the whole year before; but in the beginning of May, the bill tells us of nine which fell by the plague, just in the heart of the city; the other eight in the suburbs. This was the first arrow of warning shot from heaven amongst us, and fear quickly began to creep upon the people's hearts, great thoughts and discourse is in town about the plague, and they cast in their minds whether they should go if the plague should increase. Yet, when the next week's bill signifieth to them the decrease from 9 to 3, there minds are something appeased; discourse of that subject cools; fears are hushed, and hopes take place that the black cloud did but threaten, and give a few drops, but the wind would drive it away. But, then, in the next bill the number of the dead by the plague is mounted from 3 to 13, and in the next to 17, and in the next to 43, and the disease begins so much to increase and disperse.

In June, the number increaseth from 63 to 112, the next week to 168, the next to 267, the next to 470, most of which increase was in the remote parts; few in this month within or near the walls of the city; and few that had any note for goodness or profession, were visited at first: God gave them warning to bethink and prepare themselves; yet some few that were choice were visited pretty soon, that the best might promise to themselves a supersedeas, or interpret any place of Scripture so literally as if the lord had promised an absolute general immunity and defence of his own people from this disease of the plague.

Now, the citizens of London are put a stop to in the carrier [career] of their trade; they begin to fear whom they converse withal, and deal withal, lest they should come out of infected places. Roses and other sweet flowers wither in the gardens, are disregarded in the markets, and people dare not offer to their noses, lest, with their sweet savour, that which is infectious should be attracted; rue and wormwood are taken into the hand: myrrh and zeadory into the mouth; and without some antidote few stir abroad in the morning. Now many houses are shut up where the plague comes, and the inhabitants shut in, lest coming abroad, they should spread infection. It was very dismal to behold the

red crosses, and read, in great letters, *Lord have mercy upon us*, on the doors, and watchmen standing before them with halberds, and such a solitude about these places, and people passing by them so gingerly, and with such fearful looks, as if they had been lined with enemies in ambush, that waited to destroy them.

Now rich tradesmen provide themselves to depart; if they have not country houses, they seek lodgings abroad for themselves and families; and the poorer tradesman, that they may imitate the rich in their fear, stretch themselves to take a country journey, though they have scarce wherewithal to bring them back again. The ministers also many of them take occasion to go to their country places, for the summer time, leaving the greatest part of their flock without food or physic in the time of their greatest need.

In July the plague increaseth and prevailth exceedingly; the number 470 which died in one week by the disease, ariseth to 725 the next week, to 1089 the next, to 1843 the next, to 2010 the next. Now the plague compasseth the city like a flood, and poureth in upon it. Now most parishes are infected both without and within; yea, there are not so many houses shut up by the plague as by the owners forsaking of them for the fear of it; and the inhabitants be so exceedingly decreased by the departure of so many thousands, yet the number of dying persons doth increase fearfully. Now the counties keep guards, lest infectious persons should, from the city, bring the disease unto them; most of the rich are now gone, and the middle sort will not stay behind; but the poor are forced, through poverty, to stay and abide the storm.

In August how dreadful is the increase! From 2010, the number amounts to 2817 in one week, and thence to 3380 the next; thence to 4237 the next; thence to 6102 the next; and all of these of the plague, besides other diseases.

Now the cloud is very black, and the storm comes down upon us very sharp. Now death rides triumphantly on his pale horse through our streets, and breaks into every house almost where any inhabitants are to be found. Now people fall as thick as the leaves from the trees in autumn when they are shaken by a mighty wind. Now there is a dismal solitude in London streets; every day looks with the face of a Sabbath-day, observed with greater solemnity than it used to be in the city. Now shops are shut in, people rare, and very few that walk about, inasmuch as the grass begins to spring up in some places, and a deep silence almost in every place, especially within the walls; no rattling coaches, no prancing horses, no calling in customers, nor offering wares; no London cries sounding in the ears; if any voice be heard, it is the groans of dying persons, breathing forth their last, and the funeral knells of them that are ready to be carried to their graves. Now shutting up of visited houses (there being so many) is at end, and most of the well are mingled among the sick, which otherwise would have got no help.

Now we could hardly go forth but we should meet many coffins, and see many with sores limping in the streets; amongst other sad spectacles, methought two were very afflicting; one of a woman coming alone, and weeping, by the door where I lived (which was in the midst of the infection,) with a little coffin under her arm, carrying it to the church-yard; I did judge that it was the mother of the child, and that all the family was dead, and she was forced to coffin up and bury, with her own hands, this her last dead child. Another was of a man at the corner of the Artillery wall, that, as I judge, though the dizziness of his head which seized upon him there, had dashed his face against the wall, and when I came by, he lay hanging with his bloody face

over the rails, and bleeding upon the ground; and as I came back he was removed under a tree in Moor-fields, and lay upon his back; I went and spake to him; he could make me no answer, but rattled in the throat, and, as I was informed, within half an hour died in that place.

Now the plague had broken in much amongst my acquaintance, & of about 16 or more whose faces I used to see every day in our house, within a little I could find but 4 or 6 of them alive; scarcely a day past over my head, for, I think, a month or more together, but I should hear of the death of some one or more that I knew; the first day that they were smitten, the next day some hopes of recovery, and the third day that they were dead.

The September, when we hoped for a decrease, because of the season, because of the number gone, and the number already dead; yet it was not come to its height; but from 6102, which died by the plague the last week in August, the number is amounted to 6988 the first week of September; and when we conceived some little hopes in the next week's abatement to 6544, our hopes were quite dashed again, when the next week it did rise to 7165, which was the highest bill, and a dreadful bill it was! And of the 130 parishes in and above the city, there were but four parishes which were not infected, and in those, few people remaining that were not gone into the country.

From 7165, which died of the plague in one week, there is a decrease to 5538 the next, which was the latter end of September; the next week a farther decrease to 4929, the next to 4327, the next to 2665, the next to 1421, the next to 1031; then there was an increase the first week in November to 1414, but it fell the week after to 1050, and the week after to 652, and the week after to 333, and so lessened more and more to the end of the year, when we had a bill of 97,306, which died of all diseases, which was an increase of 79,000 over what it was the year before; and the number of them which died by the plague, was reckoned to be 68,566 this year; when there were but six which the bill speaks of, who died the year before.

LETTERS, RELATIVE TO THE SISTER OF BONAPARTE.

PARIS, AUGUST 12.

The Princess Borghese, Bonaparte's sister, long solicited the British Government for leave to join her brother at St. Helena. She obtained permission, and was making the necessary preparations for the voyage when she was informed of Bonaparte's death. M. Bonavira the priest, who left St. Helena in May last, has transmitted to this Princess the following letters, to which the spirit of party endeavours to give importance:—

Count de Montholon to the Princess, Borghese, at Rome.

"Madame,—Napoleon has charged me to give you an account of his health. The malady in his liver, which attacked him many years ago, and which is mortal in this climate, has in the course of six weeks made a frightful progress.—The amelioration produced by the care of Dr. Antomarchi has not continued, and many relapses take place during the concluding six months of last year; and the disease renders him weaker every day. Napoleon is extremely feeble, and can scarce support half an hour's ride in a carriage with the horses walking. He can just walk in his chamber without assistance. To his liver complaint is added another disorder which belongs to this climate—his intestines are strongly attacked; his digestive organs no longer fulfil their functions, and his stomach rejects all which it receives. For some time Napoleon has eaten neither meat nor bread, nor vegetables; he lives, but upon