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NEW YORK AVENUE CHURCH.

A NOTABLE CHURCH.

Where the Sessions of the General Assembly Are Held.

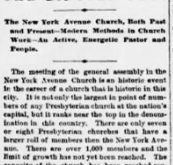
THE LINCOLN PEW.

The New York Avenue Church, Both Past and Present—Street Changes in Church Work—An Active, Energetic Pastor and People.

The meeting of the general assembly in the New York Avenue Church is an historic event in the career of a church that is historic in this city. It is not only the largest in point of numbers of any Presbyterian church at the nation's capital, but it ranks near the top in the denomination in this country. There are only seven or eight Presbyterian churches that have a larger roll of members than the New York Avenue. There are over 1,000 members and the limit of growth has not yet been reached. The capacity of the church has been reached several times, and when the pressure becomes too great a cream leave the old hive and starts a new center of busy activity. This swarming process has been a feature of the history of the church. It began a number of years ago and is still kept up. The North Presbyterian Church on N street was originally started as a mission of the New York Avenue Church, and this connection was continued until the infant church was able to form an independent organization. Gurley Memorial Church, Lo Droit Park, was started as a mission of this church a few years ago a number of families left the church and formed the Church of the Covenant. The church has now two missions, Bethany Mission at the corner of 12th and C streets, which was begun in 1874, and Faith Chapel on H street between 4½ and 6th streets southwest, which was built at a cost of $15,000, and first occupied in 1891. The latter enterprise is almost ready to enter upon an independent existence.

This is only one department of church activities in which this great organization takes a leading and an energetic part.

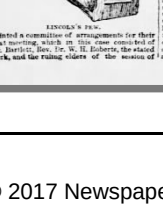
Its benevolences are large and reach out to all the different objects which appeal to the sympathy and support of the Christian Church. Last year the total contributions for all purposes reached the large sum of nearly $26,000.



DR. BARTLETT.

A REMARKABLE PASTOR.

At the head of this important center of Christian activity is the pastor, Rev. Wilton Merle-Bartlett, D.D. When he came to the church sixteen years ago the membership was 252, while today it is 1,045. The increase has been a steady one, and last year the net gain in members was sixty-five. Dr. Bartlett is a good type of the modern pastor. He is progressive and in a good sense aggressive, and is heartily in favor of any movement which advances the interests of his denomination both at home and abroad, and at the same time he takes an active part in all enterprises which are designed to improve the social and moral condition of the community. He is broad minded and thoroughly believes in Christian unity and the co-operation of all religious bodies in promoting the welfare of the race. In this spirit he some time ago accepted a position on the directory of a religious institution conducted by a religious order of the Catholic Church. He is now about fifty-eight years of age. He preaches without manuscript and has the power of holding an audience fast. One of the charms of his sermons is the stimulus he gives to thought and to intellectual atmosphere which is here of comfort with an earnest, enthusiastic kindness. He is especially happy in the form of addresses which are known as occasional, when he pours forth the richness of his intellectual equipment with attractive power. Dr. Bartlett was a Presbyterian Tabernacle in Brooklyn, then he went to Chicago, where he was pastor of the Plymouth Church. After a pastorate in Indianapolis he accepted a call to his present charge. He was a commissioner to the last meeting of the general assembly, which was held in Portland, Oregon, and it was due to his invitation that the assembly voted to hold their next meeting in this city. In extending this invitation Dr. Bartlett knew the heavy responsibility which he undertook, but he was also aware that he had behind him the hearty support of his officers and members of his own church and could count on the active assistance of the Presbyterians throughout the District. In this expectation he has not been disappointed. As previously stated, after adjourning, in accordance with their custom, ap-



LINCOLN'S PEW.

pointed a committee of arrangements for their next meeting, which in this case consisted of Dr. Bartlett, Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts, the stated clerk, and the ruling elders of the session of the New York Avenue Church. As the host on the occasion of the general assembly, the New York Avenue Church will occupy a large share of the public attention. The prosperous condition of this great organization of Christian workers has already been referred to. It has also an interesting past.

