THE recent fire at Boston is having the good effect of putting all building materials upon trial. The undivided testimony of all who have witnessed the effects of the conflagration, goes to prove that the material upon which was placed the greatest reliance for durability and strength—hard granite,—utterly failed in the terrible test to which it was subjected, that all other natural stones did the same, and that bricks alone seemed capable of passing safely through such an ordeal; the only effect of the fire upon them having been to glaze their surfaces. This experience will go far to recommend the more abundant use of this comparatively homely but reliable material, owing to so recent and prominent an exposition of its qualities; but it needed not even this last demonstration to prove the value and durability of what had already stood the test of ages. The fact is that brick, when properly made and burnt, is all but indestructible by the ravages of time, water or fire. Boston has just proved the last, and as to the two first we need only state the fact that the Cloaca Maxima, the great public brick sewer built in the time of the Kings of Rome, is still extant, and partly performing the functions for which it was constructed 3,000 years ago in the Italian capital.

If clay thoroughly burnt in one shape can thus prove its strength and durability, there is no reason why it should not, if produced in any other shape, and this is where Terra Cotta brings in its claim for consideration. This material which, as its name denotes—terra cotta in Italian, and terre cuité in French—is nothing but baked earth or rather clay, has been known and in use from the earliest ages. It was produced by the ancient Egyptians and Greeks in the form of vases, water-jars and other useful implements, many of which are still in existence. Later, the Romans made it of finer quality, and moulded it into lamps, urns, etc., which they ornamented with raised and depressed figures upon the surface. It was not until the end of the 11th century that its use appears to have been discovered for larger purposes, and from the 12th to the 17th century it was extensively used in Italy for architectural ornamentation. The stranger who visits the ancient city of Terracina, and unacquainted with this material, is amazed to see the sumptuous brick buildings there, with the most elaborate ornamentations, which look like brick but are made of terra cotta. The art was introduced into England about the latter part of the last century, and became quite an important branch of industry. It was largely used for public statues and decorative sculpture in architecture, and many of the old Coats of Arms to be seen over the doorways of dingy shops in the ancient quarters of London, to this day, are of this material. From that time to this it has been in constant use, and in many cases is found as perfect as the day it was made, when all the surrounding stone has crumbled to decay.

Terra Cotta has also been considerably used in this country, and in this city,—the window finishings of the St. Denis Hotel being an instance that occurs at the moment,—and if it has failed to reach the popularity it merits, it is simply because the public have not been made sufficiently acquainted with its merits. It is capable of assuming any form into which stone or other material can be shaped by the hand of man, and in this respect has a great advantage over Cast-iron Castings. In the latter case, ornaments can only be made of a certain shape, in order to admit of their drawing from the mould, but with Terra Cotta, after being taken from the mould, the clay can be so manipulated and undercut as to admit of all those deep hollows and shadowy shapes which form the soul of sculptured ornaments, and in which respect cast-iron always has such a poor and shallow appearance.

Terra Cotta is made of the purest clays, and fine quartz, sand or calcined clints with pulverized old pottery. These are thoroughly mixed together, and subjected to the most intense heat. One proof of the power of ordinary brick to withstand fire is to be found in the fact that in furnaces in which terra cotta is baked, the supports on which the models are placed have to be of brick, as any known stone subjected to such intensity of heat would calcine to powder. The value of Terra Cotta as a building material, when well made, can scarcely be over-estimated, as it is capable, being plastic, of assuming a magnificence of appearance, which if attempted in stone, would cost from double to even ten times as much, according to the elaborateness of the details.

It is surprising that our architects and builders have not paid more attention to this material, especially in cases where a grand effect is required out of comparatively small means. Mr. EIDLETT, has shown us, in the Produce Exchange, Academy of Music at Brooklyn, and other buildings, what a pleasing and even rich effect can be produced by the artistic use of brick alone. By the legitimate aid of Terra Cotta—which is, after all, nothing but moulded brick made almost imperishable by burning—the most sumptuous effects might be reached, at a comparatively small cost, that would be so expensive if wrought in stone, as to place them utterly beyond attempt.

