room and nursery, in comfortable homes, for real rest, the common one will remain in use for general purposes.

It must be obvious, as hinted above, that this article can have no great bearing upon easy-chairs of any kind, although their lines of support are not always well chosen, because, being mostly kept low upon their support, their upholstering, more especially when spring-cushioned, enables them to adapt themselves very nearly to the true resting poise of the body. They should all, however, be kept lower than they are at the back of the seat, and straighter and more upright. But for those who have to sit long at a time, and for days together, easy chairs become particularly uneasy chairs, and very deleterious to the health. Nothing save a hard stuffed leather cushion, or absolute wood, is admissable for the necessarily sedentary, who, through the additional precautions of bending, with a straight back, from the hips, keeping the lungs always distended, and walking two or three miles daily, can keep themselves in good working condition for almost any length of time.

THE PHILADELPHIA PARK EXTENSION AND THE CITY WATER.

MUCH and earnest comment was occasioned in Philadelphia, about sixteen or seventeen months ago, by the water of the Schuylkill, then confessedly ill-tasted and noxious; attributes which, from the experience of generations, we know were not fairly imputable to the river itself, but to the deleterious refuse poured into the stream, for miles above Fairmount dam, by the numerous factories upon both banks. Little was said amongst the people last winter, and, it is believed, nothing in the newspapers; but, in the northern part of the city, the same evils ran their usual crescendo and diminuendo, until the disgust arising from a simple draught of water was nearly equal to the worst of winter before last; and what we know, from reliable informants, to be true of the Twentieth and other wards, is, probably, not unknown in other sections.

Acting upon these and other facts, the Commission for the Extension of Fairmount Park lately presented a very able report to City Councils, which bodies, in all essentials, affirmed the views therein urged, and, as our city readers will have already seen amongst the news items of the daily papers, sent up to Harrisburg a large and deservedly influential delegation to impress the Legislature with the salient points.

As drawn from the map accompanying the report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park, the boundary-line of the Park, as now agreed upon, omitting some trivial details, is: Commencing at the southeast angle of Fairmount grounds, corner of Twenty-fifth and Biddle streets; thence westerly along the south line of Fairmount, and across the Wire Bridge, direct to Bridgewater street, along Bridgewater to Haverford, westerly on Haverford to the Junction Railroad connecting the Pennsylvania Central and the Reading Railroads, northwesterly along the curved line of the Junction railroad to Girard avenue; thence westerly to the east line of Fortieth street; thence diagonally and westnorthwesterly to Fifty-second street; thence northeasterly to Fifty-first street; thence east-northeasterly to Ford road, between Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth streets; thence in the same general course by a more northerly line to the

River road, on the western bank of the Schuylkill, west-northwesterly along the west side of this road to the county-line road; thence across the Schuylkill northnortheasterly along the south bank of the Wissahickon to the Ridge road; thence easterly to School-house lane; thence in a narrow strip, curving with the river, to the northern line of North Laurel Hill; thence merely by the proposed road's width along in front of the cemetery to the south line of South Laurel Hill; thence easterly along Huntingdon street to Ridge road, southeastwardly along the latter to Thirty-third street, southwardly along the last to the Reading Railroad, southeasterly along the railroad to Twenty-fifth street, and southwardly along Twenty-fifth street to the place of beginning.