ITS CAREER AS A CHURCH.

In the early years of the capital city there were three Presbyterian churches. The First Church, which then occupied a building at the foot of the Capitol, and the Second Church, at the present site on G½ street; the F Street Church, which occupied the building now known as Willard Hall, between 14th and 15th streets, and the Bridge Street Church in Georgetown, which has also changed its location. In the year 1820 a movement was started for the organization of a new church, and some fifty signatures were secured to a paper asking dismission from the presbytery to form a church to be located in the northwest. Dr. Lowrie, who was a clerk in the Treasury Department, was at the same time theological professor and pastor of the F Street Church. The church also belonged to the old school, which was then very much in favor of the new church enterprise belonged mostly to the new school. The petitioners to organize having been obtained, for the first few years of its organization the new church was in the first floor corridor of the old Navy Department building, which has recently been torn down. On its interior sight the chairs were placed in the corridor, room for the congregation that assembled the next day, and on Monday morning they were removed and the clerks arrived. This arrangement was, however, only temporary, and as soon as the funds could be obtained the ground where the present church now stands was purchased and the church from Nicholas Biddle, the president of the famous Bank of the United States.

THE ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILDING.

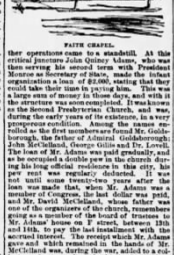
A modest little building was erected about the same space occupied by the present building was begun and the work progressed as far as the roof, when the money gave out and fur-

FAITH CHAPEL.

ther operations came to a standstill. At this juncture Andrew Jackson was President, and then serving his second term with President Monroe as Secretary of State, made the infant organization a loan of $2,000, stating that they could take their time in paying him. This was a large sum of money in those days, and with it the church was completed and dedicated. It stood as the Second Presbyterian Church, and was, during the early years of its existence, in a very prosperous condition. Among the names enrolled as the first members are found Mr. Goldsborough, the father of Admiral Goldsborough; John Rochelle, Thomas Gillis and L. Lowrie. The loan of Mr. Adams was paid gradually, and as he occupied a front pew in the church for a long his long official residence in this city, his pew rent was regularly declared. It was not until some twenty-two years after the loan was made that Mr. Adams, then a member of Congress, the last dollar was paid, and Mr. David McClelland, whose father was one of the organizers of the church, remembers going as a member of the board of trustees to Mr. Adams' house on F street, between 19th and 20th, to pay the last installment, which he accepted interest. The receipt which Mr. Adams gave and which remained in the hands of Mr. McClelland was, during the war, added to a collection of autographs and sold at a fair held in this city for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission.

THE OLD AND NEW SCHOOL PARTIES.

The contest which was then going on between the adherents of the old and new schools in the Presbyterian Church at large had a very dis-



BUTMAN CHAPEL.

turbing effect upon the New York Church on 7th street, of which Rev. Dr. Smith was pastor for so many years. The old school party was in the majority in the church and it was at times difficult to get enough people together to hold services. Many of the members went to other churches. Among the ministers who were then in charge of churches which were afterward known as leaders of the new school party were Rev. Drs. Hall, Smith and Bird. The latter was the father of Rev. Dr. Frederick Bird, who is now one of the members and attendants of this church. Dr. Bird went in social and church life. John Quincy Adams continued his connection with the church, and Andrew Jackson while President was an attendant. In the war the church was frequently without a pastor, and when Rev. Dr. Kirkwood, of Baltimore, previous early enough members remained to guarantee him a salary. The $2,000 a year which the church was subsequently raised to $4,000.

During those years the F Street Church became a prosperous and influential body, and it became too large for the building. The Second Church had to contend with exactly the reverse condition of affairs, and the membership at last became so much reduced that it was proposed to abandon the organization and close the church. In the latter's taking pastoral care of the people in and about Lewinsville, Va.

Mr. Mahaffy died at his home in Virginia in the summer of 1795. He left a widow and a valuable library among his family and friends. An original portrait of him was destroyed in the burning of the residence of Rev. Dr. Balch of Georgetown, D. C.

