At a meeting of the Committee on Small Parks, held June 17, 1897, the following resolution was adopted:-

RESOLVED.-

That His Honor, the Mayor, be notified that the title to the five blocks of property embraced in the proposed Eleventh Ward and Division Street Parks will pass to the city on June 22d without further legal proceedings, under the Act to speed the acquisition of these properties which became law on May 22d; and that it be respectfully represented to His Honor, that the need of these parks in the midst of the densest population of the city is so great that it would be a hardship to have any delay whatever occur in the carrying out of the provisions of the law. The Committee is strongly of the opinion that these parks should be pressed to completion as rapidly as necessary regard for the city's interests will admit.

At a meeting of the Committee on Small Parks, held June 17, 1897, the following resolution was adopted:-

RESOLVED.-

That the attention of His Honor, the Mayor, be drawn to the fact that the plans for the extension of Corlears Hook Park to the riverside, to which the city authorities gave their assent at the time of the opening of the park, have not been carried out. By the simple acquisition of a few lots on the river front, the erection of a proper bulwark and the removal of the street car tracks from between the park and the river to streets skirting the park on the land side, this improvement may be effected, and Corlears Hook Park come to its just rights. The present condition of the river front constitutes a constant danger to persons frequenting the park.

At a meeting of the Committee on Small Parks, held June 17, 1897, the following resolutions were adopted:-

RESOLVED.-
That the attention of His Honor, the Mayor, be directed to the fact that the general Small Parks Act does not, like the special law under which two new parks are now being acquired in the Tenth and Eleventh Wards, require that every park shall be in part finished as a public playground, and that failure to so do would be a violation of the spirit of the Act.

RESOLVED.-
That His Honor, the Mayor, be requested to cause the authority residing in the Department of Parks to provide every park hereafter made with a playground to be exercised; and further, that, where possible, a part of the parks already laid out shall be so utilized.

At a meeting of the Committee on Small Parks, held June 17, 1897, the following resolution was adopted:-

RESOLVED.-

That the Committee respectfully suggests to the Mayor the propriety of conferring with the Park Commissioners in reference to the placing of sand heaps for little children in such parks and places as in the judgment of the Commissioners are adapted for this use.

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At a meeting of the Committee on Small Parks, held June 18, 1897, the following resolution was adopted:-

RESOLVED.- That the Secretary communicate with His Honor, the Mayor, directing his attention to complaints made of the slow progress in the matter of condemning the property included in the area of the proposed Jefferson Park, commonly called "Little Italy Park," between One Hundred and Eleventh and One Hundred and Fourteenth Street, east of First Avenue, and to the desirability of speeding the work as much as possible.

301 Mulberry Street,

New York, June 18, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your Advisory Committee on Small Parks, at its last meeting adopted the following resolutions touching parks now in existence or in process of being acquired, and directed me to forward the same to you. Accordingly, I have the honor to enclose them.

Very respectfully,

Jacob A. Riis

Secretary Committee on Small Parks.

Enclosure.

C.R. 4398.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

June 22nd, 1897.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice-President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir,-

I have the honor to acknowledge, by direction of the Board of Parks, the receipt of your communication of the 19th inst., communicating action taken at the meeting of the Committee on Small Parks, held at your office on the 17th inst., and to advise you that at a meeting of the Commissioners of this Department, held on the 21st inst., the Board of Street Opening and Improvement was requested to take the necessary steps to acquire the property on the river front of Corlear's Hook Park, as recommended.

I am also directed to state that the other matters referred to in your letter shall receive proper attention from the Department.

Respectfully,

William Cary

Secretary.

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

July 1st, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 28th ult., enclosing a letter from the Governor, to which is attached one from James Keleher, who desires to be reinstated as a laborer in this Department.

Upon investigation, I find that this man was discharged under charges and cannot be reinstated under the law within three years. He was given an opportunity to be heard on the charges, but didnot appear and his case was decided against him because of this fact.

Respectfully,

Sam'l McMillan

President.

National Academy of Design.
N. Y. Chapter of the Am. Inst. of Architects.
American Water Color Society.
Society of American Artists.
The Architectural League of N. Y.
American Fine Arts Society.
Municipal Art Society of N. Y.
Society of Beaux Arts Architects.
National Sculpture Society.
The Mural Painters.

THE FINE ARTS FEDERATION OF NEW YORK.

EDW. HAMILTON BELL, SECRETARY,

424 FIFTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK, July 2nd, 1897

To the Honorable Commissioners of the Park Board.

Wm. L. Strong, Esq.,

Mayor City of New York,

City Hall,

New York City.

Your Honor:-

I have the honor to submit to you a resolution passed by the Council of the Fine Arts Federation at a meeting held last night.

Yours respectfully,

Edw Hamilton Bell Secretary.

Whereas: The artists of New York look forward with great interest to the establishment of the contemplated Botanical Gardens; and, whereas, they believe that these Gardens are to be placed in one of the public parks, they are justified in demanding that they shall be so arranged and disposed that they shall add to and not detract from the artistic effect of the surrounding landscape.

And whereas:

The Department of Public Parks have retained experts, whose standing and ability is recognized not only by the members of their respective professions but by the public at large, to examine and report upon the artistic excellence of the general scheme prepared for the construction of the proposed Botanical Gardens in Bronx Park.

And whereas:

These experts have unanimously condemned the proposed scheme and have recommended changes and alterations:

And whereas:

It is conceded that those in control of important Municipal Projects should co-operate with, and act upon the advice of, skilled experts, in order that the work proposed may reach a successful issue.

THEREFORE:

Be it resolved that the Council of the Fine Arts Federation deeply regret, and strongly deprecate, the action of the Park Board in rejecting the recommendations of its commission of experts to whom it had referred the plan formulated by the Board of Management of the Botanical Gardens; and that they respectfully urge the said Park Board to reconsider its resolution approving of the general scheme referred to and to give to the report of its experts the consideration to which it is entitled.

Copy.

The Fine Arts Federation of New York,

Edw. Hamilton Bell, Secretary,

424 Fifth Avenue,

New York, July 3rd, 1897.

To the Honorable Commissioners of the Park Board,

Samuel McMillan, Esq.,

President Park Board,

Arsenal, Central Park,

New York City.

Dear Sir,-

I have the honor to submit herewith a resolution passed by the Council of the Fine Arts Federation at a meeting held July 1st.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) Edw. Hamilton Bell,

Secretary.

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

June 30th, 1897.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

The Honorable

William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir,-

I have the honor to advise you that the Board of Parks has accepted and approved of a memorial to the late Richard Morris Hunt, proposed to be erected on the Central Park by the Municipal Art Society, and a site therefor has been designated in the Fifth Avenue wall of the Park opposite the Lenox Library midway between 70th and 71st Streets. Inviting your attention to Chapter 108 of the Laws of 1896, which provides that no statue or piece of sculpture or work of art in the nature of a public monument or memorial shall be erected or placed upon any ground belonging to the City of New York without the approval of the Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the President of the National Sculpture Society, and the President of the Municipal Art Society, I am directed to request such approval for the proposed memorial as described.

I may add that the donors are in readiness to proceed with the work of erecting the monument, and have communicated their

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

desire to proceed with the same as soon as may be permissible, in view of which an early consideration of the matter by the Board or Committee named in the law cited is respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

William Leary

Secretary.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

New York, July 15 1897.

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Parks has requested the undersigned to pass upon the memorial to the late Richard Morris Hunt to be erected in the Central Park in the City of New York;

AND WHEREAS, upon examination, it appears to be a commendable work of art; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the power vested in us by Chapter 108 of the Laws of 1896, we do hereby approve of the same.

W. L. Strong
Mayor.

John J. Coleman
President of Board of Aldermen.

Chas. T. Barney
President of Municipal Art Society.

President of National Sculpture Society.

R. A. Ward

Copy

City of New York
Dept. of Public Parks
July 19, 1897

Board of Estimate & Apportionment
City.

