



OR nearly sixty years the gray old reservoir has been the crown of Murray Hill, with its grim front on the fashionable thoroughfare of the rapidly growing city. Since fashion began to surround its stately site, however, it has striven for most of the year to wreathe that grim front with smiling vines of ivy, and it has grown attractive in its old age to passers-by and to the casual visitor. Most citizens will feel a pang of regret at the demolition of this impressive pile, albeit its place is to be taken by a fine specimen of modern architecture, to serve a less prosaic purpose.

Sixty years does not carry one so very far back in history, and yet in the history of this city what changes this old reservoir has seen! The population at the beginning of this period was not much over 300,000, and it was nearly all below Fourteenth Street. Moreover, the introduction of Croton water marked a new era in the advance of the city. Strange as it may now seem, there was no distribution of aqueduct water in this city before 1842, no supply of water from beyond the limits of Manhattan Island, no public supply at all, except a very inadequate one for fire-extinguishing purposes.

It may be interesting to recall how the people got their water before this old reservoir became the centre of distribution for an abundant supply. They got it almost wholly from wells before the present century came in, and then they got it from a corporation that filled its reservoir from wells and from the "Collect" pond. When New Amsterdam was a bit of a village, huddling about the fort just below the Bowling Green, there was one well just in front of the fort, from which the sturdy Dutch settlers drew

their supply of water. Nominally New Amsterdam became a city in 1652, though it had barely 1,500 inhabitants, and its second public well was close by the first City Hall or "Stadt Huys," near Coenties Slip. Meantime some householders had wells on their own premises, and sometimes neighbors joined in the possession of one of these sources of supply.

In the early English colonial days "public wells" were regularly established and were located in the middle of the streets. Six such were ordered in 1677 and seven more ten years later, half the cost being borne by the city and half by the citizens "benefited." This seems to have been the beginning of a system of paying for "public improvements" which is not obsolete yet. Of course, private wells increased, but those of the town were the general resort of the mass of the people for their water supply, which was drawn with buckets by the pole and sweep arrangement or the rope and windlass. It was not until 1750 that pumps came into use.

Long before the end of the last century, even before the Revolutionary War, there were loud complaints of the bad quality of the well water and a demand for a better public supply. For the most part the water was brackish and it became polluted; and it was said that horses of visiting strangers refused to drink it. The only relief was spring water obtained out of town, but out of town does

not seem to us to have been far away, though to people living below Wall Street the present City Hall Park was a long way off. The most famous and abundant of these out-of-town springs was in a little hollow near the rivulet that formed the outlet to the East River from the "Collect" pond. It was on the eastern—or is it the southern?—side of Park Row, about where it is crossed by Pearl Street, and it became

a popular resort for pleasure parties as well as the main source of "tea water" for the town. It was early equipped with a pump, which was known far and wide as the "tea water pump," and at one time this had a rude pavilion and a garden about it. The "Tea Water Pump Garden" became the chief picnic place of the infant metropolis. It is recorded that 110 casks of water, of 130 gallons each, were carted daily from the "tea water pump" and distributed among the inhabitants who paid for the service. Near the end of the last century "Mr. Thompson," who appears to have been the owner of this prolific source of water supply, was required to make some changes because the teams about the pump obstructed the street.