To many citizens reading the report of the Park Commission, it may seem that full provision has been made for all the wants of the future, and that, what is done now, will not hereafter need amplification. But, while we heartily support both Commission and Councils, on the principle of securing a good thing wherever and whenever possible, and then asking for a better, yet we think they have prospected very moderately for the growing requirements of this future greatest city of North America. The proposition that the city purchase the Wissahickon turnpike and continuous narrow strips of land on both sides of the Wissahickon itself, to the tops of the banks, and somewhat on the level, from its mouth to certainly as far up as Paul's Mill road, at Chestnut Hill, is such absolute common sense that few would risk controverting it. But a similar narrow strip on the west side of the Schuylkill, throughout, and on the east side, so far as practicable, from the mouth of the Wissahickon to Flat-rock Tunnel, or, say Domino lane, should also be secured. In the meeting of Councils Committee of Finance, Water, Surveys, &c., reported February 19, 1868, it was mentioned that the Commission saw the advantage of taking up more land on the east side of the river, but did not recommend the acquisition of Engel and Wolf's farm,* because it would increase the expense some three or four hundred thousand dollars. Now this estate should really be added to the Park, which will assuredly be found too narrow on the eastern side of the Schuylkill. On the western side, while the dimensions vary from a few perches, at either extremity, to nearly a mile opposite Montgomery street, or the lower end of Peters' Island—forming, in the main, a spacious and compact plot—the eastern, or hither plot, is comparatively rambling and contracted. In preparing for the comfort and delight of many million beings, for all the future, half a million dollars, positively a large sum, is relatively a trifle. Now, the city can bargain elegibly. But let it be proclaimed, "These are definitely the Park limits;" and a few years hence the inevitable enhancement of town lots attendant on the location of the Park itself, will prevent any addition, however desirable. For the same reasons, the western boundary of the Park should run on the line of Fortieth street, from Cumberland street to the county-line road, opposite the mouth of the Wissahickon, thus causing a better finish on that confine, and so join the proposed narrow western strip running up beyond Manayunk. We are the more free to recommend these additions to the extent and cost of the Park because most calculating men admit that the vast increase of taxes, from the consequent rapid augumentation in the value of all the circumjacent property, will, in a few years, render the cost of all the land and improvements an ample source of revenue, instead of, in any degree, a burden.

* This is, we believe, all included in the above dimensions, given not from the Commissioners' Report but from the accompanying map, differently colored for the Park limits from those of the earlier copies, and considerably amplified from the tract recommended in its text.

"But," says the objector, "while we have been shown what to do, we have not been taught how to do it." We, the good people of Philadelphia, are easy and long-suffering. We sometimes obstruct enterprises of great public benefit; and, after opposition has been surmounted, and success is palpable, hug ourselves for our prescience. Witness the city Passenger Railways. We occasionally confer priceless privileges upon corporations for nothing. Witness, again, the city Passenger Railways. Our neighbors, of Baltimore, bear the whole interest on the cost, and all the heavy expense of adorning and keeping up their handsome Park, by a tax upon the respective companies of one cent for every passenger who rides in any of their city passenger cars, and this with the restriction of the fares to not over six cents a trip. We think it is now five cents a trip. But our superior wisdom and facilities compel us to pay seven cents per passage, unless we purchase a number of tickets at once. On this hint we should act. Of course the various charters, as granted, stand for their full terms. Yet, when renewal shall arrive to each, the representatives of the city should see that the above provision is made for all the future. By that time the net five cents per passenger will give the companies a good dividend. Some think that even four cents the head would answer. However, no objection would ever be offered by any Philadelphian to sixteen tickets for a dollar, while he realized that over one-sixth his outlay would inure to the sole benefit of the Park, in other words, of himself; while, as matters now stand, some of these days there will be a shrewd demand for a great reduction of fares. There is the more justice in this proposition, because a large proportion of the income of the companies, directly with many, indirectly with all, proceed, and will greatly more proceed, from the Park.

Thus far the tangible, the material. But a far stronger argument resides in the conservation of health, by the prevention of the nuisances mentioned in the beginning of this article. Besides, apart from the clearness and purity of the water, to be preserved by sequestering the shores of our charming streams, healthful motion and freshness in the air are always lured along down the valley, from the mountains, by the rippling flow of a well-shaded, running river.

There is one point whereon we differ from the Commission. They speak of having a continuous carriage road immediately upon the banks of the Schuylkill, throughout the Park. But we are confident that a review of this matter upon the principles of landscape-gardening, will show them that, by filling out in the water, thus encroaching upon the width of the river, and carrying this drive along in front of Laurel Hill, they will sadly injure the romantic beauty of its bosky bluffs, now plunging sheer into the flood. Far better let the road leave the stream at, and proceed along, the southern boundary of South Laurel Hill to Ridge avenue, and return to it again, from the latter, along the northern line of North Laurel Hill. In this arrangement, we infer that the present lane from the steamboat landing, between the two divisions of the cemetery to Ridge avenue, will remain open to the public, with a slight meandering change of direction, to become, at no distant time, a beautifully shaded walk, bordered with low, thick hedges, and spanned by an elegant footbridge connecting the cemeteries, thus securing them from intrusion, and lined on either side with chaste memorials of the departed. To interfere with the craggy water-front of Laurel Hill, is wantonly to interfere with nature's pet charm of scenery within many miles, is, further, to interfere with the vested rights of the corporation of Laurel Hill, and is, finally, to interfere with the inborn claims of the citizens—lovers of nature. No mere