Gentlemen

At a Meeting of the Board of Parks, held this day, the following resolution was adopted;

Resolved - That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment be and hereby is respectfully requested to authorize the Comptroller to issue Bonds to the Amount of Five hundred thousand dollars, ($500 000.) in the manner provided by Chapter 285. of the Laws of 1891. as amended by Chapter 717. of the Laws of 1896. in such sums as may be from time to time required for the purpose of Erecting Museum and Other buildings on the Lands allotted for the use of the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park.

Respectfully
Signed Wm. Leary
Secretary.

Board of Estimate and Apportionment,
July 28 1897
Referred to the Comptroller
Chas. V. Adee
Clerk

Dept. Public Parks

July 19. 1897

Requisition for issue of
$500,000 - Bonds for
Museum - N.Y. Botanical
Garden - & Bronx Park

Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

July 28 1897

Referred to the Comptroller

Chas. T. Hall
Clerk

C.R. 4108.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely

July 21st, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

I have the honor to advise you that the Board of Parks has accepted and approved of a new statue of Col. de Peyster, to replace the statue now standing in Bowling Green Park.

Inviting your attention to Chapter 108 of the Laws of 1896 which provides that no statue or piece of sculpture or work of art, in the nature of a public monument or memorial shall be erected upon any ground belonging to the City without the approval of the Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the President of the National Sculpture Society and the President of the Municipal Art Society, I am diredted to respectfully request such approval for the statue herein referred to.

Respectfully,

William Leary

Secretary.

C.R. 4-508.

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City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer, Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

June 14th, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

My dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant.

In regard to erecting the facade of the Tombs for an entrance to Central Park at 5th Avenue and 81st Street, I would say that this matter has already been brought to the attention of the Board from another source and was referred to the National Sculpture Society, for report and suggestions. When their report is received, it will be considered, in conjunction with your suggestions, by the Board.

In regard to the plans of the Botanical Garden, I may say that I am in entire sympathy with what you say. I believe that the work should be begun without further delay, even if we do err a little. It seems to me that so much time has been spent in preparing the plans in question and so much talent has been at work upon them, that they must have undoubted merit and I am ready, after hearing the report of our Expert Committee, to vote upon the matter, giving each opinion due weight. Differences in opinion will always exist, particularly among experts, and it is only a question of differences in opinions that we have to consider in this matter.

C.R. 4-308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

I hope and believe that this matter of accepting the plans of the Botanical Garden people will be settled without any further serious delay and without any damage to the purposes of the Botanical Society, and I beg to assure you that I will do every thing in my power to further the same.

Very respectfully,

Sam'l McMillan

C.R. 4306.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

June 15th, 1897.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
L. Von Rensselaer Cruger, Vice-President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir,-

I have the honor to advise you that the subject matters of your communication of the 12th inst. were considered by the Board of Parks at a meeting held on the 14th inst.

The suggestion for the transfer of the facade of the Tombs to the locality of the Egyptian obelisk in Central Park has been submitted to the National Sculpture Society for their opinion.

The Commissioners have had several conferences with the Directors of the New York Botanical Garden touching the plans now under consideration, and are awaiting a further expression of the views of the Directors with regard to certain suggested modifications, which are promised for Friday next. A special meeting of the Board will be held on that day to further consider and determine the matter.

Respectfully,

William Leary

Secretary.

Copy.

NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY
Building of the American Fine Arts Society,
215 W. 57th St., New York City.

J. Q. A. Ward, President
119 West 52nd St.,

S. P. Avery, 2nd Vice-President
4 East 38th St.,

Russell Sturgis, 1st Vice President
307 East 17th St.,

I. Wyman Drummond, Treas.,
436 W. 22nd St.,

Barr Ferree, Secretary,
112 Wall Street.

New York, July 20th, 1897.

Hon. William Leary, Secretary,

Department of Public Parks,

The Arsenal, New York.

Sir,-

Referring to your communications dated June 9th and 15th, in reference to the transfer of the gateway and porch of the old City Prison, known as the Tombs, to the Central Park, the Society begs leave to report that in its opinion the architectural merit of that building being of slight interest or value, no portion of it is worthy of preservation. As a part of a prison it can have no general interest, and the copying on a small scale of the grand and colossal art of ancient Egypt has been unfortunate as calculated to mislead the popular mind in regard to the architectural beauty of this style. Such a building would be an incongruous addition to the Park or to any group of monuments whatever.

The Society, therefore, does not recommend the utilization of any part of it as proposed.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Barr Ferree,

Secretary.

C.H. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

July 28th, 1897.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Giles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir,-

Referring to your communication of the 12th ult. respecting the suggestion to utilize for the park a portion of the facade of the old Tombs building, I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a report of the National Sculpture Society, with whom this Department advises on all subjects of art works intended for the parks, which contains the opinion that such utility of any portion of the structure of the former City Prison would not be advisable, and I beg to advise you that the Board of Parks at a meeting, held on the 26th inst., concurred in the conclusion of the Society as contained in this report.

Respectfully,

William Peary

Secretary.

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
L. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

August 3rd, 1897

Honorable William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, regarding permitting City employees who are members of the G. A. R. to attend the Annual Encampment the week beginning August 23rd, 1897.

This Department will be governed in the matter entirely by your suggestions.

Respectfully,

Sam'l McMillan

President.

R. W. Gibson,
Architect,

18 Wall Street,
New York, Aug. 10,1897.

Mr. E. E. McLane,
Engineer, Comptrollers Office,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to submit as requested by you in our conversation this morning an explanation of the plans of the Botanical Garden now before you upon the request of the Department of Public Parks.

The buildings contemplated include

Museum Building
Horticultural House
Power House for heating above
Propagating houses
Stable for gardening plant
Closets for public use

The plans prepared by me and the estimated cost of the work are as follows:-

First portion of the Museum Building....	$255,000.00
" " " equipment of same.....	50,000.00
Power House.....	40,000.00
Stable.....	2,500.00
Closets.....	1,500.00
The plans prepared by Messrs Lord & Burnham for first portion of Horticultural and propagating houses are designed to cost.....	151,000.00
Making the total authorized.....	$500,000.00

It being arranged that the estimates for the Horticultural houses are to be received in such form as to permit of acceptance with or without certain additions, so that the work contracted for can be limited to the amount available after the previously named items are provided for. This item being an elastic one upon which it is easy to save or expend according to circumstances.

A detailed description of the Museum Building is enclosed.

R. W. Gibson,
Architect,

18 Wall Street,
New York,

I will take an early opportunity to call upon you to give any further explanations necessary.

Yours very respectfully
R. W. Gibson
Architect

(enclosure)

From the Secretary of the New York Botanical Garden, submitting plans and specifications for buildings to be erected on the grounds set aside for the use of the Botanical Garden in Bronx Park.

Commissioner McMillan offered the following:

Resolved, That the plans, specifications and form of contract this day received for the erection of a museum building, power-house, stable, closet group and greenhouses in Bronx Park for the purpose of the New York Botanical Garden be approved, and the specifications and form of contract ordered printed, and when printed and approved as to form by the Counsel to the Corporation, and funds shall be available therefor, that an advertisement be inserted in the CITY RECORD inviting proposals for doing the work.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes—Commissioners McMillan, Cruger, Ely—3.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
MUSEUM BUILDING.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE DESIGN BY

R. W. GIBSON, Architect,
18 Wall Street, New York.

The site selected for this building (as for each of the others) is one in which it will not detract from the natural beauties of the park. The land to be occupied is a tract of open grass meadow in the immediate vicinity of the Bedford Park Railway station which had been laid out in streets and building lots, and where no trees of any scenic value remain to be disturbed. Its present condition is the usual unattractive state of land awaiting improvement and having no character or beauty of its own. Other portions of the gardens however include many scenes and places of romantic beauty all of which are to be preserved and cared for, and in none of these are any buildings to be erected.