A REVOLUTION IN CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

A remarkable change is now going on in England respecting the opinions which have for the last thirty years prevailed as to the most appropriate form of Protestant church-building; a change which is very likely to take place also on this side of the Atlantic. During the last three decades, the architects of England have been servilely following the patterns of the Gothic medieval churches; buildings originally designed for another and totally different form of worship. Before the outbreak of this Gothic fever, this beautiful style of architecture, which had commenced declining as far back as the reign of Elizabeth, and was completely transformed and disfigured by absurd Greek and Italian innovations in the time of her successors, seemed at last to have utterly vanished from sight. A so-called "classical" taste had come to pervade the public mind, through the teachings of Stuart and Revett and other archaeologists, respecting the pure and glorious productions of ancient Athens. Flat roofs had completely superseded pointed gables, columns and pilasters were everywhere to be seen instead of buttresses and finals; and often the most costly and beautiful piece of medieval workmanship in carved stone was to be found covered over by some mangy imitation, in plaster, of what was considered Grecian high art. Indigenous art was at a discount, and the glories of York Minster or Salisbury Cathedral faded before the newly-imported pretensions of the Parthenon and the Erechtheum. Like many other things, this...
classical whim was at last run into the ground, after covering the whole surface of England with the most ridiculous abortions that ever sped the name of architecture. It was at this period that the renowned Wren, and he came forward as the champion of the then degraded Gothic architecture, and, both by pen and pencil, wrought a sudden and most extraordinary change in public opinion. By his withering denunciations of the bastard classicisms which were disfiguring the country, and by pointing out the intrinsic beauties of the native architecture, which, until he showed them, nobody seemed to have any eyes to perceive, he was able to overthrow all classico-mania, and set the whole existing race of architects upon the study and practice of Gothic architecture. This has unquestionably done much to improve the taste of the present generation; but the point in which the English architects have failed—and in which our own would seem to have also copied them—is in having slavishly adopted all the existing forms of Gothic architecture, without any reference whatever to their utility—instead of applying their original powers in the construction of those forms to the exigencies of the times in which they lived, and showing the independence, versatility, and inventiveness with which the old masters worked in their day.

This has been most apparent in church architecture, and this is the point which seems destined to undergo a complete and speedy revolution. The Roman Catholic churches of medi­val times, beautiful as they were, and com­pletely adapted to that form of worship which had been found, after thirty years of experience, to be not at all the most appropriate or con­venient shapes for Protestant worship. In the former, “the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault,” clustered columns, and other beautiful internal arrangements form no impediments whatever in a service where the sermon takes a secondary place, and more attention is paid to the occasion and ceremonial. In a Pro­testant church, on the contrary, where the sermon plays so important a part, and where the first necessity is to arrange an interior so as to be accessible to the largest number of persons who may conveniently see and hear the preacher, it is evident that a long, narrow, oblong is the most inappropriate of all forms that can be devised, and that every column or pillar introduced, not absolutely needed for support, is but an encumbrance to sight and sound among the congregation. And yet—imperative is education and fashion—any other than the ancient Gothic plan of a church universally appears “uneclesiastical.” So imperative was this opinion in England, and such power did the “Ecdesiohgist” and other archaeological publications wield at one time, that it was calculated to stem the adverse tide of orthodoxy. Even to this day, English architects of such leading influence as Mr. STREET seem to have either lacked the courage or the invention to alter the ancient forms, beyond increasing the width of the nave inside and narrowing their side aisles, from ten feet or twelve feet to only six feet or eight feet—an innocent and sensible innovation which has, nevertheless, raised a storm against them.