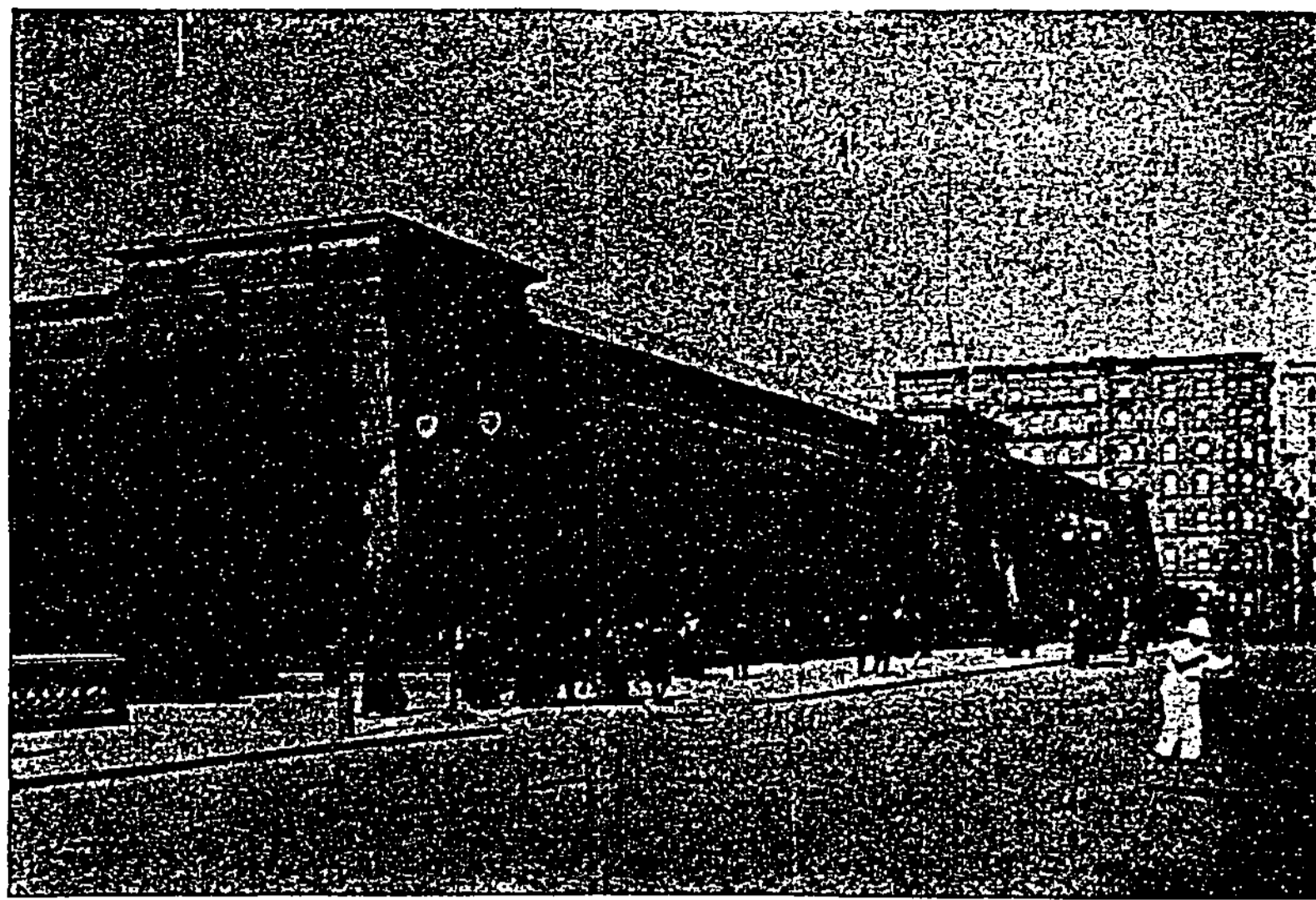
Before the Revolutionary War (in 1774) one Christopher Colles, an engineer of some pretensions in those times, made proposals for a public "water works," and the city was induced to buy two acres of land for a reservoir, on the east side of Broadway, near Pearl Street, from one Van Cortlandt and to contract for "pitch pine timber" for pipes. Bills of credit to the amount of £6,500, which came to be known as "water works money," were issued for the expense and some small amount of city bonds to pay for land. The reservoir was built and the pipe laying begun, and Colles was to have charge of the works at £8 a month. Then came the war and the British occupation, and the whole scheme was abandoned, never to be resumed.

After the war a number of proposals were made to establish a water supply at private expense, the promoters having the privilege of charging for the use of the water, but these came to nothing until the Manhattan Company was incorporated, in 1799. Its charter was shrewdly drawn by Aaron Burr and authorized the company, not only to go all over the island and beyond for its

principal well was at Duane and Centre Streets. This private concern was a serious obstruction to all efforts to get a proper provision for a public water supply for many years.

Private wells long continued to furnish a large part of the supply for common use, and that of the Manhattan Company was not of much better quality; even the "tea

construction. The works consisted of the storage reservoir in the Croton Valley, the aqueduct, a receiving reservoir "in Yorkville," which came to be surrounded by Central Park, and the distributing reservoir on Murray Hill. The High Bridge was completed later. The estimated cost of the "water works" was \$4,500,000, the actual cost over \$12,000,000. Water was first let



THE OLD RESERVOIR, FIFTH AVENUE, 41ST TO 42D STREET.