The leading features of the design for the Museum Building, deduced from the requirements and the surroundings, with careful attention to the special character of the exhibits and studies to which the building is to be devoted, are

First. Abundant daylight; by very large windows.

Second. Accessibility of upper stories; by studied arrangement of approaches and stairs and halls.

Third. Facility of maintenance and management; by simplicity of plan and uniformity of structure, and by provision for interchangeable parts and fittings, and by cleanly materials.

Fourth. Absolute fireresisting qualities much more perfect than hitherto customary.

Fifth. An artistic treatment of the exterior to avoid the appearance of excessive height and to fit the building as an artificial unit in the natural and half wild surroundings.

Sixth. Scholastic and dignified architectural detail without any forced or superfluous compositions.

ABUNDANT DAYLIGHT the first named need is the starting point of this design. By it are suggested the great windows and comparatively small piers of the Italian Corinthian order in preference to wall masses pierced by isolated windows.

The external effect thus obtained is strong and massive while the interior benefits by unusual proportions of voids to solids in the walling. Not only the width but the height of the openings is greater than usual in classic composition.

ACCESSIBILITY the second demand is studied in the elements of the ground plan. After mature consideration the general outline suggested by the committee is endorsed (not merely accepted) because it affords the most simple and therefore the most desirable scheme.

The principal entrance is put at the first floor level so that all the public museum halls are within one flight of stairs up and one down. This is managed by forming a terrace along the main front of the building reached by an inclined approach and raised at the centre, half the height of the basement, and by keeping the basement down a little (without however lowering any window sills below the ground level). Thus the main floor is reached without conscious climbing, while the basement preserves its proper height of story. The great artistic value of this arrangement is considered in another paragraph.

At the ends the basement has entrances at the ground level where it is made coincident with the floor level. Free and safe exit is thus afforded from the large lecture theatre, and on the other hand convenient level entrance with no steps whatever for the entry and discharge of stores, exhibits, etc.,

The central hall is given some architectural distinction by a circular colonnade; the space thus separated is still available for certain exceptional exhibits of bold or bulky character without injuring the halls utility as a focus of communications.

The main staircase of ample proportions, easy and safe for the regulation of crowds, is opposite the entrance. It has a very large halfway landing where a few exhibits will serve to break the passage upward, and where very large windows flood the whole extent of the stair with daylight. This stair extends only to the second story which has museum halls similar to the first. From the second floor another stair extends to the third which can thus be easily guarded from intrusion.

Two elevators have been provided, one for passengers and one for freight. The latter could, however, be used for passengers when not needed for its prime service just as is now done in office buildings. Both elevators are close to the entrances so that they can be reached by persons desiring an upper floor without just traversing the lower floor, and they give access equally to the museum department and to the student department.

On the third floor the hall is arranged on the front of the building in order to leave all the north light of the rear part available for the laboratories. The library occupies a central position over the principal hall and staircase, and the various rooms are each accessible without traversing other rooms.

This completes the general review of access and communications.

FACILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE have suggested in the design a regularity and similarity of parts, equal distances apart, and widths, of windows, columns, etc., so that exhibition cases fitted for one place can be equally well moved and set up in other places. In the construction, girders, columns and beams so far as possible of equal and similar sizes afford economy and strength of construction and a minimum of repairs; and

the construction of the floors is so devised that if desirable the columns can be changed and placed at distances apart different from those indicated.

The interior finish of the building is calculated to simplify its maintenance. In the central halls and stairs white marble is advised for floors and wainscotings. Its cleanliness and durability are exceptional. It can be relieved from severity by the use sparingly of one color such as yellow in combination. For the museum floors is recommended a composition of natural marble in "mixture" colors which is durable and economical, and can be so constructed so as to avoid the unsightly cracks usual in marble mosaic floors of greater cost.

For the finish of walls and columns some one of the hard patent plasters is proposed partly with regard to their efficiency as fireproofing protection, and partly for the facility with which its painted surfaces may be renovated and purified. With such impervious floors and walls the comfort of persons is secured and, equally important, the impossibility of dampness prevents the lodgement of mildews and bacteria; the great enemies of museums. A system of ventilation will also assist to these objects.

FIREPROOF QUALITIES ABSOLUTE AND CONSISTENT are provided and urged not only in the construction but in the finish. That this is not a superfluous theory is shown by recent experiences. In this design there is not to be used any combustible structure or finish whatever. The numerous wooden finishings found in most buildings of fireproof construction are banished. The hard wood floors, the wainscotings, the paneled window jambs, the casings and jambs and cornices of doors, the doors themselves, and the window frames and sashes, the enclosures and shelving of store rooms, the details of coat rooms, toilet rooms and laboratories, and the furniture of the library and stack room shall all be fireproof, and if the committee please, even the show cases and cabinets of the museum halls, so that not only the safety of the building structurally but also the safety of each room and its contents shall be assured. It is in this direction that progress is necessary in fireproof building. Hitherto the motive seems to have been to restrict a fire to certain limits of one or two rooms. It should be to prevent fire altogether.

AN EXTERIOR OF ARTISTIC VALUE is of great importance in a building erected by a metropolis for educational purposes -- without sacrificing utility or forgetting economy much can be done to secure this desideration. The requirements of the committee suggest at first a building of practically four stories each of considerable height; but at the outset it is seen that to simply pile up these stories would produce an edifice entirely out of harmony with the site and the charming natural beauties of its surroundings. The rising land with the background of exquisitely wooded undulations would be spoiled by a lofty rectangular block of a building even if ever so good intrinsically. The hills of the park are not large in scale nor are the woods of great height.

Their semicivilized character invites as a foil the refinement of a classic building. But it must be like them of somewhat varied yet not overbold outline so that it shall appear to belong to the soil upon which it has grown.

These circumstances have been met by a design of Italian Renaissance style in which regularity is confined to the two chief stories, where the main order of Corinthian pilasters and entablature about 42 feet in height is carried uniformly through all parts and thus give unity to the edifice, while the upper story is made to appear in full effect only in the central mass and upon the flanking wings, the intermediate portions showing steep roofs with dormer windows.

The order is limited to two stories because these are the chief portions of the structure and are thus appropriately marked in the external character, and because the upper story is thus left susceptible of freer and more varied treatment.

The central feature is crowned by the dome of the reading room rising somewhat higher than any other part and making a reposeful culmination of the height. The whole stands upon a basement which is partly masked by the approaches and terrace. Thus the apparent height is lessened and the skyline varied without injury to the utilitarian interior. The order of pillars gives bold scale to the building, with vertical lines effective at distances, and in harmony with the woodland surroundings. The terrace and approaches serve as a setting by which the artificial masonry is led up to form the natural landscape, and while size and spacious extent are evident there is no gigantic block to destroy the scale of the scenery.

ALL THE DETAIL which the small scale of drawings cannot show, will be academic and historical although the design is entirely original and in no respect a copy or reproduction of older work.

The materials of complete design are to be white stone and white brick and terra cotta which mature in a few months to a light gray most harmonious with the foliage surrounding. The bases and the columns of the order would be stone and certain other features. The brick can be so exactly matched in this color as to be not distinguishable at ordinary distances. The amount of stone used would depend somewhat upon the expenditures permitted. The amount named in the instructions for the portion now to be built would suggest economy; so that a very free use of stone would not be desirable unless a slight increase of cost were allowed. But an excellent rendering of the design can be given in the combination of materials suggested.

In first portion stone porticoes &c are omitted

The stone columns and cornices of the porticoes and orders of the flanking wings are so designed that in case the first appropriation proves insufficient they may be left off until the expense can be borne.

The building can be made correctly artistic without these by a direct and frank expression of its own character.

The location is not absolutely fixed by anything on the design. The position indicated in the instructions it would suit it excellently. It is suggested that the building should face not due south but a little west of it as that would improve its appearance from the station and Boulevard and would also give better north light in the afternoon when most valuable.

THE ACCOMMODATIONS provided include the following, all practically of the sizes suggested in the instructions.