Among the names of other great divines that were associated with that of Mr. Mahaffy in the early history of the Presbyterian Church in this city are those of Rev. Dr. Laurie, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dickinson, George Gillespie, Robert Cross, William Tennent, James and David McGregore, Ebenezer Prime, Gilbert Tennent, John Tennent, John Blair Smith, Jonathan Pearsons, William Tennent, Sr., Samuel Blair, David Cowell and Aaron Burr.

THE FIRST MINISTER IN DELAWARE.

The first minister of the Presbyterian Church in Delaware was Samuel Davis, who was engaged in business and also preached at Lewes, Del., as early as July, 1692. He is supposed to have been an Irishman. The Boston ministers were also active in caring for Presbyterianism on the Delaware, Increase and Cotton Mather Powell, Solomon Jackie, Adam Gordon and the battle of Bothwell a large number of banished Scotchmen began to emigrate to America, and a body of twenty-two sailed from Glasgow for Carolina. William Dunlap, a gentleman of came with them and settled at Port Royal. The other two died afterward among the sick. On account of the unhealthy character of the place, Mr. Dunlap moved to the eastern shore of Virginia for several years, but later returned to Carolina and afterward became professor of the University of Glasgow. The ministers of Scotland at the time were divided into two parties, the first of these whose names we know being Rev. Hugh Stevenson, who came to Virginia prior to 1694.

It was to Philadelphia in 1729 that the synod solemnly declared its agreement with the Westminster Confession of Faith, and it was then that all the essential articles good forms of sound words were adopted. The first meeting of the synod after this a lively controversy arose in the church between the two parties, then known as the "old side" and the "new side," the former being the old school Presbyterians, symbols of faith and their demand for an educated ministry, and the latter as favoring maintaining that the great revivals under Whitefield and Tennent were the work of the Holy Spirit. The two factions did not long remain apart, however, and in the meeting of the synod were ninety-four ministers, of whom about three-fourths had been of the "new side" lodge.

GILBERT TENNENT.

The moderator of that reunited synod was one of the most remarkable men in the early Presbyterian Church has ever counted among its ranks. Gilbert Tennent has been called the most powerful member of the most powerful family in the church of that era. His success as a preacher was phenomenal, and he was the leading spirit in the revival movement that swept over the country in 1740. As a boy he came over from Ireland with his father, the famous William Tennent, who settled on a farm near the Neshaminy creek. There the elder Tennent, with his sons, carried on a classical school known as Log College, which, despite its humble and rude surroundings, was the means of training for itself the germs of Princeton College, the Princeton Theological Seminary and the other institutions of learning in the Presbyterian Church of America. Log College did good service in training a number of ministers for the church, but it was not long before it was crowded, and both fathers of the synod and the trustees of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, felt that the time had come for something more modern. So the work of a college was begun. Through the efforts of Jonathan Dickinson a charter for a new college was obtained in 1746, and it was opened in the following year, with Dickinson as president. Upon his death—in the fall of 1747—the college was removed to Elizabeth, and Aaron Burr was selected as its president. Upon the death of Burr, in 1757, the college was removed to Princeton, and while its formal title is the College of New Jersey, it has always been better known by the name of the town in which it is located.

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ON MUD FLATS.

All the eastern oysters now growing in San Francisco bay have been planted on mud flats in shallow water. Such locations are selected in order that the beds may be readily fenced in and kept free from enemies. Stakes are driven to hold the bivalves are out of water and exposed to the sun. This destroys barnacles, ravenous and hot. Probably this is one reason why the oysters do not have a good flavor when first planted on the beds. After they have been there a few months they are said to be fit to eat. Then they are taken up and planted in the bay, where they remain until they are ready for market. The oysters are planted in rows, which soon become covered with the growing vegetation. It is necessary to clean the imported oysters for market by removing the vegetation from the shells as delivered to them. Doubtless the latter crowd out the native oysters, which soon become covered with a thick growth of barnacles. This is a peculiar kind. In San Francisco bay there are two of these species, one of which is found in the shallow estuaries of oyster culture in Long Island sound. This is the common barnacle, or "drift," which lives through the oyster shells and upon the beds of the small oyster animals, are becoming plentiful, having been brought from the Atlantic coast with the oysters.