LOOKING DOWN INTO THE OLD RESERVOIR.

into the aqueduct June 22, into the receiving reservoir June 27, and into the distributing reservoir July 4, 1842. The great celebration of the introduction of Croton water, however, was deferred until Oct. 14.

In those days the profession of architecture was not very clearly defined in this country. On the engineering force of the Croton Water Works Commission was the late James Renwick, who was to become the architect of Grace Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral. He it was who designed the Murray Hill Reservoir, and induced the commission to give it the comely appearance that came from the Egyptian cornice, although it was reluctant to do so on account of the extra expense. The structure was of granite, 420 feet square and 44 feet high, and was divided into two equal sections. There was a promenade on the top of the wall, to which in former times people were freely admitted. At that time the elevation gave a fine view over the city far to the south; but in recent times the view was obstructed, and admission to the reservoir promenade became a special privilege.

This site is not without its historical associations of great interest. When the Americans made their retreat to Harlem Heights after the battle of Long Island they crossed the Island of Manhattan right here. When the British landed at Kip's Bay, just above Thirty-fourth Street, the flight of the patriot troops was re-

newed in a spirit of panic. Washington vainly tried to stem the tide on this very spot and to rally his forces for resistance, for the main body of American troops under Putnam's command were in or near the city below, and in danger of being cut off. History credits their escape to the cleverness of Mrs. Robert Murray, the patriotic Quakeress, and mother of Lindley Murray of English grammar fame.

The Murray country place occupied this hill and gave it the name it still holds. The mansion was on the Boston Road near the present intersection of Fourth Avenue and Thirty-seventh Street. There was a stream at the southern foot of the hill which spread into a pond where the Park Avenue Hotel and the car stables now are, and then made its way to Kip's Bay. There were cornfields of the Murray farm where now stands the Grand Central Station, and at the foot of that northern slope another brook made its way past Kip's farm to the river; and the Murray domain included the reservoir site and Bryant Park. On that notable day of the British landing and the American retreat to Harlem, when Putnam was making haste to get his troops to a junction with Washington's above the danger line of the British advance—it was Sept. 15, 1776—Mrs. Murray with shrewd hospitality invited the British officers to rest and refresh themselves at her house. It was a famous quartet—Lord Howe, Clinton, Cornwallis, Tryon—and their hostess kept them entertained for several hours. Meantime the movement of the American forces to Harlem was successfully accomplished, and the British occupation was not so brilliant a stroke as it was intended to be, though it lasted more than seven years.