BASEMENT.

The Lecture Theatre to seat 800 persons is placed at the western intersection of the wings where it will be nearest the railway station and highway and have the advantage of outside windows for light and ventilation. It is planned in an original way in an effort to avoid some usual defects. The customary forms of halls have many seats from which the illustrations upon the screens cannot be seen, especially those occupying the side portions close to the platform. But if the room be planned narrower then the great length makes it difficult to hear from the remote end. It is therefore recommended that a quadrant form of plan be adopted, as giving perfect view from all parts and placingall seats within a very moderate range of the speakers voice.

This theatre has three large exits to the open air direct, and is also accessible from the general basement. All these doors are level with the ground outside without steps, so that an alarm can have no disastrous effects. The aisles widen as their duty increases, and they discharge upgrade. There are no columns; the floor overhead will be suspended from girders of double capacity in the second tier. Full height and good accousties are secured by sinking the pit of the theatre below the normal basement level. The study given to this lecture room is only partly revealed by the plans.

The central hall is repeated in the basement, and an exhibition hall extends on either side with very good daylight. The north windows are made of extraordinary size. There are several store rooms, etc. provided.

Toilet rooms for both sexes are placed in the front and rear respectively of the basement where good daylight and ventilation are secured.

Two entrances are placed in the centre,and two at each end. It is thought that any entrance not required can be easily modified for use as a window.

The court of the building formed by the side wings is enclosed to the north by the glazed gallery referred to elsewhere; although this is only the height of the first story it will serve to make the deep recess and greatly beautify that aspect of the building which will in the future be a more important one than now.

The boilers and engines are placed under the court, and access to them is provided independent of the building proper.

The court is by a large gateway accessible to waggons for delivery of stores.

FIRST FLOOR.

The general plan provides halls uniformly 50 feet wide and 20 feet high and of lengths of about 100 feet. For the sake of the exterior effect the future extension is planned to be a little longer than 100 feet, but this is not imperative.

The central hall and museum halls have a combined area of 34,056 feet, or in the provisional form of 20,642 feet. Offices and board room of 1000 feet are provided opposite the main entrance beyond the stair.

The glass gallery for living plants on this floor has an area of about 3100 feet and makes the complete circut of the building 864 feet internally. It has a special service elevator and stair for the transfer of exhibits.

SECOND FLOOR.

The museum halls and central hall would have finally an area on this floor of 35,056 feet and provisionally an area of 21,642 feet.

The flat tiled roof of the north gallery serves as an agreeable form of summer communication and possibly of outdoor exhibits.

THIRD FLOOR.

The third floor has rooms nearly as suggested. The necessity of a good communicating hall makes the area of the provisional rooms rather less than the extent calculated in the instructions.

The hall, elevators and stairs and toilet rooms are placed on the south side so as to leave the north light all available for laboratories. This gives a simplicity of plan and allows of more variety in the design of the front.

The library is made the central department with two subdivisions; the reading room under the dome, which is of glass in its upper part; and the stack room or book room which is to the rear in the square central block. It is evident that if the separate stack room be not required the space could be combined with the reading room or used for class rooms.

To the east of the library are placed in order a class room 985 feet with north light, the Morphological laboratory 1781 feet with north light, a smaller class room 270 feet, and the Herbarium laboratory 4455 feet.

To the west are placed the Bacteriological laboratory 985 feet, the Physiological laboratory 1781 feet and its class room 806 feet with north light communicates with the room for living plants 1436 feet with glass roof, and the Chemical laboratory 1020 feet. Any of the rooms on this floor can have skylights if required.

There are other rooms provided as follows:- one class room about 457 feet, one class room about 412 feet, two professors rooms each about 150 feet, two apparatus rooms each about 150 feet.

Care has been exercised in the placing of these rooms. The room for living plants is separated well from the laboratories, etc., by an intervening class room, because the moist atmosphere unavoidable in such a room is destructive to books and specimens and instruments. The chemical laboratory is at the extreme western end of the hall.

The Herbarium and the library book room are well isolated so that fire in their combustible contents could be easily managed.

The future extension would enlarge the Herbarium and provide a number of new rooms of different sizes -- the halls would be extended to serve them.

If class rooms in greater number are needed now, temporary fireproof partitions might divide off portions from the large laboratories.

Coat rooms separate for men and women -- and toilet rooms, are near the stair.

Sinks and wash bowls are provided in the laboratories.

THE VENTILATION throughout would be well secured partly by natural draft and partly by fans forcing currents of fresh air and exhausting foul air.

SANITARY APPLIANCES would be the usual approved combinations of porcelain, marble, tile, and nickel-plated metal, but with no wood and no brass.

FIRE HOSE would be provided at short intervals with a reserve tank on roof and with a powerful pump in engine room in addition to the pressure of the city water supply.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING with a system of interchangeable fixtures for walls and ceilings near windows would provide for artificial light partly from the same direction as the natural light. The outlets would be numerous, in excess of requirements to give choice in arrangements for lighting special parts. The dynamos would be in a room under the court as indicated on basement plan.

Mr. R. W. Gibson
archt

19

C.H. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer, Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Philip Lehr.

August 18th, 1897

The Honorable William L. Strong,
Mayor:

My dear Sir:-

I am this morning in receipt of a letter from Mr. Conrad Farres, President of the House & Real Estate Owners' Association of the 12th and 19th Wards, in which he states that he has written to you, complaining of certain nuisances in East River Park, etc. I beg to quote below my reply to Mr. Farrer, as follows:

"I beg to advise you that every complaint that has been received from you or your Association has been referred to the Superintendent of Parks and the Captain of Police, for attention, as the case required. I will again write both of those officials, asking that they give your complaints special attention.

In regard to the sand piles in East River Park, of which you make especial complaint, I would state that they were placed there at the especial request of the people in your neighborhood. The Board received many petitions and requests for the sand hills for the children to play in. I regret that your Association does not approve of them, but there seems to be a diversity of opinion in your neighborhood on this subject."

Very respectfully,

Sam'l McMillan
President.

Board of Managers

OF THE

New York Botanical Garden.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF,

41 East 49th St., New York.

Aug. 26th, 1897. 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York,

My dear Sir:

Referring to the request of the Commissioners of Public Parks, made July 19th, 1897, in pursuance of the act of incorporation of the New York Botanical Garden and its amendment, that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorize the issuing of the bonds for the erection of buildings for the Garden, I would submit the following statement:

The Board of Managers of the Garden have fully complied with all the requirements of the act of incorporation, this act having been previously cordially approved by the City's officials. They have raised by subscription the sum of $264,000.00, and have also enlisted the support of 542 annual members who pay ten dollars a year.

They have already accumulated over 2000 different kinds of herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees in the grounds and in a temporary greenhouse, which are already serving a considerable educational function.

They have conducted extensive preliminary operations in grading rough banks, filling and draining low places, cleaning up

rubbish, and otherwise improving the grounds.

They have brought together by purchase, gifts, exchanges, and deposits over 700,000 specimens for the Museum Building, and over 10,000 books and pamphlets, and have conducted popular lecture courses.

Their expenditures from their own funds for these purposes and for surveys and plans have been over $25,000.00.

The Commissioners of Public Parks in 1895 approved the selection of the site for the Botanical Garden, and in accordance with the act of incorporation appropriated 250 acres of land in Bronx Park for the purposes of the institution, and this allotment of land was duly accepted by the Board of Managers.

The Commissioners of Public Parks on June 21st, 1897, adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the plans now before this Board as prepared and submitted by the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden showing proposed buildings to be erected on the grounds allotted for the use of the N. Y. Botanical Garden in Bronx Park, be and the same hereby are approved, reserving, however, the right to determine as to a driveway entrance at Scott Ave., and the width thereof

The Commissioners of Public Parks on July 19th, 1897, adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment be

Board of Managers

OF THE

New York Botanical Garden.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF,

41 East 49th St., New York.

.....189

and hereby is respectfully requested to authorize the Comptroller to issue bonds to the amount of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000.) in the manner provided by Chapter 285 of the Laws of 1891 as amended by Chapter 717 of the Laws of 1896 in such sums as may be from time to time required for the purpose of erecting Museum and other buildings on the lands allotted for the use of the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park.

