

THE NORTH SEA CANAL.

A WORK NEXT IN IMPORTANCE TO THE SUEZ CANAL—A NEW HARBOR IN HOLLAND.

Next Wednesday, the 1st of November, will be opened, by the King of Holland, in person, the greatest engineering work which this country, so prolific in such works, has ever undertaken. The shipping world is well aware that hitherto the only way to Amsterdam for vessels of more than five feet draft is the North Holland Canal, connecting that town with the Helder or Nieuwe Diep. It was constructed in the reign of William I, is fifty-one miles long, very tortuous and narrow, and only available for vessels drawing fifteen feet of water. The idea of joining Amsterdam with the sea by a direct communication had long been entertained and investigated by various committees, and, though many were incredulous of its ever being possible to carry on such a work, a commission was given in 1861. In 1863 a company was formed, and in 1865 the firm undertook the execution of the entire for a sum not far short of £2,500,000. This great enterprise may be said to consist of three parts:

1. The shutting out of the tidal waters of the Zuyder Zee from the Lake Y (pronounced I), situated to the west of Amsterdam. 2. The making of the canal proper. 3. The making of a harbor on the shore of the North Sea, at the entrance of the canal. The first part consists of a sea-dike, cutting off the waters of the Zuyder Zee to the east of Amsterdam, which is intercepted by large locks having three basins and a pumping station containing three powerful pumps. The locks are for the use of the numerous small craft and fishing smacks sailing from Amsterdam to the different towns on the shores of the Zuyder Zee, and the pumps are for keeping the water in the canal at its proper level. The sea-dike is admitted to be the finest of its kind in the kingdom. Great difficulty was encountered in making it, the ground on which it stands being so soft, and for the same reason the cofferdam broke through during the construction of the locks. The engines and pumps are the largest in Holland, being each seventy-five horse-power, and discharging together over 74,000 cubic feet of water per minute.

The second part consists of cutting the canal through the sandhills, or dunes, near the North Sea, and the construction of three large locks with two basins, the bigger one being able to accommodate vessels 300 feet long, 59 feet wide, and drawing 27 feet of water. Nearly 8,000,000 cubic yards of sand have been removed from this part of the canal alone. It then passes through the Lake Y, where banks had to be made on each side and the channel dredged to its proper depth. This was done in a very ingenious and quite novel way, by attaching centrifugal pumps to bucket-dredgers, and, by their means, passing the sand through rough pipes to a distance sometimes of 400 yards and more. Five million cubic yards of dredging had to be done in this part originally, but, on account of the company being continually called upon to sluice off the water by the North Sea locks, to prevent the flooding of Amsterdam, siltage was brought into the canal to the extent of nearly 3,000,000 cubic yards. The land on each side of the canal has been reclaimed, and has fetched enormously high prices, amounting in some cases to £120 an acre. There are nearly 12,500 acres of reclaimed land, and, by the concession, they become the property of the company. The canal will, when fully completed, be 23 feet deep, 20 yards wide at the bottom, and have a varying width from 70 to 130 yards. Its length is sixteen miles.

The third portion consists of making a harbor on the coasts at the entrance of the canal. This has been done by running out two jetties, each 1,800 yards long. They start on the shore at a distance from each other of 1,300 yards, and converge so as to leave an entrance 290 yards in width. These jetties are built by concrete blocks, forming a wall with a top width of twenty-two feet, and have a foreshore of loose blocks on the sea side. The great experience gained by the construction of the magnificent Admiralty Pier at Dover availed but little for the shifting sand of the Dutch coast, and great difficul-

ties had in the commencement to be overcome. Mr. Hutton succeeded in doing this completely, by designing and constructing a huge moveable crane, which answered every requirement, and did away with the usual staging or scaffolding, which in this shifting ground it was impossible to work with. An idea of these piers may be formed by the fact that they will, when quite finished, have consumed over 640,000 tons of concrete. The south pier, which is the most forward, and practically completed, is a perfect work of its kind, and does great credit to its constructors. The area of the harbor inclosed by these piers is about 250 acres, a great portion of which has to be dredged to its proper depth. For this purpose a kind of novel dredger is in use, consisting of a centrifugal pump, called a "Titan," which raises the sand together with a certain proportion of water, and discharges it in the barges, where the sand sinks to the bottom and the water flows over.

A glance at the map will show the value and importance of this harbor. It is situated just half way between the Hock van Holland (entrance into Rotterdam) and the Heider or Nieuwe Diep, which are nearly 100 miles apart. This forms the only refuge for vessels between these two places along this barren and sandy coast. The canal and harbor were already so far advanced in the latter part of September as to allow of the passage of the iron-clad turret ship *Koning der Nederlanden*, the largest and most recent addition to the Dutch navy. Since then many other steamers and yachts have passed out of Amsterdam this way. Trade having been greatly on the decline of late years, the opening of this new waterway has raised great expectations in the mercantile community of Amsterdam, and great preparations are being made for the due celebration of this important event.—*Haarlem Correspondent London News.*

The Presidential Election in the House.