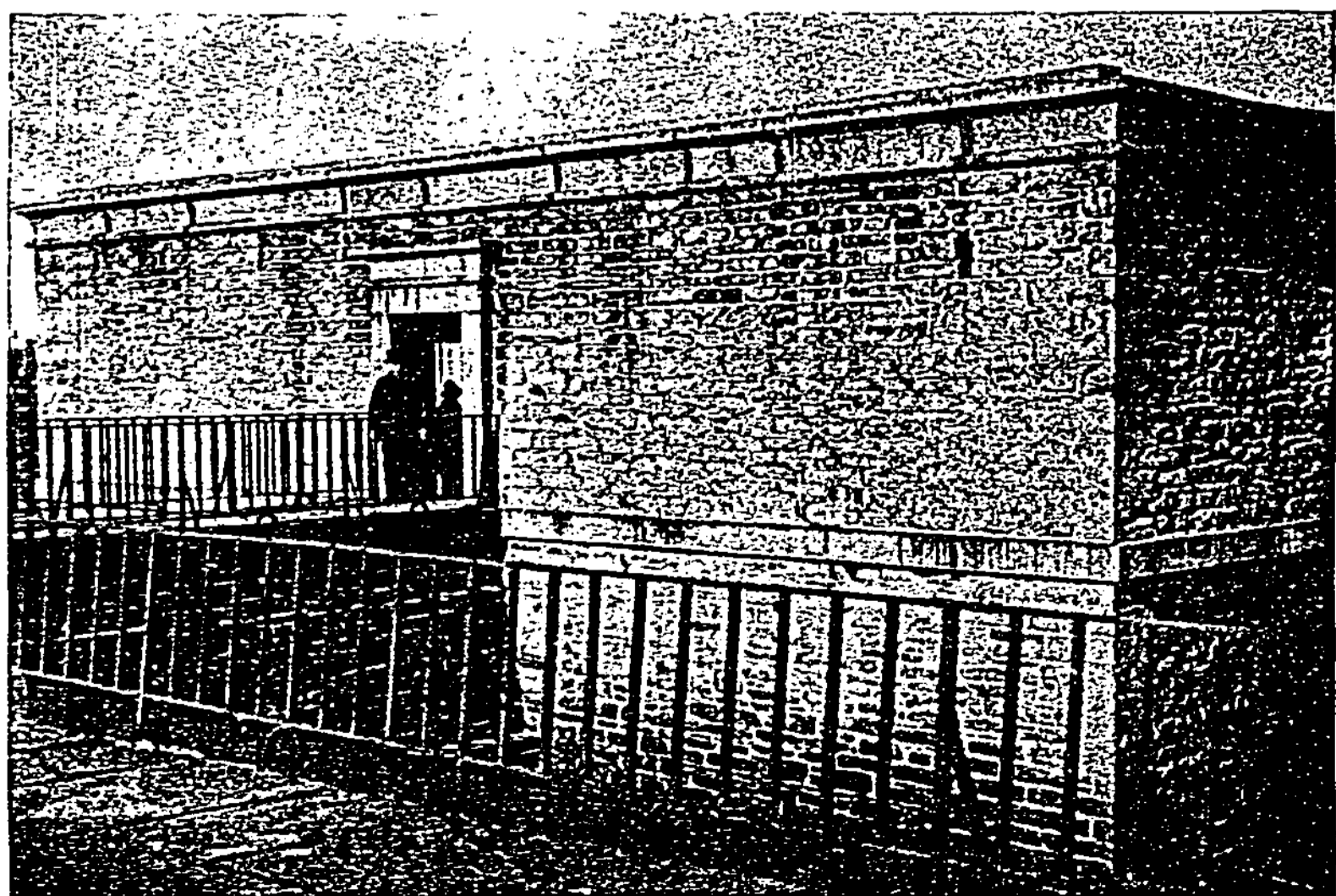
The Murrys and Kips had passed away, the farms and country places had been carved into lots, and the rectangular system of streets and avenues had been laid out and partly opened when the reservoir

water pump" supply became polluted in time. Spring water was brought into town by teams for years and sold at a penny a gallon. Disastrous losses by fire were incurred for lack of an adequate supply of water and proper means of distributing it. After an unusually serious fire in 1823 a strong movement was made for establishing a reservoir at Thirteenth Street and the Bowery, (Fourth Avenue, about,) with iron distributing pipes and hydrants, the water being pumped into the reservoir from wells. This plan was partly carried out, but the water was for fire purposes only.