RESOLVED: That the plans, specifications and forms of contract this day received for the erection of a Museum building, power house, stable, closet group and greenhouses in Bronx Park for the purpose of the New York Botanical Garden be approved, and the specifications and form of contract ordered printed, and when printed and approved as to form by the Counsel to the Corporation, and funds shall be available therefor, that an advertisement be inserted in "The City Record" inviting proposals for doing the work.

RESOLVED: That the selection by the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden of R. W. Gibson and Lord & Burnham Company as architects of buildings to be erected on the grounds set apart for the use of said Garden in Bronx Park, be and hereby is approved and that the compensation of said architects be and hereby is fixed at 5% of the cost of the several works upon which they may be respectively employed.

All the steps preparatory to the erection of the buildings have therefore been taken, and it is earnestly requested that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorize the issue of the bonds provided for, in order that the development of the institution may go forward rapidly and economically.

Yours very respectfully,

N. L. Britton

Director-in-Chief.

Board of Managers

OF THE

New York Botanical Garden.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF,

41 East 49th St., New York.

189

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS FOR 1897.

Officers.

President---Cornelius Vanderbilt.
Vice-President---Andrew Carnegie.
Treasurer---J. Pierpont Morgan.
Secretary---N. L. Britton.

Board of Managers.

-o-

1. Elected Managers.

Andrew Carnegie.
Charles F. Cox.
W. Bayard Cutting.
Charles P. Daly.
William E. Dodge.
John I. Kane.
D. O. Mills.
J. Pierpont Morgan.
James A. Scrymser.
Samuel Sloan.
Cornelius Vanderbilt.

2. Ex-officio Managers.

Hon. Samuel McMillan, President of the Department of Public Parks.
Hon. Wm. L. Strong, Mayor of the City of New York.

3. Scientific Directors.

Seth Low, Chairman.
Addison Brown.
C. F. Chandler.
J. F. Kemp.
Chas. B. Hubbell.
W. Gilman Thompson.
L. M. Underwood.

Director-in-Chief.

N. L. Britton.

College of Pharmacy of the City of New York,

115 West 68th Street, N. Y. City

Sept. 1, 1897.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York,
City Hall, N. Y. City.

Dear Sir;

Upon my return from a two months' stay at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England, I learn to my great satisfaction that the plans for our New York Garden and its buildings have been agreed upon by the Managers and the Commissioners of Public Parks and that an application for an appropriation for the construction of these buildings is now before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Being, like all teachers and men of science in the city, and indeed in the entire country, deeply interested in this great project, I have carefully watched the preparation of these plans, and am aware of the differences of opinion which exist regarding them. I desire to state that in my judgment, based upon a thorough study of similar institutions abroad, these plans are admirably adapted to the purposes of the Garden and will, if carried out, greatly enhance the beauty of Bronx Park, without injuring in any way the natural beauties of its scenery. The separation of the main buildings by a wide interval is most desirable, as shown by the experiences of other Gardens. Mr. Dyer, the Director at Kew, has assured me that the best results will be attained by having the buildings distributed as widely as possible.

The buildings as planned appear to be complete in themselves and in connection with the out-door plantings and the natural features of the tract, will give New York the most dignified, attractive and efficient Botanical Garden within the temperate zone.

Very respectfully yours,

Henry H. Rusby M.D.

Prof. of Botany and Materia Medica.

C.N. 4308.

(1)

= Copy =

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
L. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Giles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

September 8th, 1897

Hon. A. E. Orr, President,
Board of Rapid Transit Railroad Commissioners,
256 Broadway, City.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of September 1st, addressed to the Commissioners of this Department, and beg to reply, as follows:

You state: "It is unfortunate that the adverse action of your (this) Department has been delayed so long". I would state in this connection that there has been no unnecessary delay on the part of this Board in passing upon that portion of your plans affecting Battery Park.

Although this Department was wholly occupied at the time of the receipt of your plans in April last with the details of the Grant Monument dedication, the plans were promptly laid before the Board at its first meeting after their receipt, and were referred to me, as President, for report.

In order to make a comprehensive report upon the subject, it was necessary for me to see a complete set of plans, showing the proposed location of the road, its depth below the surface and its relation to the trees and lawns of the park.

Your communication of the 21st of July was received in my absence, but, as you state, the matter was promptly taken up by Vice-President Cruger, who replied on the 22nd of July that our Superintendent of Parks had staked out the route with your Chief Engineer and that such route would greatly affect the value of the Battery as a public park, as it ran under the principal grass plots and so near the surface that neither trees nor grass would grow over it. Vice-President Cruger also suggested certain other changes in the route that would remedy, to a great extent, the objectionable features.

This Board is unwilling to be charged with the responsibility of delaying unnecessarily action upon the plans, and as a refutation of that charge, I beg to quote from the minutes of the meeting of the Park Board, at the late date of July 19th, 1897, as follows:

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
L. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

"William Barclay Parsons, Chief Engineer of the Rapid Transit Railroad Commission, appeared and was heard in relation to the proposed route of the Rapid Transit Railroad under Battery Park.

On motion of Commissioner Stiles, Mr. Parsons was requested to confer with the Superintendent of Parks relative to the proposed route, and to submit a plan showing the same, indicating thereon every tree that will necessarily be disturbed thereby."

I think the above will be sufficient to prove that "the adverse action of this Board" has not been unnecessarily delayed.

On July 8th your Chief Engineer was notified that a meeting of the Park Board would be held on July 12th. This meeting, however, was not held, owing to the death of my son.

On July 16th your Chief Engineer was notified that a meeting of the Park Board would be held on July 19th. Mr. Parsons did appear on the 19th, but as shown by the above extract from the minutes, the necessary maps were not furnished until the 26th of July.

On July 3rd, the Secretary of this Department wrote your Chief Engineer: "If you will send a complete survey of that part of Battery Park under which your railway will lie, it will be submitted to the Board at the next meeting."

On August 2nd, at the meeting held on that day, the Board received a copy of the resolution to the effect that the Rapid Transit Commission would, if desired, require that soil be placed over the said railroad at such depth and slopes as this Board might desire.

On August 23rd Mr. Ogden, of Counsel to your Commission, appeared, accompanied by Chief Engineer Parsons, and made certain statements to the effect that the Rapid Transit Commissioners would agree to modify the plan of the road under Battery Park, if the Park Commissioners would approve of the plan as then submitted.

Your counsel was requested to submit the proposition in writing, in order that it might be transmitted to the Corporation Counsel for his opinion as to the legality of the proposed action of this Board and as to the powers of the Rapid Transit Railroad Commission to enter into an agreement to make changes in details, after the General Plan was approved.

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

The opinion of the Acting-Corporation Counsel clearly shows that your Commission has no power to enter into such an agreement and that the proposed arrangement could be repudiated by any future Commission: also that this Board would have to approve the "General Plan", unqualifiedly, relying entirely upon "assurances" that the desires of this Park Commission would be carried out in the actual construction of the road.

It has also been stated that it will be necessary to construct a station for the proposed Railroad at Battery Park, this being one of the details which would have to be left to assurances. In fact, as I understand it, the builder of the Rapid Transit Railroad might make huge cuts through Battery Park and leave the same open for an indefinite period, and this Board would have to rely entirely upon assurances that this will not be done, notwithstanding that the personnel of both this Commission and the Rapid Transit Commission may be materially changed when the road is actually built.

Answering that portion of your letter referring to the report of the Consulting Engineer of this Department, I would state that while his report is a general one, and was intended as such, nevertheless it points out the same fact arrived at by Commissioner Cruger in his letter of July 22nd, that is, that your Engineer might have laid out a route under Battery Park that would have been far less objectionable than the one submitted to this Board, and one which would fulfil the requirements of the Rapid Transit Railroad.