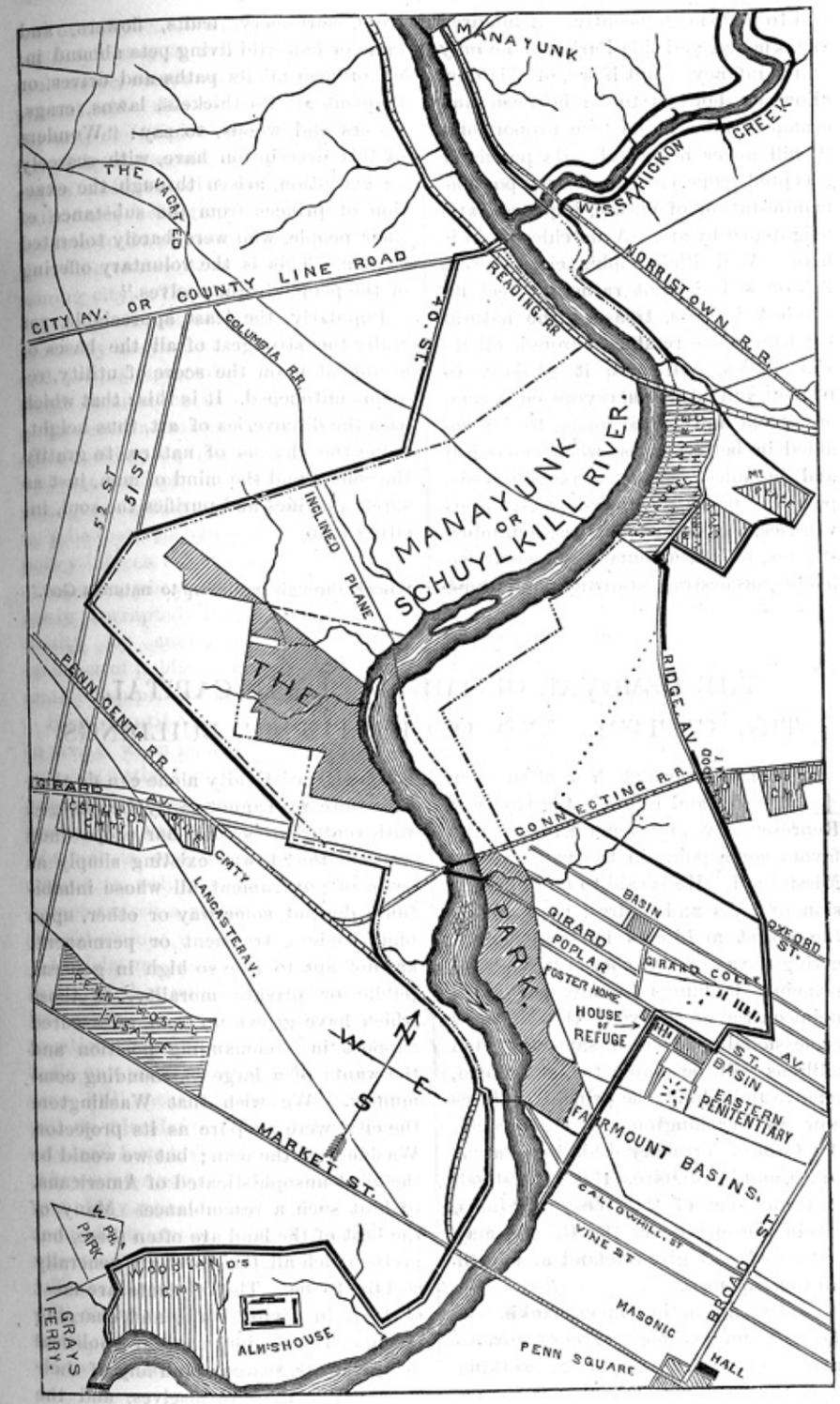
driving convenience can compensate the narrowing of the Schuylkill here by the contemplated one hundred feet; and the loss of the water now washing the base of these lovely wooded cliffs—a great loss to artistic observers on the opposite shore, but a far greater to the visitors and lot-owners of Laurel Hill—would rudely interfere with the present isolated seclusion befitting the city of the dead.