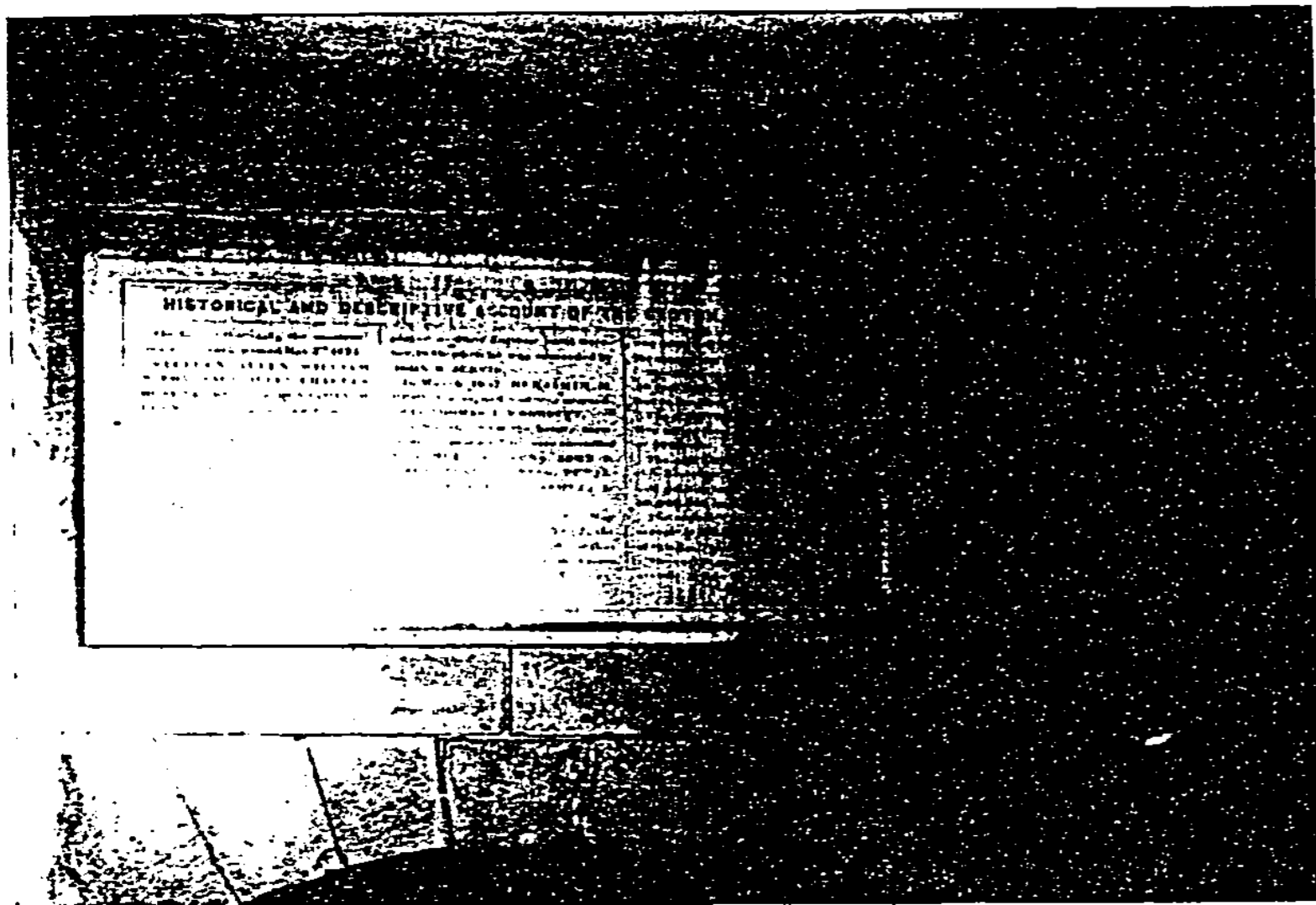
The agitation for an adequate system of water works had begun before this century came in, and it was proposed even then to bring the supply from the Bronx River. There were later proposals for going to the Housatonic or the Croton. By 1831 the demand for relief became urgent and the Common Council began seriously to act. De Witt Clinton investigated the matter, and in 1833 recommended going to the Croton River for the needed supply. Application was made to the Legislature that year for the necessary authority, but it created a State Commission to inquire into the matter. Its engineer made surveys and reported in 1834 strongly in favor of plans for introducing the Croton water. Additional powers were given to the Commissioners, with authority to proceed; and to meet expenses "water stock" of the city was to be issued to the amount of \$2,500,000, provided the people approved of the project at an election to be held in April, 1835. The vote at the election was 17,330 for and 5,963 against the undertaking, and preparations went on. Work on the aqueduct and reservoirs began in 1837 under the direction of John B. Jervis as Chief Engineer.

It remained in charge of State Commissioners, but the exciting politics of 1840 caused their removal and the appointment of a new board in the midst of the work of

sources of supply and to lay pipes and sell water, but to use its surplus funds in any business not inconsistent with law. Its real purpose was to work into the banking business, which it ultimately did. Its "pipes" were wooden "pump logs," its reservoir was in Chambers Street, nearly opposite where the Court House now is, and its supply was drawn from wells in the neighborhood and from the "Collect" pond. Its



GATEWAY OF THE OLD RESERVOIR.



TABLET ON WALL OF OLD RESERVOIR.

was placed at the top of Murray Hill, a conspicuous object from all sides. Still the city was mostly below Fourteenth Street, with straggling outskirts up the east and west sides. Fashion had been reluctantly crowded by business away from the Battery and down-town streets, but it still clung to East Broadway and St. John's Park, while reaching out to Bond Street, St. Mark's Place, Waverley Place, Washington Square—which had been rescued from the ignominy of the Potter's Field—and the lower end of Fifth Avenue. Union Square had been laid out as a public park, but not Madison Square. The latter was still occupied by the House of Refuge, where the United States Arsenal had formerly been, and on the Bloomingdale Road close by was a famous hostelry, or "roadhouse." Above that line in the central section houses were few and far between, and the reservoir stood in solitary grandeur in a region of vacant lots. There were no parks above, short of Mount Morris, but mostly a rocky waste between Yorkville and the North River, with shanties of squatters here and there. There was no thought of Central Park, and its outlines were not distinguishable from the surrounding country. The site of the upper reservoir "in Yorkville" was described as between Seventy-ninth and Eighty-sixth Streets and Sixth and Seventh Avenues, but in most of that section streets and avenues were mainly on paper.