The main difficulty with this proposition, as it concerns the Park Board, seems to have been that the Rapid Transit R. R. Commissioners took it for granted that this Department would approve of any plan which had already been approved by the other necessary municipal authorities, without first taking into consideration possible damage to the parks; that this Department would consider the necessity for a Rapid Transit Railroad paramount to any such damage.

The protection of the peoples' pleasure grounds from disfigurement and dismemberment by persons interested in public and private schemes has been the most difficult task of this Board, and it has required constant vigilance and unyielding resistance on their part to preserve the public parks from being marred and mutilated. Engineers seldom treat a park with proper consideration, when it is an obstacle in their path.

C.R. 4300.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

This Board has been asked to approve certain "General Plans", but has never been advised, either by your Commission or the Corporation Counsel, as to the legal meaning of the term "General Plans", nor to what extent the Park Commissioners would commit themselves and future Boards, by approving the same.

Under these circumstances to approve of the plans submitted would have been an unbusinesslike action and one which could be taken only with the risk of involving this Department and the Rapid Transit Commission in serious complications in the future.

This Board has been disposed at all times to facilitate the development of the Rapid Transit problem, and as an evidence of this, I would refer you to the prompt action taken in approving that portion of your route passing under Central Park, but the tunnel for which, however, is to be constructed so far beneath the surface as to do no damage.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) Saml. McMillan
President.

" S. V. R. Cruger
Commissioner.

" Smith Ely
Commissioner.

Board of Managers

OF THE

New York Botanical Garden.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF,

41 East 49th St., New York.

Sept. 17, 1897 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York,

Dear Sir:

I was present at the meeting of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment yesterday, and heard the remarks of Corporation Counsel Scott relative to the supposed incompleteness of the plans for the Museum Building of the Botanical Garden.

As a matter of fact the plans as approved by the Board of Managers of the Garden and by the Commissioners of Public Parks are complete in themselves, and a building constructed from them would be complete. The plans have been so drawn, however, as to permit of additions to the Museum Building in case they should be required in the future, and also of additional ornamentation on the front, in case that is deemed necessary.

These possible additions are no part of the building as now planned and approved. Mr. Gibson, the architect, executed a large water-color drawing showing how the structure would appear if the wings and porticos were ever added, but this drawing is no part of the approved plans.

The estimates accompanying the specifications approved by the Commissioners of Parks and by the Board of Managers are as follows:

Board of Managers

OF THE

New York Botanical Garden.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF,

41 East 49th St., New York.

189

Museum Building, construction,	$255.000
Museum Building, equipment,	50.000
Power House (to serve both Museum Building and Conservatory)	40.000
Stable	2.500
Public Comfort Building	1.500
	$349.000
Leaving for the glass houses	151.000
Total	$500.000

The plans for the glass houses have been so arranged that any portions of them will be complete in themselves, and to permit of future enlargement if found necessary.

The advancing cost of building materials makes it somewhat uncertain as to just how many of the glasshouses can be built, and it was decided to first construct the buildings designed by Mr. Gibson, and then determine, from the amount of money remaining, how how much conservatory may be erected

These plans have been prepared in accordance with the law, and have received the approval of the Board of Managers of the Botanical Garden and of the Commissioners of Public Parks, as will be seen from the report of the Engineer of the Comptroller.

Yours very respectfully,

N. L. Britton

Director-in-Chief.

(Copy)

College of Pharmacy of the City of New York,
115 West 68th Street, New York City.
Sept. 17, 1897.

Francis M. Scott, Esq.,
Counsel to the Corporation of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

After reading the presentation of your position in relation to the New York Botanical Garden which appeared in last evening's Sun, I feel it my duty to ask your consideration of the following facts. I will premise by saying that I am very familiar with all the facts stated, that this letter is written without the advice or knowledge of any one, and that my only interest in the Garden is that of a man who desires to make as great sacrifices through life for its success as his circumstances will permit.

The idea of a botanical garden for this city was cherished more than a quarter of a century ago by such men as Torrey, Leggett, Ruger, Hogg and Newberry and was frequently and seriously discussed by them. Their ideas were submitted to and similarly discussed by their successors. During all this time careful thought has been given to the subject by those most deeply interested in it, not one of whom is numbered among the present opponents of the Garden. Nearly ten years ago, when good hopes of securing the Garden began to be entertained, this discussion and thought developed into a systematic study. Full series of all publications of the botanical gardens of the world were secured and attentively consulted. Dr. Britton made two extended visits to all the European gardens, and not only studied them thoroughly, but also opened up an extended correspondence with their representatives which has ever since been maintained. Others of us have done the same in a smaller way. Whenever botanical garden people have visited this City, they have been sought out and the benefit of their experience and judgment ~~have been~~ obtained. Men of wide practical experience, like the late Thomas Hogg, have bestowed their continuous attention upon this subject. Some of us have made extended stays in tropical countries to study the natural habits of tropical plants in relation to the conditions existing in plant houses of both temperate and tropical regions.

The result of all this work is a plan of which it can be confidently said that it embodies the results of all botanical garden experience. No good feature of other gardens which ~~are~~ is permitted by our local conditions has been omitted; all which have been found objectionable have been eliminated. Neither the general views of the Park Board Committee, nor any of its detail recommendations were omitted from the original deliberations of those

who have matured the present plan, but their objectionable features rendered them impossible. I have just returned from a summer spent in botanical garden work in Europe and I can state that the plans of the New York Garden are well-known there and are universally approved. Representatives of a number of those gardens have visited our Garden site during the past two years and are able to judge of these plans from a knowledge of the locality. I can also state that the ideas which have been advanced by the Park Board Committee are ridiculed in the same quarters. The most experienced man in botanical garden matters in Europe said to me a few weeks since "Your people will find out in the first year that all sorts of crazy, theoretical ideas will be poured in upon them. What they must do is to go right ahead in the light of their own study and get the work accomplished upon a general plan."

The plan that has been adopted by the Garden managers is a practical plan for a botanic garden; the criticisms are those of landscape people and editors. Landscape features have been carefully studied but have not been allowed, in trivial details, to override experience in working affairs. It isa positive fact that plants could not be successfully grown in the buildings proposed by the criticising Committee. The plans as they exist I believe to be the best that have ever been drawn. The people who are responsible for them have devoted years of hard and patient labor to the subject, they have secured the necessary authority, being obliged to overcome many very serious obstacles, they have secured the necessary financial backing and have gotten the undertaking on a most successful foundation. Why set their plans aside? Those who oppose them have done nothing whatever for the furtherance of the undertaking. They are aliens to the City and to the State, and they are theoretical and inexperienced. If their views were to be supported, the unanimous judgment of the botanical workers of the City set aside and plans forced upon them which they recognize as impossible, financial support removed, what is to follow? What could be expected of those living in a distant State, whose interest cannot be other than personal?

Permit me to criticise the statement that the Park Board have ignored the recommendations of their own committee. This is only technically true. In the light of sincerity and justice it must be admitted that the idea of that Committee originated among its own members, that its appointment was its own contrivance and secured by methods which are a scandal in themselves. I am very sure that you do not know of the energetic canvassing of this subject in and about Boston by men and women who do not figure in the case at all. Their objects and activities can only properly be characterized as "against the New York Botanical Garden". It is

impossible for any of us to doubt your entire sincerity, but I am quite as well convinced that your confidence is being abused by people who are unworthy of it both in intent and capacity.

Very respectfully yours,

H. H. Rusby M.D.

Prof. Bot. and Mat. Med.

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

September 20th, 1897

The Honorable William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, regarding the cultivation of vacant lots in the city and the proposition to treat a portion of Pelham Bay Park in this way.

