

TRAVEL THROUGH BY TIME

Suburbs of New York, Once Homes of the Wealthy and Fashionable, Now Occupied by Grimy Mills and Factories.

(Special Correspondence.)

New York moves with too fast and determined a stride to have much time spent for sentiment, but for one who is alive to the glamor that hangs over a past that is fast being thrust back into complete forgetfulness, this city contains many regions that are peculiarly rich in memories. And on none of these has the hand of time been so clearly marked as on the countryside that is covered to-day by Astoria and Flushing.

Fifty years ago this stretch of land, all the way from Hunter's Point to Flushing meadows, was the resort and the home of a society even more respected and fashionable than that which now migrates to its Berkshires, its Bar Harbor and its Newport. In their simple, generous way they were the patrons instead of the protectors of their day, and one needs only to read such names as La Roque, Black-

well, Lawrence, Riker, Rapelye, Holmstrom, Potter, Barclay and Wolcott among the names of the great houses of the colony across the river was indeed the home of the very leaders of New York. Great weather-worn mansions have been partly demolished, as it was in an unsafe condition. The Rapelye and Holmstrom houses, however, which stand near by on what formerly was Broad avenue and the Boulevard, are still kept up by families. During the Revolution the Holmstrom house was part of a block house situated at the foot of the river, and was removed bodily on skids to its present site. The Rapelye house also dates back to the days before the revolution, and during the British occupancy

of the house. The persons who pass along the main thoroughfares in the clanging trolley cars only an occasional antiquarian understands why the entrance way to the factory has moss-grown walls round it and wide gateways sweeping inward, through which the road runs under an average of six or eight feet of water. Jammed in among lumber yards and factory walls. Yet it is safe to say that between Newtown and Blackwell's Cove still stand more than 200 of such old mansions, all of which are deserted save for a few Italian squatters.

When I come into my landed estate I'll bet nobody will put me out," said a Broadway philosopher after he had recently lost his place in the country through the foreclosure of a mortgage. "Why, I didn't know you owned any real estate."

"I don't know, but I am very full of having some later on. It will be very smart not to buy the other private, although in a populous neighborhood. There will be several other advantages, too. It will be free from taxes, and I'll be exempt from jury duty."

"Isn't that fine!" I congratulate him. "Which would inherit something like that? Where is your place?"

"The other man said nothing worth my attention, but the injudicious foreclosing mortgages."—New York Herald.

Woman Knows Value of Health. She has just met the finest specimen of young womanhood I ever saw. "And I am wondering how long she will be that. She is devoted to athletics, and although she has recently acquired a husband and home, she allows nothing to interfere with her habits. A 7 o'clock breakfast does not stand in the way of her morning bath. She simply gets up a little earlier, that is all. As her husband does not get home for luncheon she eats that at the club, and her friends, tramping long distances with a total disregard for weather. She has a chest expansion like an athlete, and it is her lungs up her habits she is bound to remain healthy to the end. I am afraid she will unconsciously fall into slacker ways, as other women do, when under similar circumstances, but I shall water her with a deal of interest."—Chicago News.

Fares Better. The late George Gissing, said the New York publisher, wrote dismal novels because "his life was a dismal Gissing. In his youth, suffered from poverty dreadfully. It is sad to think of the ignorant and the pain that this great old man had to undergo for years endured."

He was a little embittered by all that wretchedness. He was an odd, gay, sardonic, sullen. In after life, I remember, when Lombroso's book on "Genius" came out, a characteristic remark that Gissing made about it: "Lombroso, you remember, said in this book that there is no difference between genius and madness."

"No difference between genius and madness, eh? Ah, but there is a difference. Madness gets three square meals a day."—

stood near Little Hill Gate, just at the point where the Shore Road turns westward, and overlooked the East River, one of its most picturesque spots, where, even on the hottest days of summer, the verandas always were swept by cool breezes. The river bank was walled and covered for nearly an eighth of a mile by the Wolcotts, while on the side of the road, away from the river a heavy cement wall was built. To-day the walls are still as perfect as when they first were put up. The Wolcott house is no longer in evidence, having been burned down several years ago; but the lodge still stands in a grove of buttonwoods, just inside the entrance gates, though it is slowly dropping to decay.

Old Benner Homestead. At the foot of Woolsey street there still stands a massive residence, double porticoed, faced with field pillars and crowned by a stately cupola. It is the old Benner home, and some of the family live there to-day. The house was built in 1790, and was kept its famous rose beds from the intrusion of the outside world has grown into a row of oaks, dwarfed in height, but with thick and ragged stems.

The old La Roque house is still fairly well preserved, and is a good example of what many of the families houses must have been fifty years ago; but the large Vandewater house has been partly demolished, as it was in an unsafe condition. The Rapelye and Holmstrom houses, however, which stand near by on what formerly was Broad avenue and the Boulevard, are still kept up by families.

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It consists of a tower at each anchorage built of skeleton framework. In the center of which an elevator operates. Cables are suspended from a cradle at the tower top and anchored near the base of the opposite tower. Pivoted counterweights are provided, which serve to keep the cable taut and to compensate for any variations in cable tension. These weights also remove the lateral pressure of the towers, producing instead a downward pressure thereon.

The system does not require any elevated approaches to the bridge entrances. The transporter cars are suspended from swivel trucks, which travel on the cables. The car thereupon descends by gravity to the opposite tower. The cars are entirely independent of each other and the string of cars may be as long as regulated at will, thus affording a saving of time over such systems as employ two counter-balancing cars.

CHANGES IN WHEAT BELT.

Vermont, Once the Granary of New York, Falls Far Behind. Vermont was once the granary of New York City. It now produces only one bushel of wheat to more than 200 in Minnesota, the banner state.

Rocheater was once known as the "flower city." Now it is called the "flower city." But New York still raises as much wheat as Wisconsin. Maryland produces more than either, Kansas produces nearly as much, and Pennsylvania three times as much. Only eight states surpass Pennsylvania in wheat raising. Kansas produces nearly as much wheat as both the Dakotas, which are much more often mentioned as wheat states.

It is a trifle more than half of the wheat crop grows west of the Mississippi, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio still produce 90,000,000 bushels, which is more than any far western state, and over one-eighth of the whole crop. Little Delaware raises more wheat than any New England. Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina raise 25,000,000 bushels.

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