Ten years the reservoir gazed intently southward to the city's creeping growth, when a brilliant neighbor was provided for it in the Crystal Palace, on the vacant land between it and Sixth Avenue. This airy structure of glass and iron, in form a Greek cross, with a lofty central dome, was primarily for the first World's Fair in America, which was opened with grand ceremonies by President Pierce on the Fourth of July, 1853. It was visited by throngs for months, and an effort was made to establish there a permanent exhibition of arts and manufactures, but it was not very successful. The celebration of the completion of the Atlantic cable, or at least the main indoor part of it, took place in the Crystal Palace in 1858, but on the 5th of October that same year the fairylike structure was in the short space of thirty minutes reduced by fire to a shapeless mass of twisted iron and broken and molten glass, and in the ruins were buried the burnt remains of the treasures of the American Institute.

The reservoir was alone again, but human habitations began to gather about it and the vacant spaces grew narrower. The year the shining palace disappeared the work of laying out Central Park was begun and the cornerstone of the cathedral was laid. The location was still far up town when growth was checked by the civil war and its turmoil. The development since those stirring days is familiar to the living generation. The reservoir has been taken into the bosom of the city and cherished with vines and enlivened with a park on one side, only to be cast aside now that the limitless thirst of the population takes in the whole Croton Valley water supply and draws it through bigger pipes from larger sources. It gives way to a reservoir of lit-

erature and learning to slake an equally limitless mental thirst.

AMOS K. FISKE.

ROUNDSMAN GRAHAM.

Police Roundsman Harry W. Graham, who is in command of the Broadway Squad



PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE.

below Fourteenth Street, is the tallest member of the New York City police force. He is 6 feet 6½ inches in height in his stockings, and when on duty he stands nearly 7 feet high from the soles of his shoes to the top of his helmet. Graham is a little over thirty years old, and has been in the Police Department for twelve years. He came from Sag Harbor, L. I., and both of his parents were tall. For several years this young giant was stationed at the Twenty-third Street crossing of Broadway, and while on duty there he received a special medal from the Police Commissioners for heroic service.

In 1895 Graham was promoted to the rank of Roundsman and assigned to the Twenty-sixth Precinct. When Chief McCullagh restored the Broadway Squad a few weeks ago he selected Roundsman Graham to take charge of the platoon on duty from the Battery to Fourteenth Street. He has fifty-four men under him.

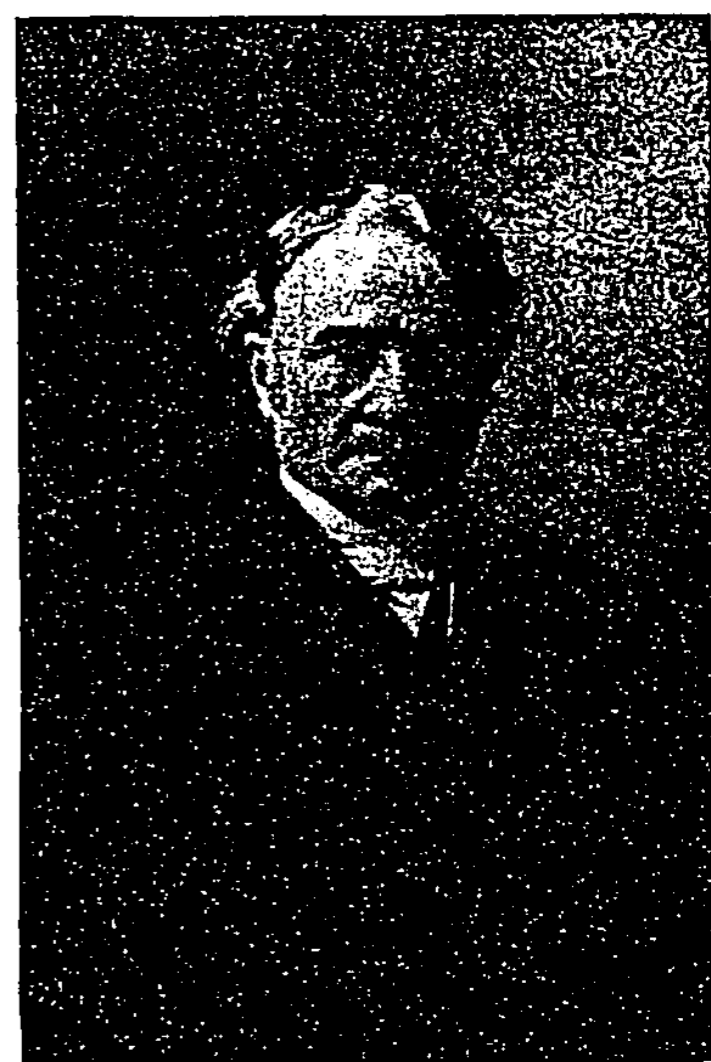
PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE.