In reply, I would say that, personally, I see no objection to carrying out the suggestion. I will give the matter attention and bring it to the attention of the other members of the Board and then advise you of the conclusions arrived at by the Board.

Respectfully,

Samuel McMillan

President.

Trenton N.J.
Sept. 28th 1897

The Hon. W. C. Strong
Mayor of New York.

Dear Sir

"The New York Times" of the 25th inst. gave some mention of a plan of mine for a Botanic Garden.

It may naturally be expected that I will attend your meeting before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

If I do not, it will not be that I take no interest in Botanic Gardens, but only that I feel that a certain member of the Park Board has raised the whole question, that "the only competent Landscape Architect in the country" may be employed.

To be sure a Botanic Garden depends far more

2 upon its grouping, than upon its buildings for its efficiency, and infinitely more upon the cleanness than upon the picturesqueness of its site for its appropriateness and educational adaptability. But these facts have been largely ignored, and I am not at all anxious to give the details of a life study for the benefit of Architects, willing enough to plan Botanical Groups on ground whose natural growths and features ~~would~~ constantly war and interfere ~~with~~ them.

If a Botanical Garden fails to epitomize the system most acceptable to the world, and render it easy of comprehension to the people, it fails in its mission, and no Garden yet known to me

3 has rendered a grouping of the desired simple character.

I have no hope at all that it can be accomplished at the Bronx by any Architect, but I feel at anyrate some satisfaction in having given the Trustees an opportunity to adopt such a system on either an inexpensive or expensive scale.

Respectfully
James MacPherson

P. S. You are at liberty to use this letter in any way you deem best. J. McP.

37 Wall Street,

New York, Sept 29th, 1897

Honorable Wm L. Strong,

Mayor, New York City.

My Dear Mr Mayor:-

Confidentially I hear that Judge Howland was induced to go to Mr Scott through the influence of some of the Artistic League of the Century Club, also Paul Dana.

Judge Howland was very much surprised when he discovered that he had been hasty in opposing the Britanical Garden scheme. I understand he will not appear at the meeting today. Should any of the Artistic League appear I think it would be well to ask them individually if they have visited the gardens and if they have studied the plans which they oppose.

I will try to be at the meeting, if not, I am sure there will be others there who are better fitted to defend your acts and those of the Park Commissioners than I am.

Very respectfully yours,

Francis A. Stryker

C.H. 4306

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice Pres't.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

Oct. 5th, 1897 189

B. L. Burrows, Esq., Secretary to the Mayor,
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

President Mc Millan directs me to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 4th inst., transmitting a communication from Dan. Weiland, concerning the alleged non-payment of salary for work done for Contractor Loy, at No. 130 Willet Street.

I beg to advise you in this connection that the Department has not yet entered into any contract for constructing a new park at the point mentioned and the contractor referred to is probably the purchaser of one of the condemned buildings standing on the park lands. If this is the case, this Department has no control over the payment of salaries by the contractor named.

Respectfully,

Robt. S. Ruloffe
Private Secretary.

C.R. 4308.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Vice President.
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

October 7th, 1897

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor.

My dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, regarding the little park at Cooper Union. I note all that you say and will take steps to have the matter attended to at-once. The matter would have had attention long ago had it not been for the sickness and death of Commissioner Stiles, who, as a member of the Committee on Down Town Parks, had the matter in charge.

Very respectfully,

Saml McMillan

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

October 29th, 1897

The Honorable William L. Strong, Mayor,
City Hall.

My dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the communicatien of Mr. Abraham L. Wolbarst, President of Good Govt. Club X, transmitted by you, regarding the removal of some of the buildings on land acquired for one of the small east side parks.

This matter has been under the charge of Mr. Charles H. Woodman, Superintendent of Supplies and Repairs, and I regret that it is not in more satisfactory shape.

However, this morning, before the receipt of your letter, instructions had ~~already~~ been given to the Captain of Police to serve notice on the tenant of the building referred to, that he must remove all horses, carriages, etc., before tonight, or that they would be removed by the police.

I have also directed Mr. Woodman to report to me tomorrow whether the purchaser has begun the removal of the buildings, and if not, to notify the Department Auctioneer to sell them again at the earliest possible moment, as provided in the terms of sale originally held.

Very respectfully,

Samuel McMillan
President.

COOPER, HEWITT & CO.,

17 BURLING SLIP, NEW YORK.

TRENTON IRON WORKS,	TRENTON, N. J.
RINGWOOD IRON WORKS,	HEWITT, N. J.
PEQUEST IRON WORKS,	OXFORD, N. J.
DURHAM IRON WORKS,	RIEGELSVILLE, PA.

IRON ORE, PIG IRON, ROLLED BEAMS AND GIRDERS, | ANGLES, CHANNELS AND TEES, RAILS, MERCHANT IRON, | BRAZIER AND WIRE RODS, IRON AND STEEL WIRE, | WIRE ROPE, BOLTS, RIVETS. STAPLES, CHAINS, ETC.

BRIDGES, ROOFS, AND OTHER IRON AND STEEL STRUCTURES.
WIRE ROPE TRAMWAYS, ETC.

ADDRESS P. O. BOX 1465.

New York, Nov. 19th, 1897

Richard H. Clarke, L.L.D.,

49 Chambers St., City.

Dear Sir:-

I have received from the Park Department your letter of the 17th inst. in reference to laying out a small park at Columbus Ave. and 124th St. I agree with you that the situation appears to be a good one for the purpose, but the Committee of which I am Chairman, has no power whatever in the premises, and therefore I recommend you to communicate your view to the Mayor, who, under the statute, is charged with the duty of providing for additional small parks.

Respectfully yours,

Abram S. Hewitt

Struck
Opening

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LAW OFFICES
OF
RICHARD H. CLARKE,
49 & 51 CHAMBERS ST.,
New York City.

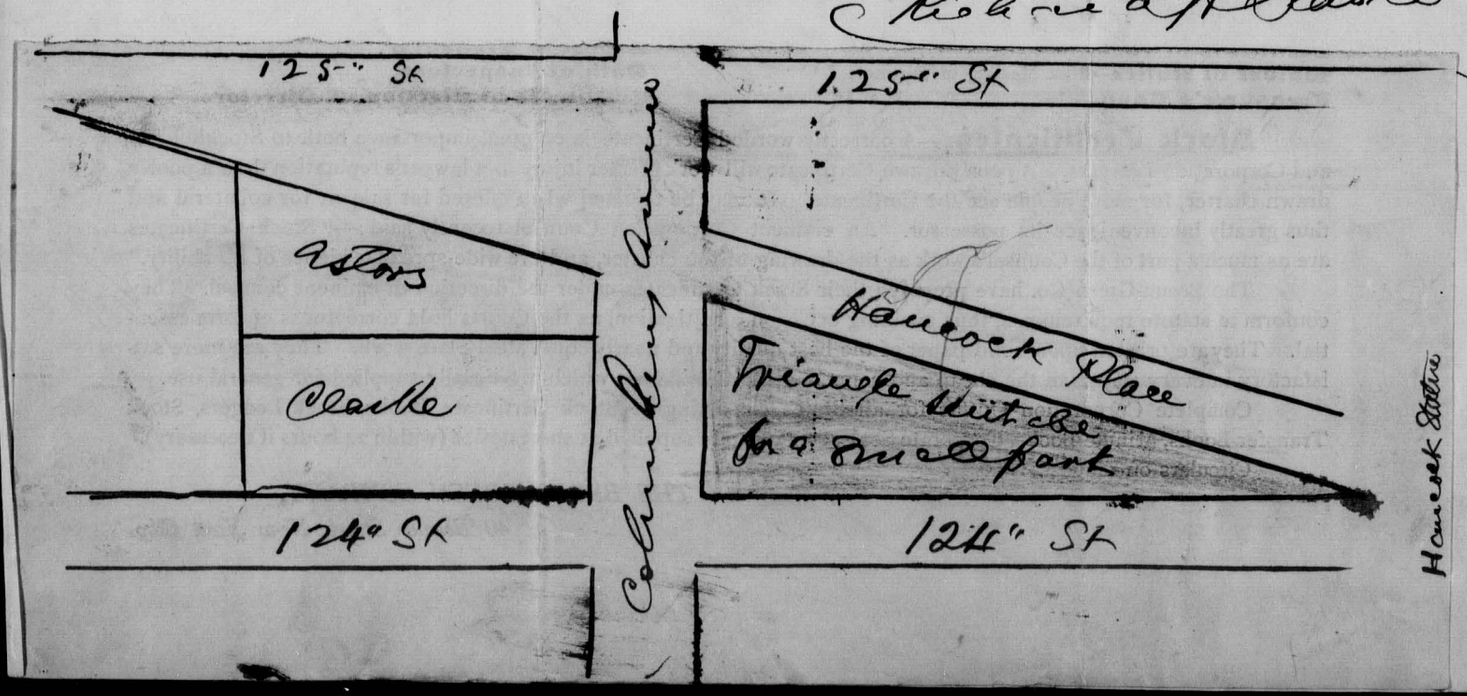
New York, Nov. 20. 1897.