The possibility of the election for President and Vice-President being thrown into the House of Representatives leads to a contemplation of the contingencies which may arise under this most absurd system which, it would almost seem, was invented for the express purpose of defeating the will of the people. It is among the possibilities, in the event of such an election by the House, that an actual minority would control it. Every State has but one vote, which is cast by the party having the majority of the State delegation, as, for instance, if the New York delegation was composed of twenty democrats and thirteen republicans, the democrats would, of course, control and cast the vote. As at present constituted, the House would, in any event, elect Gov. Tilden, if the election should be thrown into that body, and here is the way the States would vote:

For Tilden.—Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia—23.

For Hayes.—Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin—14.

It is the opinion of a prominent official of Congress that Florida would have no vote, since her delegation is equally divided. A glance at the above lists of States will show the ridiculous absurdity of an election by the House. All of the italicized States in the Tilden list (except possibly Louisiana) gave a majority for Hayes, and yet the vote of their delegation would be cast for Tilden. In the Hayes list we find New York, which gave Tilden a large popular majority, and yet her vote would be cast for Hayes, because her delegation in the House stands republicans 17, and democrats 16! It can readily be seen that, while it would not be so in the case of Hayes and Tilden, it is among the possibilities for the minority in the House to defeat the candidate of the majority.—*Washington Star, Nov. 15.*

A Kalamazoo woman, being told that a divorce had been granted her, began to sing at the top of her voice, "My country, tis of thee, sweet land of liberty."

QUIET GIRLS.—Over and over again are the sweetest natured as well as the cleverest women stigmatized as dull, stupid and prim, because they are disinclined to shriek and to show all the teeth in their head to the first man who philanthropically condescends to indicate that he is disposed to look with favor upon them.

It may as well be stated that to be a noisy, forward, self-assured member of society, it is necessary that a girl shall have no deep feelings upon any subject; that she shall not think upon matters outside the special sphere of her operations, and that she shall have no person's welfare at heart so much as her own. In a word, she must neither possess a squeamish taste nor a tender conscience.

Now, hosts of quiet girls are burdened with those encumbrances; hence, perhaps, their constant humiliation. If you want to find a girl who is a treasure in the home in which she lives; who does real, honest, substantial work; who possesses the strongest affection of those who thoroughly know and understand her; and who is endowed with as noble a soul as she has a pure mind, look for a quiet girl. It is from the ranks of the quiet girls that the best wives, and the truest friends, and the hardest workers come. Of the women who really distinguish themselves by their intellectual achievements the majority are subdued and modest—yet lively—in company. Often treasures, the existence of which has been unsuspected, have been revealed in quiet girls. It always will be so; for a genuine woman will never show the sterling stuff of which she is made to the impertinent inquisitor, who may be unworthy alike of her confidence and her regard. She will continue to astonish those who pretend to understand her by rising to heights, when she is summoned thither, which are unapproachable to her complacent and courted critics.

What we would indicate is, that while noisy damsels will often turn out to be gaudy impostors, many quiet ones will amply repay the time, trouble and love which any one may bestow upon them.—*Home Journal.*

A SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEM.—A correspondent writes to us thus: A recent number of a scientific journal, speaking of the relative proportion of the sexes in the human race, declares that for every 150 men that came into the world 100 72-100 women are born. I do not dispute these figures. I only ask for light. It appears according to this that there are some women who are only 72-100 of a woman. What the remaining 28-100 are I cannot imagine. Now, what I know is this: If a woman of this kind marries a 100 man and has a daughter, will the daughter be an 74-100 woman or a 96-100 woman? And what will be the exact relationship between such a daughter and a 76-100 aunt and her 87-100 daughters, especially if the 87-100 girls marry the brothers of the 96-100 girl and so become not only her 98-100 first cousins, but her 95-100 sisters-in-law, the afore-said 95-100 mother-in-law of her 88-100 nephews, will the—the— Let me see; where am I? It is an awful subject to tackle. Oh, yes! I say if the 76-100 aunt— But, no; the question can't be solved in any such way as this. I give it up. The only way to get at it will be to do the sum in algebra somehow, making the daughter z, the aunt y, the first cousin a, and the mother-in-law b. Then, it seems to me, if you multiply the aunt by the daughter, and divide the first cousin by the mother-in-law, in some way or other, or extract the square root of the cousins and subtract the result from the aunt, keeping the daughter as a common denominator, and at the same time making a decimal fraction of the mother-in-law, perhaps the result might be satisfactory. But I am not certain. I am poor at mathematics. I wish the lightning calculator would get at this, or that Prof. Tyndall would subject it to chemical analysis.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

At the pond of Yellow Mill bridge, in Bridgeport, a convert ninety years of age was baptized last Sunday. It takes some people a pretty long time to make up their minds.—*12.*

A party of singers who gave a "Sacred concert," in Newport, Ky., one Sunday, were arrested for Sabbath breaking. They are reputable residents and consequently the local excitement is intense.

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