PUBS TO THE PACIFIC COAST.

But the most dreaded foes to oysters in California waters are starfish. These are ugly, agreeable and sometimes dangerous fishes enter the bays from the ocean in large numbers in spring and remain until late in the fall. They feed exclusively upon the bivalves. Where they feed their mouths are provided with a sort of funnel-like arrangement in each arm. Between spawning time, all beds have to be fenced around with wire netting to keep the starfish out. Where a broken stake allows a school of starfish to enter the beds they destroy many oysters. Inside the lines of stakes, thus destroying many oysters. The starfish are the worst foes that fight against eng-

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TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

The Story of the Presbyterian Church in America.

ITS BEGINNING IN 1684.

The First Ministers of the Church and Their Struggles—The Presbyterian Patriots During the Revolutionary War—Rapid Growth of the Church in the Nineteenth Century.

Five years ago in the city of Philadelphia the Presbyterian Church celebrated the centennial of the establishment of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The assembly of 1893 is therefore the one hundred and fifth of the long series.

In connection with this great gathering of prominent ministers and ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church in congress assembled it is peculiarly interesting to consider the history of the church in America, its origin and development. It would be no small or inconsiderable task to treat such a subject in anything like a thorough manner. The history of the church is so intimately connected with the history of the many phases of the new nation under its banner, Presbyterianism, with its democratic form of government and congregationalism, derived directly from the character of the early fathers of the church, may well be called the natural outgrowth of the reformation. Beneath the broad, ample folds of its banner the church has found many who were to be the successors have made their names and deeds a part of the history of the nation. The Presbyterian Church is a church militant, a church that has fought many battles, and has been a powerful formative element. The father of the church in this country was a Scotch Irishman, who did not know what was the fear of man. He was a man of God, and his missionary was Presbyterianism in the new world and for the time being as a standard by reason of the fact that her sons were aimed to a man engaged in fighting for their country and their own freedom. To a marked degree the adherents of the Presbyterian Church were the early heirs-by-long men.

The declaration of Independence, beneath the name of John Hancock was written the name of a Presbyterian minister, John Witherspoon. It is the only name of a minister on it.

JOHN WITHERSPOON.

John Witherspoon made two visits to Philadelphia. One was to the synod in 1768, when he urged upon it so earnestly the necessity for establishing the Presbyterian patriots for independence. His second visit was in July, 1774, when he came as a delegate to the Continental Congress. It was on that occasion that he told his fellow members that the country was not only ripe for freedom, but would soon be rotten for it. Before the war of the Revolution Witherspoon had been instrumental in establishing a number of academies in the South. Through these large numbers were added to the ranks of the armed and equipped. Besides the presidency of the old side school itself with Yale College, but the latter declined the honor on account of his age. As an educational combatant and a true patriot he was a powerful factor in the Presbyterian Church of that day. The "old side" school did good service in training a number of ministers for the church, but it was not long before it was crowded, and both fathers of the synod and the trustees of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, felt that the time had come for something more modern. So the work of a college was begun. Through the efforts of Jonathan Dickinson a charter for a new college was obtained in 1746, and it was opened in the following year, with Dickinson as president. Upon his death—in the fall of 1747—the college was removed to Elizabeth, and Aaron Burr was selected as its president. Upon the death of Burr, in 1757, the college was removed to Princeton, and while its formal title is the College of New Jersey, it has always been better known by the name of the town in which it is located.

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THE BEGINNING IN MARYLAND.

The beginnings of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America date back to the year 1683, having with something of a cloud of witnesses. Yet through this cloud one can make out, rather indistinctly, it is true, a few ministers, a few preachers and a few small churches struggling for existence. Of these the Rev. Francis Makemie, in eastern Maryland, about the year 1684. Two years later Makemie was called to the Rehoboth. One can also see the face of the Rev. Jeremiah Hull, pastor of the Pocomoke River.