To the Hon. Wm. L. Strong
Mr. Mayor

Having made application to the Park Board in behalf of myself & other property owners for the taking of the triangle bounded by Columbus Avenue, Hancock Place and 124th Street, as shown below, for a small park, my communication having been referred to the Committee on Small Parks of Mr. Abraham S. Hewitt is the Chairman, I am advised by Mr. Hewitt that he regards that as a good place for a small park but that the power and duty of acting in the matter of providing small parks is confided to you, and he recommends me to communicate the matter to you, which I now do. I send herewith Mr. Hewitt's letter, and would respectfully ask that you give us a small park at the spot & triangle designated as this is much needed the present condition of triangle being unworthy of Columbus Avenue & Hancock Place & Statue.

Very respectfully yours

Richard H. Clarke



City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
The Arsenal, Central Park.

COMMISSIONERS.
Samuel McMillan, President.
L. Van Rensselaer Crugger, Vice President.
Edward Mitchell, Treasurer.
Smith Ely.

December 28th, 1897.

The Honorable
William L. Strong,
Mayor.

My dear Sir:-

Please note the accompanying communications, relating to the granting of the privilege to the Harlem Regatta Association, to locate their boat houses at a point on the Harlem River shown on the map recently submitted to the Board of Street Opening and Improvement for a park at that point, which was referred back to the Park Department. The clubs named in the communications are those who desire to locate on the park in question and I have every reason to believe that their request should be granted. I can think of no better purpose for which this property could be used than that for which these Clubs wish it.

Before submitting the same to our Board, I would request that you approve or reject the scheme, or give it any comment that you care to make.

Please answer by messenger, as it is desired to bring the matter before the Park Board tomorrow, when a meeting will be held to consider this and other similar matters.

Respectfully yours,

Saml. McMillan

Please return enclosures.

DISGRACEFUL CONDITION OF THE BATTERY SEA WALL.

The present condition of the Battery Park sea wall, which was upheaved by the winter gales, is a disgrace to the city, which supports the public park system.

A stranger sailing into the harbor would suppose from the way in which the stone posts lean in every direction and the granite coping is tumbling into the bay that an earthquake had shaken up things on Manhattan Island.

Not only is the famous Battery wall in its present disreputable state an eyesore, but it is positively dangerous. It threatens to carry down with it any pedestrian who happens to step upon the blocks of granite, or to crush and drown the children who daily play on the flagged promenade facing the bay.

2 Hand, under Strang, Roosevelt, and other highly honorable and competent officials, a good American administration of municipal affairs, let us hope and trust that the work will be done as it ought to be done.
Hudson.

This cut illustrates a part of the base and bank [illegible] that was done by Tammany Hall, and other Irish Catholic organizations, that misgoverned New York for so long a time. Now that we

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This cut illustrates a part of the base and box burning that was done by Tammany Hall, and other Irish Catholic organizations, that misgoverned New York for so long a time. Now that we

Here take in names
of streets and dates
of filing of maps
to be obtained from
Park Dept.

THE PEOPLE of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly do enact as follows;

Section 1. The maps, plans ~~or~~ and profiles of the following named streets, avenues, and roads in the 12th 23rd and 24th Wards of the City of New York, heretofore made and filed by the Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks, namely,

Explanation of Bill proposed by the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments of N. Y. to amend Chapter 349 of the Laws of 1889. Being the Block Index Bill.

Section Three of the original Act designates the Sections by Wards, including a certain number of Wards in each section. But it transpires that some portions of the City of New York are not included in either of the Wards. The lines proposed by the Tax Commissioners are much better for the purpose, than the Ward lines, and had better be followed. The center of the Harlem River is a shifting line, and will soon be obliterated, and it is proposed instead, to bound the sections lying along that river by the center of the Improvement Channel as fixed by the U. S. Survey, which will always remain a fixed and certain line.

Section Four is amended by giving the Tax Commissioners some latitude North of 155th Street on Manhattan Island, which is necessary.

Section Five is amended by establishing the sections and blocks as actually laid down on the new Land Map as the divisions by which notice is to be given under the Act. This will provide for any small discrepancies, and will also avoid the necessity of a continual comparison between the Acts and the Map.

Section Ten. The only Amendment in this Section is to correct a verbal error; "incumbrances" altered to "incumbrancers".

Section Fourteen: The Bill as intended by the Legislature last year provided that the Act should go into operation on July 1, 1890. At the last moment the change was made, through Mr. Slevin's influence, to January 1, 1891, but this section was overlooked. The change proposed, is from July 1, 1890 to January 1, 1891.

Memorandum

In regard to the Bill "To ratify the laying out of "Saint John's Park in the City of New York for a small "public park, and to provide for the payment of the ex- "pense for acquiring title thereto."

Under the Small Parks Act, Chapter 320 of the Laws of 1887, the Board of Street Opening and Improvement of the City of New York was authorized to select, locate and lay out such and so many public parks in the City of New York south of 155th street as the said Board may from time to time approve and determine.

Acting under such authority, the said Board did lay out the lands known as Saint John's Cemetery bounded by Hudson, Clarkson and Leroy streets in the City of New York for a small public park.

Chapter 320 further provided :

"In the case of each park selected, located and "laid out as herein provided, the said board of street "opening and improvement shall have the power to deter- "mine, in its discretion, whether any, and if any, what "proportion of the expense to be incurred in acquiring the "land for such park shall be assessed upon the property, "persons and estates to be benefited by the acquisition "and construction of such park, and in each case in which "said board shall determine that any part of such expense "shall be so assessed, the said board shall also determine "the area within which such part of said expense shall be "so assessed."

Under that provision the Board of Street Opening and Improvement has heretofore determined that the benefited property should pay an assessment amounting to fifty per cent (50%) of the costs and expense of said park improvement.

The intention and sole effect of the act under consideration is to wipe out the fifty per cent assessment already fixed by the Board, and to saddle the total expense in acquiring the title to the lands and for the construction and improvement as a public park upon the City of New York.

Clerk

The passage of this Bill was opposed before the Cities Committee on behalf of the city authorities by the Corporation Counsel's office.

The Bill is mandatory in its nature and language and is objectionable therefor.

The movement to make the city pay for all park improvements which has been under way for the last year or two is against its policy for the last hundred years and should be stopped.

The same interests that appeared at the public hearing in favor of the acceptance of this bill were also before the board of Estimate & Apportionment urging a reduction of assessment from fifty & thirty-five per cent of the costs & expense of the park improvement. That board

referred suit reduction, and thereafter appeal was made to the Legislature. The bill is direct, mandatory legislation ~~[illegible]~~ subverting the expressed determination of the properly authorized City Authorities, and is returned without acceptance

change

Memorandum

In regard to the Bill "To ratify the laying out of Saint John's Park in the City of New York etc."

Form 18.

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