Among the many beautiful dells of the Park is that containing the oval fish-pond, under the high grassy banks, eastward of the Lemon Hill mansion, and across the road from the enclosed spring of mineral water. The ordinary fountain, springing from the pile of rough stones in the centre of this pool, could, by the expenditure of three or four thousand dollars, be replaced by one at once unique, romantic and appropriate. Suppose, as issuing from the under-world, the gigantic granite figure of the Delaware head chief, Tamany, say of about six feet shoulder-breadth, with face toward the east, rising from the waters, so as to display his form, the arms kept close to the sides, as far as the lower part of the breast, with bear-skin over one shoulder, quiver and other accoutrements as their upper portions would proportionately emerge, and his head shaved, after the manner of the sea-board Indians, so as to leave nothing but the slender cord-binding of the crown. The scalp-lock and head-dress—for which see Beverley's account of the American Indians—would be represented by the water, over-curving in every direction, with thin threads tinkling in the lustrous pool. Here would be something, to engage the mind and warm the imagination, never imaged before. In Europe feather-crests upon the helmets of the full-length figures of knights have been represented by water-jets, which, while being a pretty good presentation of the effect desired there, will much better represent this peculiar style of the Indian head-dress.

Hitherto we have spoken of the Park mainly as recommended by the Park Commission, and confirmed and established by the City Councils and the Legislature. But opportunity yet lingers with us to enhance the present high anticipated beauty, and to render it, beyond exception, the noblest municipal pleasure-ground of the United States. The eastern brow of Fairmount-basin knoll is utterly spoiled by a long, high and nearly perpendicular, dangerous stone wall, preventing the development of its eastern slope. This slope requires at least a square for its proper artificial reproduction. Left as now, it must ever be an eye-sore to all observers and a reproach to the city. Extend the grounds here from the southeast angle of Fairmount enclosure, the line of Biddle street, to Twenty-fourth street, along Twenty-fourth street to the easternmost obtuse angle of Girard College enclosure, upon Poplar street, thence eastwardly along Poplar street to Corinthian avenue, and northwardly, on the latter to Girard College gate, thence westwardly, northwardly and eastwardly along Girard College grounds to Ridge avenue, thence along the west side of the latter to Oxford street, thence along the south line of the last-named, until it intersects and merges in the Park, near the southern limit of the Sedgely addition. This tract includes, or encloses, the basin northwest of the College, the Foster Home, the House of Refuge, and the reservoir adjoining, and brings the Eastern Penitentiary within one square of the Park,—a matter of consequence to its prisoners, custodians, and the public, in a sanitary point of view,—and, fortunately, it is but little built upon. Portions of it contain fine groves of lofty trees which, in view of its proximity, it would be a shame to sacrifice to the more earthy gods of brick and mortar, and its surface is such as could readily be converted into a constantly freshening surprise of hill and dell.

The buildings it contains, might, after the proposed purchase, be rented out by the city for a number of years, until it should be held advisable to level them all, and throw into the Park this entire tract. Besides its inherent advantages, all ready for the landscape-gardener, this would, in effect, add the Girard College property to the City Park domain, and perpetually advantage both franchises; it would also grandly bear out Councils' idea of the pressing want of acres upon the east side of the Schuylkill, and appropriately finish Fairmount knoll. The tract here mentioned is of the minimum dimensions. If the city would not regret in future it should also include, as a maximum, the whole irregular triangle between Ridge road from Oxford street to York street, and the limits just described. This is ONE great point. The SECOND is, to surround the new cemeteries in the neighborhood of Laurel Hill, such as Mount Vernon, Mount Peace, &c., with a narrow strip of the Park, thus measurably constituting them a portion of itself, and forever protecting them from the encroachments of the great city. The THIRD is, to purchase a narrow strip of land on both sides of the Wissahickon, from Paul's Mill road—the presumed present northwesterly outer-guard of the Park, in its utmost proposed dimensions—as far as the banks remain high, rocky and picturesque, terminating with the transition into general level meadow, or farm land. The FOURTH is, to purchase and add to the Park all of the right-angled triangle, formed by Biddle street, Twenty-fourth street, and the Schuylkill, not already owned by the city. This will include the gasometer on Callowhiil street, and carry the line on the east side of the Schuylkill down as far as Vine street. The FIFTH is, to acquire the narrow tract forming the west shore of the Schuylkill, from Biddle street, on the line of Bridgewater street, fairly to the demesne of the Blockley Almshouse, there being no reason why the abjectly poor, and, of necessity, the community, should not be guarded through an expanse of verdure and full play of air from the pestilence lurking in the lengthening mud bank, which then would be reclaimed and elevated into the healthful companionship of the Park. Besides, what so gratifying to the tired business-man, from the heart of the city, but dwelling in West Philadelphia, as, on seeing the living green of the whole western shore, to reflect, that far beyond that pleasant scene snugly lies his waiting home. The great thoroughfares of course would all remain open through the Park, as at present, only conforming a little to the line of beauty. As the Woodlands' Cemetery joins the Almshouse boundary, it would virtually be a portion of the Park, which thus would extend nearly to Gray's Ferry, an immense advantage to the future over-crowded city. The SIXTH is, to secure a narrow strip on both sides of the Schuylkill, fairly to Norristown. This latter would give an extended continuous drive of thirty-four miles. Its object would be to preserve the scenery of the river from vulgar desecration, as the Sherman family, buying up both shores for several miles, have preserved West Canada creek, or the Cayoharie, the principal branch of the Mohawk, at Trenton Falls, New York, thus perpetuating the native romantic surroundings of the dark fossil-sprent ravine and its inimitable cascades.