Although Prince George of Greece seems to be something of a back number just now as regards the Governorship of Crete, there is about as much reason to believe that the close partnership of the European Concert has given him up as there is to speculate on the probability of the Sultan's taking the oath not to kill any more Armenians.

Prince George is the second son of King George I. and younger brother of the Prince Royal, Constantin, Duke of Sparta, who made such a fiasco of his attempt to whip the Turks a year ago in Thessaly. George

is very different from his brother Constantin, and the Greeks think that if he had been at their head instead of the heir apparent, the Ambassadors in Constantinople would now be regulating what tribute the Porte should pay Hellas. But, unfortunately, Prince George is not a soldier; his training has been in the navy, where he now ranks as Frigate Captain. He also holds the commission of Lieutenant in his grandfather's navy. His grandfather, King Christian IX. of Denmark, is very proud of Prince George, whom he had educated almost under his own eye. So from his father's ancestors he probably inherits his love for the sea. His mother, before her marriage in St. Petersburg, in 1867, was Olga Constantinovna, Grand Duchess of Russia. Prince George was born at Corfu, June 24, 1869. He is a strapping big fellow, over six feet in height, handsome, and of great muscular strength. His brothers, Constantin and Nicholas, who is a Captain of artillery, are much smaller. It is no wonder that the Greeks, under the influence of the memories of the heroes of ancient Hellas, should admire him above the other members of his family.

Just before the war broke out, a year ago, Prince George was ordered with a torpedo flotilla to Crete. He narrowly escaped having a brush with some foreign men-of-war when the latter shelled Candia. And it is to his credit that he committed no rash act which might have involved his country in worse complications than those which then surrounded her. It is also, perhaps, fortunate for the peace of Europe that the Turkish iron-clads preferred to lie rusting in the Golden Horn and let the fleets of the powers fight, by so-called moral



The Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, New Secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

question drifted into a war between two nations. It was he who conceived the idea of reviving the ancient Olympic games in the Summer of 1896. The contests in the Stadion at Athens will be long remembered by American athletes, for many Americans were victorious there.

Thoroughly believing in their Prince, the Greeks would be very glad to see him rule over their kinsmen in Crete. In spite of the Sultan's objection and the disagreements of the powers among themselves, they may yet live to see him Governor of the island.

THE REV. DR. CHARLES L. THOMPSON.

The Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, the new Secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, was born in Cooperstown, Penn., on Aug. 18, 1839. He was graduated from Carroll College in 1858, and spent two years at Princeton Theological Seminary and one at the Northwestern, (now McCormick,) being graduated from there in 1861.