Mr. Makemie was undoubtedly the first regular and settled Presbyterian minister in this country, and he was with equal justice be considered the father of the Presbyterian Church in America. He has been called "a man of apostolic simplicity and primitive piety," and an uncommonly fascinating address.

Mr. Makemie was born in Ireland, but sailed for the shores of America in 1682. He proved to have pursued a course of study at one of the Scotch universities, and made preparations at the age of fourteen. He was ordained by the presbytery of Laggan in January, 1681, and was licensed some time afterward by the "young women" that were forward when bidders, pieces of boats and hot water were used.

The gale lasted nearly a week, and then conditions of affairs were met. Capt. Scott was to give up in despair and start for San Francisco, when on the 12th of June, 1849, on October 12 it came on to blow again. All the cargo and ballast again and everybody prayed for the worst. A conference of the officers was held, but the vessel was still on the beach for the Falkland Islands. The men were exhausted by this time and refused to work. Many of them were sick and did not care whether they lived or died. The captain's daughters went among them, bound up their wounds, and, with encouraging words and which the captain put a "stick" on the ally, succeeded in getting them to work. Ten days later Port Stanley was reached, and for the time the trouble was over. It took 100 days to repair the ship, and then another start was made.

THE POWER OF TELESCOPES.

The Largest Bridge the Moon Nearer to Us Than Boston Is.

From the Chicago Herald.

The following careful statement by Prof. E. S. Holden on the power of the eye and the telescope, as they are contrasted in actual experience, is of special and permanent interest:

If the telescope is used as a mere aid to the eye alone is one, with a 2-inch tele-scope it is 100 times as bright, with a 4-inch telescope it is 400 times as bright, 8-inch telescope it is 1,600 times as bright, 16-inch telescope it is 6,400 times as bright, 32-inch telescope it is 25,600 times as bright, 64-inch telescope it is 102,400 times as bright. That is, stars can be seen with a 64-inch telescope with the eye and the telescope combined that are 102,400 times fainter than the faintest stars visible to the eye alone. This is the telescope with which can be successfully used on the 5-inch telescope. Here is not above 60 that the telescope will permit a magnifying power of more than three hundred diameters, as is usually the case in example.

This power cannot be used on the moon and planets with real advantage for many reasons, but the moon, for instance, with a power of 1,000 or 1,500 will bring the moon as near as the moon is when viewed by the naked eye at a distance of, say, 240,000 miles. This is the nearest of the heavenly objects about 500 feet square can be recognized, but not a village or great canal or even large edifice can be built on the moon without our being able to discover it with the telescope. Mr. Makemie returned to stand trial. He was acquitted, but was not released until he had paid all the fees of his prosecution, which, in addition to his expenses, amounted to about $300.

After his release Mr. Makemie attended the sessions of presbytery on his way to Virginia and preached a sermon by appointment. This was the last meeting of presbytery he ever attended, though it appears from the record of the next meeting that he had in the meantime stayed an order of presbytery to write to Rev. Mr. Colden of Ormain, Scotland, with reference

TROUBLES OF EARLY MINISTERS.

Mr. Makemie was a hard-working and eminently successful pioneer minister, but he had many number of setbacks in his work. These, however, could not deter him from his course. In 1706 he visited Barbadoes, and in 1707 he became nearly a year. While he was away he left a substitute in charge of the church in Snow Hill, and arranged for the supply of the congregations with evangelical clergymen. Before his return he visited Jamaica, and had interviews with him when he returned. Those were days of persecution, and Mr. Makemie was arrested by the governor, who decided in their favor.

Soon after Mr. Makemie came back from Europe he was arrested by the governor of New York, but whether this took place in the year 1706 or 1707 is not known. He was charged with preaching without license, and was brought to trial. The trial was the magnificent one, and was determined now on account of a defect in the indictment. Makemie was released on bail, and this presbytery or were united with it previous to 1716, when Francis Makemie, George McNish, John Hampton, Samuel Davis, Hugh Conn, John Wilson, Nathaniel Taylor and Andrews. Mr. Makemie was moderator of the presbytery in December, 1716.