Our architects are fortunately under no such restrictions, and if we have no better or more sensible form of churches, it is simply that they are unable to invent them. When an architect designs a theatre, a warehouse, a public exchange, or any other building, his first care is surely to lay down such a plan as shall be best adapted to the purpose intended, and it is difficult to see why our churches should form the only exceptions. Granted that Gothic architecture is, in its details, most adapted to church buildings, it certainly must be in the power of an inventive architect to invent any form of church with sufficient Gothic feeling to insure that distinguishing ecclesiastical spirit and effect, the preference for which may be, after all, more the result of education and example than of any application of common-sense reasoning; if not practicable, then certainly Gothic forms should give way to some other more adapted to our necessities. Even now, the Tabernacle, at the corner of Thirty-fourth street and Broadway, has at great cost removed the handsome stone columns and groined arches which formerly adorned the interior of the church, merely because they were found to be an annoyance to the congregation. Un­eclesiastical as its form may appear, it is neverthe­less a point worthy of consideration, whether the best form of a church—those, at any rate, of very large dimensions—is not that universally adopted by theatres, a circular plan. When Mr. BEECHER issued printed in­structions to architects, some years ago, for the monster church which it was intended to erect in Brooklyn, to hold 6,000 people, that form was suggested and carried out by most of the competing architects. Mr. BEECHER fore­saw, what all who think closely on the subject, that no other shape can so ef­fectually enable one individual to address a large mass of people, so as to be equally well seen and heard from every portion of the in­terior. Such a proposition would have met a howl of derision through the length and breadth of England; although the renowned church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem would go to prove that there is nothing incompatible with worship in a circular form of build­ing. That a place of worship so construct­ed would bear too great a resemblance to a theatre is a question which would depend entirely upon the skill of the architect in treating it. It might surely be constructed with all the features of solemnity—even to the “phantasmagoric” painted windows to which Mr. BEECHER expressed so decided an aversion—which are considered indispensable to a house of prayer, to any form of the life of a theatre. But whatever be the desired form of churches in the future, whether circular or otherwise, it certainly is that some change is desirable, and that architects, here as well as abroad, have hitherto been too slovenly and literally copying the models of past ages, without catching the spirit which animated the builders of those glorious works. If the architects of England, surrounded as they are by almost impenetrable obstacles, can succeed in breaking through the trammels which impede them, far easier must it be with our architects who have no such an­tituated routine to embarrass them, and who have an enlightened and innovating community at their back, willing to follow wherever their taste and invention may lead.

THE PUBLIC PARS.

At the regular meeting of the Department of Parks on Wednesday afternoon, it was ordered that the work at Union Square be pressed on with all possible speed until completed. Notifi­cation was received that a number of citizens had under consideration a project for placing in Central Park statues of Fitz-Greene Halleck, and of Mr. Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing machine, and desiring preliminary information respecting the acceptance of the proposed memorials, and the probable sites that would be set apart for them.

The landscape architect was directed to select a suitable site for the location of the Seventh Regiment Monument, which is now nearly com­pleted.

The rather shabby wooden structure which now surmounts the Belvedere in the Park, was ordered removed, as the stone foundation is be­coming impaired in consequence of its shaking from side to side. The original plan of the archi­tect will be carried to completion immedi­ately, and the stone-work continued. In order that the discarded wooden building may not be an entire waste, it will be removed to the plaza at Mount Morris Park.

For some time back a plan for the lighting of the Fifty-ninth Street Mall of the Park has been under consideration. On being again brought before the Commissioners, the plan was approved, and instructions given to have the work proceed. The proposed mode of lighting is somewhat novel. Ornamental iron posts will be inserted at regular intervals between the trees on either side the walk, and the lights are suspended over the centre. The jets are inclosed in an ornamental cut-glass globe, and it is calculated that about thirty of them will be placed on the Mall, which extends from Fifth to Eighth Avenue. This is considered prefera­ble to the old mode of lighting at the sides, as no part of the walk is lost to the view, and will not doubt be appreciated by those who wish to continue their evening walks after the Park is closed for the night.

The proposition to flag the walks around Jackson Square was approved, and preparations will be at once made to consider estimates for the work.

No further action has yet been taken in re­gard to the establishment of the Parade Ground at Inwood, and the report of the Commissioner­es has received no official criticism.

The Yorkshire Post states that the workmen in the Sheffield trades have combined for the purpose of erecting works and manufactories on their own account.
WESTCHESTER COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS.

Two years ago, when the project of the annexation of Westchester County to the city of New York assumed definite shape in the form of a bill framed by the Tweed dynasty, and introduced into the Legislature of 1870, there arose such a strong opposition to the measure among the older inhabitants of the various smaller towns of Westchester County, coupled with the fact that for some reason Tweed was not then quite ready to push the matter, that the defeat of the bill was the result.

With the overthrow of the ruling power of that year and the growing belief that reform after all does mean something, the opposition to road (Sedgwick avenue) begins at Central that direction till it reaches the southern line of parts of Westchester County. In accordance with the instructions received, the members of the Park Commissioners, who were delegated to survey other parts of Westchester County, in accordance with the instructions received, the members of the Park Commissioners, who were delegated to survey other parts of Westchester County. In accordance with the instructions received, the members of the Park Commissioners, who were delegated to survey other parts of Westchester County. In accordance with the instructions received, the members of the Park Commissioners, who were delegated to survey other parts of Westchester County. In accordance with the instructions received, the members of the Park Commissioners, who were delegated to survey other parts of Westchester County.