Those who at first start, at the proportions here laid down, must remember that within one generation, thirty-three years, Philadelphia will, in all likelihood, number two and a half million inhabitants. The members of the Park Commission, cool-brained gentlemen, officially predict for it within twenty-five years one million and a half. In a new and free country, population far outstrips the average normal increase. This being the case, it behooves the present public at least to obtain and lay out the ground,



and to plan magnificently. A hundred years hence, and this Park will be only in its infancy. But if we, of this day, allow its borders to be hemmed and cramped, then, in its true proportions, it will never be at all. Its popularly accepted scope embraces every possible manifestation of nature, improved and heightened by art. A matchless field is here. Will Philadelphia circumscribe it? or will she not rather protect its amplest borders, treasure the natural beauties it has retained through all its vicissitudes, and give it genially to present and future surveyors, engineers, architects and landscapists, to be enabled in better times, when zoological and botanical gardens, play-grounds, parades, parks, summer-houses, observatories, water-gates, hedges, fountains, statues, reliefs, monuments, memorials, lodges, orchestras, stairways, miradors, trees, shrubbery, fruits, flowers, and tame or half-wild living pets abound in, on, or near all its paths and drives, or frequent all its thickets, lawns, crags, waters and woods, to say: "Wonders of this description have, with scarcely an exception, arisen through the exaction of princes from the substance of their people, who were barely tolerated therein. This is the voluntary offering of the people to themselves."

Popularly, the least appreciable, yet really the strongest of all the bases of argument upon the score of utility, remains untouched. It is this: that which uses the discoveries of art, thus heightening the charms of nature, to gratify the senses and the mind of man, just as surely gratifies and purifies the soul, inciting it to

"Look through nature up to nature's God."

THE REMOVAL OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL, THE CAPITOL, AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

IS a matter which has often been bruited, and lately in the House of Representatives by General Logan, who favors some point in the valley of the Mississippi. He is said to be in possession of facts and figures, prepared by the ablest architects in the country, giving the aggregate cost of moving the principal buildings to any designated point on the great river. One of these professional gentlemen says, that ten millions will be ample to take down, remove and rebuild the principal edifices now in Washington, D. C., namely, the Capitol, Treasury Building, Patent Office, and Post Office. It is understood, that any one of the Western States, within whose borders the Capital may be located, will give the land and incur all the expenses.

Polity only acting upon mankind in the mass, no possible system of government creates personal purity; working upon and improving mankind in the individual, Christianity alone can do that. Therefore we cannot fairly be charged with venturing beyond our scope when we say, that towns existing simply as seats of government, all whose inhabitants depend, some way or other, upon office-holders, transient or permanent, are not apt to rate so high in general, public or private morality, as those which have grown up from an assured support in commanding position and the wants of a large surrounding community. We wish that Washington, the city, were as pure as its projector, Washington, the man; but we would be the most unsophisticated of Americans, to hint such a resemblance. Many of the best of the land are often there, but pretty much all the worst are generally certain to be. The residents are most at fault in giving little, and charging much. The sojourners, if political manipulators, scarcely find any of their class better than themselves, and the