

A GRAND POINT OF OBSERVATION.

WHAT CAN BE SEEN FROM THE NEW CROTON TOWER—EXTENSIVE AND SUPERB VIEW.

With the completion of the new Croton Tower, at the west end of High Bridge, a permanent view-point is established which must be regarded hereafter as one of the Summer attractions of this City and Island. No such magnificent outlook upon surrounding scenery is afforded for many miles within this vicinity, and it will doubtless gratify the residents of New-York to learn that it is within easy reach of their own doors. The new tower was constructed to furnish greater water facilities to people living at the upper end of the island, and is in itself a solid and handsome structure. Its main object is to support a huge iron tank at an elevation higher than any house on the heights, from which the water, pumped in by steam power, can find pressure sufficient to be carried to the upper rooms of every residence. This diminutive reservoir is sustained at a height of about 150 feet, and serves its purpose well. Above it is the outlook or "reception-room," nearly 180 feet from the ground, which at that spot is 200 feet above tide-water. A long, winding, iron stairway within leads to the top, where the sight-seer finds himself 400 feet above the water-level, without any obstruction whatever to the view. Here a grand panorama stretches out in every direction.

The immense extent of the view is surprising. In the first place, Manhattan Island seems to lie literally at the feet of the spectator like a mammoth-sized map. Immediately at the base of the tower, to the east, High Bridge stretches across the Harlem River, and its length is realized for the first time. Still lower, the stream has the appearance of a vein of polished silver between the steep banks, on which the moving boats and craft seem like a school-boy's playthings. To see these, the spectator has to turn his eyes down in an almost perpendicular line, which enhances the distance and effect. Just on the west side is the new reservoir, which, on a still day, is a perfect mirror of the sky above. Now, looking down the island, one can trace the projected boulevards for miles, and can take in at a glance the site of Central Park, the whole of Harlem, the wooded knolls with which the Island rounds off at the upper end, and the innumerable houses that jot the streets irregularly above the entrance to the Park. Beyond are the spires, towers, and lofty buildings of the City proper, which are crowded to the view in dim confusion.

The lower portion of the Metropolis, owing to its flatness, is hidden from sight by the higher land at Murray Hill, but Jersey City and the North River on one side, and the East River on the other, both crowded with shipping and steam-boats, suggest the busy streets and docks of the great City that lies between. When the colossal bridge to Brooklyn is completed, a fine bird's-eye view of it will be presented from the Croton Tower, as the Brooklyn pier already stands well defined in the distance.

Perhaps the most beautiful and interesting stretch of scenery from the new outlook is Long Island Sound, with all its windings and indentations, where it forms the East River and rushes through Hell Gate. For miles and miles the view here is unobstructed and panoramic on an extensive scale. White sails stud the whole length of the Sound as far as the eye can reach, (which is stated to be to a point nearly 100 miles off,) and the blue water contrasts with the hues of the foliage on either shore.

The Hudson comes into view on the opposite side of the outlook, above and below Fort Washington Point, and presents a grand sight with the Palisades as its background. The spectator here can see up as far as Sing Sing, distinctly.

Between the Sound and the Hudson an immense area of country stretches to the horizon, and towns and villages can easily be made out as the eye runs along the line of the various railroads. Westchester County is open to the view from one end to the other, and the New-Yorker will be surprised at its thickly-settled appearance. In all directions are stations, towns, farms, and woodlands, and in the distance are the counties of Fairfield, Conn., and Putnam and Rockland, N. Y.

From this outline of the scenery surrounding this City, it may be inferred that the Croton Tower presents no commonplace or limited view, and that it will, indeed, be an attraction to hundreds who, for the first time, are now made aware of what can be seen from its top. On a clear day, with a good glass, an enthusiastic sight-seer could spend hours in the outlook without fatigue or a sense of monotony. The entire view is unsurpassed in variety, interest, and extent, and the tower that affords it can be reached without difficulty.