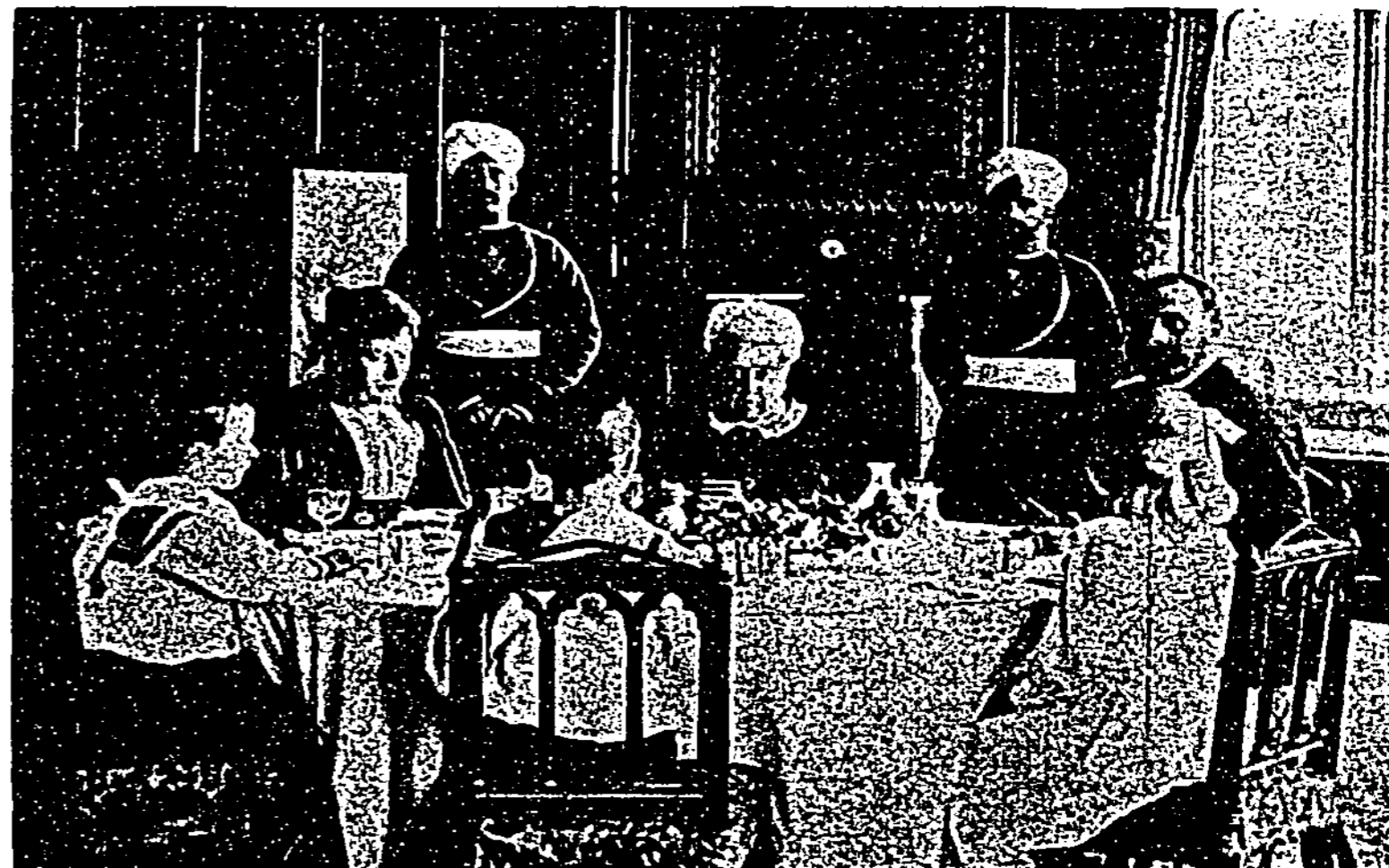
His first charge was a home mission church at Juneau, Wis., and since then he has had pastorates at Janesville, Wis.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; and Kansas City, Mo. In 1888 he was the Moderator of the Centennial General Assembly held in Philadelphia, and in the Summer of the same year received a call to the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, this city, where he has been ever since. For nearly ten years he has been a member of the Board of Home Missions, and is conversant with the Home Mission work both on the frontiers and in the great cities.

As Chairman of the Committee of Applications, all of the home missions appropriations have passed through his hands. He prepared the overture on the relations of synodical sustentation to the Home Board, which was the cause of the appointment of the present General Assembly's Committee on that subject. He was the Chairman of the Assembly's committee on co-operation in mission work and is the Chairman of the New York Presbytery's Committee of Home Missions. He is the President of the Open and Institutional Church League, his own church having done much to solve the question of institutional churches in this land.

Dr. Thompson has qualifications for the office of Secretary which few men in the Presbyterian ministry possess. By his early training in home mission fields, and by his long and faithful service as a member of the Home Board, he is fitted to take up the work as the General Assembly intends that it shall be done hereafter. Dr. Thompson is a magnetic speaker, having few peers on the subject of home missions.



Roundsman Harry W. Graham, Tallest Policeman of the Broadway Squad.



Photograph by J. Russell & Sons, London and Windsor. QUEEN VICTORIA, PRINCESS BEATRICE, AND THE BATTENBERG CHILDREN AT LUNCHEON.