One of the local commissions appointed by the Legislature of 1888 has the plans for the proposed new arrangement of streets now on file for the inspection of all concerned, at the clerk's office in the Town Hall. This Commission acted independently of the Park Commissioners, who were delegated to survey other parts of Westchester County. In accordance with the instructions received, the members of the Commission have used their own judgment in regard to the adoption or rejection of the old line of streets and avenues, and the maps as planned by them are to rest unchanged. The multitudinous duties imposed on the Park Commission in relation to the Westchester improvements, by the Act of April, 1871, are about completed. This includes the devising of plans and the specifications for the complete survey of the larger portion of the county, comprising the towns of West Chester, East Chester, Tappan, Fordham and West Farms, a part of Morrisania and a part of Yonkers to include the grading of the proposed avenues and streets, the sewage and drainage, and the introduction of the water supply. The Commissioners were also instructed to give attention to the improvement of the navigation of Harlem River and Spuyten Duyvil Creek, the building of the necessary bridges, arches, tunnels, etc., the only restriction placed upon them requiring that they refrain from collision or interference with the work of any other every part, undisturbed by the jealousies and interferences of the numberless local commissions, which now dictate improvements parts of the County.

The last improvements, so far as the Commissioners are concerned, have been the opening of Sedgwick avenue, which was done by the property owners. The suspension bridge that is to connect the city to the river will be an immense structure. The boulders for the towers are already begun, and the rock-bed 68 feet below the surface has been reached in several places. Two tunnels are to be sunk, one connecting Seventeenth avenue with Central avenue, and the other united Kingsbridge road with the avenue that runs through Yonkers. In regard to the latter, however, a bridge may yet be substituted. The maps of the engineers are marked for bridges or tunnels at the following places: At the termination of First avenue; termination of Fifth avenue, or rather a little west of it, as a favorable entrance to Morrisania could not be gained at a point directly opposite the end of the avenue; at the termination of Seventh avenue; the suspension bridge a short distance north of High Bridge; at the termination of Inwood street, and the south side of the proposed parade ground, and at Kingsbridge. Another tunnel is talked of to pass under Spuy­ ten Duyvil Creek, on the property owners in that section are asking for.

New York.

Nov.


2100.00


27.00

14 EAST BROADWAY, S. or E. S. (No. 105). (Continuation). Thomas Green agt. Wm. Colligan.

1597.16


590.00


240.00


333.00


167.34


348.50


3200.00

20 FIFTY-SEVENTH ST., N. S., 7 HOUSES com. about 50 e. 18th av. (Continuations). John J. and Chas. M. Bowes agt. ————

176.00


50.00


306.50


168.68

19 SAME PROPERTY, POWER & SHORT agt. same.

908.50

20 SAME PROPERTY, F. L. & L. agt. same.

580.74

REAL ESTATE RECORD.

DISTRIBUTION OF FORESTS IN INDIA.—An important and able paper, signed "D. Brans- diris," appears in the October number of Ocean Highlands. "On the distribution of Forests in India." The author is of opinion that in India forest conservancy, in Government hands, has become necessary, in order to meet the growing demands for timber, wood, bamboo, and other forest produce, all the more especial- ly as the pampancy and others begin to desire substantial houses, and there seems no prospect of finding coal in sufficient quantity in North-western India; but he is not hopeful of the possibility of increasing the rainfall to any con- siderable extent by preserving and extending the forests, or of thereby in any way altering the climate; and, indeed, he considers that there is not yet sufficient evidence to prove that any material deterioration of climate has been the result of deforestation in any part of the country. The seasons in India are regulat- ed by the two half-yearly winds, dry and wet, which are occasional. But a great deal can be done by improving and extending wooded tracts along the borders of the dry country, and these and other like extensions may be beneficial to the sanitary conditions of dis- tricts.

The first architectural society in Italy was established this year. Its first meetings were in Milan, but later, the Society of Florence, has induced the society to make the ex-capital the seat of its operations and meetings. It is a curious fact, that a country possessing so many architectural riches should have never, until this year, established a society for the study and consideration of the kindred art to painting and sculpture, of which it possesses the most perfect specimens. Italy is progressing on all sides, thanks to the peace it is in now enjoying.

MECHANICS LIENS.

30x50. Thomas Prender-}

342.50

326 W.). Christopher C. Biu:ford

332.00

agt. Bohems Bros.

240.00

agt. Thos. Hanlon

125.00

agt. —. Fitzsimmons 50 00

agt. same . . . . . . . . . . 580.74

agt. Thos. Hanlon 125 00

agt. S. Black $310 00

agt. S. Black 50 00

agt. S. Barnett 175 00

agt. —— 178 00

agt. —. Fitzsimmons 50 00
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**KINGDOMS CENSUS**

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**REAL ESTATE RECORD**
NEW YORK.

November 14, 15, 16, 18, 19.

BROADWAY (No. 212), south-eastern corner, Fulton st., and George W. Coater, juni., and John E. Parsons. (One-ninetieth part and twenty-nine thirteen hundred five and forty-fourth parts.) Nov. 19..... 1,000

SAME property. John H. Cofer to John E. Parsons. (One-ninetieth part and twenty-nine thirteen thousand five and forty-fourth parts.) Nov. 19..... 1,000

CATHARINE st., w. s., 123.9 x Madison st., 20.5 x 63. George P. Smith (Reef) to Rachael Neben- guth. (Sub. to mort. $8,000.) (Foreclos.) Nov. 14..... 16,500

CHAMBER st., s. w., 32.8 w. from junction of 53rd and 54th st., 40 x 123. William J. Moreau and Mary J. Quirk, of 36 Day. Nov. 19..... 260

CHAMBER st., s. w., 119.5 x from junction of 53rd and 54th st., 40 x 123. George D. Van Alstyne to Rose c. Sons 23d st. x30.35x0.11 (known as 50 Rose st.) and described in deed as Rose st., n. a., 74.3 x 250. (Nos. 350-353.) (C. & G.) Nov. 16..... 190,000

Johnson, of Tarrytown, N. Y. to Amelia Adamson. (Prob. error in deed description.) Nov. 16..... 12,100

Adoniram B. Judson to Sarah B. Howe. Nov. 16..... 17,000

Nichols. Nov. 16 12,500

Adolph of 2d German Meth. Epis. Church). Nov. 16..... 2,000

St. John's, 126 w. 3d av., 50x98.9, h. & 1. F. J. Hazel and Charles H. Craigie to Lambert S. and Abraham C. Quackenbush. Nov. 19..... 15,000

Hermes and Felix Govin y Pinto. (B. & R.) Nov. 16..... 3,000

Rector, etc., of Grace Church. Nov. 16..... 10,000

Hugh Morton to Rector, etc., of Grace Church. Nov. 16..... 25,000

George J. Byrd and Henry B. Burtin (Exrs.) to Hannah wife of George Byrd. (Bail error in deed description.) Nov. 16..... 18,000

Charles W. Kitchen to William D. Nichols.
<no-input>
cargo; one, from Brunswick to Philadelphia, resawed lumber over 2,100,000 feet, one of which arrived to yard for the Eauoning, sold by Cushman, Calkins & Co. to Malaga, staves, understood about $45, $55 and $65 per thousand. Another report states that the arrivals for sale for many weeks, owing to the long con-

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Lumbering operations for another year in Michigan will be on a smaller scale, owing to the large quantity of lumber and lime there. There will be a large demand for houses, and it will be some 500,000,000 feet of logs carried over in addition to a large quantity of lumber. The horse disease will also tend to curtail operations. A private letter says that it is very much larger than usual. The shipment of lumber from Montreal to South American ports during the past three seasons has been on a smaller scale, owing to the large quantity of lumber employed, and the ship-ments of 1870 is to be ascribed to the then prevailing sickness of the horses.

All of this trade passed through the States prior to the Mexican, Minatitian.

The receipts of the week are again in excess of those of the receipts at Albany by the Erie and Champlain Canal, and 3,823,300 feet by the Champlain Canal. The receipts were by the Erie, and 3,425,700 feet by the Champlain Canal. "Sash, for twelve lights glazed."

**MARKET QUOTATIONS.**

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