In January of the following year Mr. Makemie and Rev. Mr. Jenkins were arrested in New York for having preached without a license. They were kept in prison for a couple of months, but were finally released on a writ of habeas corpus. While in prison Mr. Makemie wrote and published a vindication of his course. This publication was made that the sum of $5,000,000 be raised as a special thank offering. This subscription when completed actually amounted to $7,382,000. It was in Philadelphia, however, that the great reunion assembly of 1870 was held. There were present 640 commissioners, representing 31 synods, 259 presbyteries, 4,526 churches and 446,500 communicant members.

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.

The growth of the Presbyterian Church in America has been something at once remarkable and encouraging. At times there have been dissensions and bickerings, but through it all the increase in membership, influence and wealth has been steady and large. According to the statistics of the Northern Presbyterian Church as contained in the census of 1890-91 there were then within its limits 6,717 organizations, 6,562½ church edifices, with a seating capacity of 1,220,044, 550 halls, with a seating capacity of 57,866, the value of church property aggregated $74,452,900, the number of communicants or members was 726,324, according to last year's report of Rev. Wm. H. Roberts, stated clerk of the assembly, the total contributions of the church during the year for all its various objects amounted to $14,330,371.

Efforts have been made in recent years, and it is still believed they will be crowned with success, to bring about a union between the northern and southern churches, which were separated by the civil troubles between the two sections.

OYSTERS ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

Prospect for Their Propagation in the Waters of San Francisco Bay.

The surprising discovery that oysters of the Atlantic coast species do multiply and can be propagated in the waters of San Francisco Bay is on the point of being announced by the United States fish commission.

Fifteen years ago many cargo sailing vessels have been regularly grown in the Bay of San Francisco. Every autumn about 100 car loads of baby bivalves not bigger than a thumb nail are carried all the way across the continent and planted at the Golden Gate. There they are cared for until they reach marketable size, when they are sold for eating. The supply has they prized that they fetch 2 cents apiece—twice as much as they are worth in the east. Up to the present time it does not appear that these valuable molluscs would not breed in the adopted waters, as the young are not sold. Their propagation ordinarily demands a temperature of 68 degrees, while those waters seldom register over 61 degrees Fahrenheit. Recent investigations have discovered the fact that the alien species is adapting itself to its new home, and is breeding freely in the bay in small extent. Furthermore, it is practically certain that it could be made to reproduce in kind on a satisfactory scale by very simple methods.

BROUGHT FROM THE ATLANTIC.

Live Atlantic oysters were first brought to San Francisco in 1875, when the Central Pacific continental railway was completed. They were so highly appreciated that the business of planting them 6,000 miles by water rapidly grew. Eventually, however, the practice was abandoned because the bivalves were lean in the shape of "seed," and the infant mollusks were found to be so small and frail that they lacked enough to be sent to market. The young shellfish were planted in the bay, but perished before the autumn. Usually the loss does not amount to more than 10 per cent, but in some years the liquid about them does not injure them. To the scientific mind of Professor Townsend the frozen oysters may remain out of water without injury if they are kept damp, and on this occasion several car loads of them were lost through a mistake and were months on the journey. When they finally arrived in San Francisco they were found to be small and frail in condition. Californians will undoubtedly consume more oysters when they can get them at Baltimore and Philadelphia prices.

THE NATIVE OYSTER OF THE PACIFIC COAST

abounds in San Francisco bay. It is a very poor sort of shellfish compared with the bivalves of the Atlantic coast. It is small and ill-edible. The shells of this species form extensive beds, covering the bottom for miles and stretching in bars out into the bay. The "seed" of these native oysters was obtained in eastern waters, which soon became covered with the growing vegetation. It is necessary to clean the imported oysters for market by removing the vegetation from the shells as delivered to them. Doubtless the latter crowd out the native oysters, which soon become covered with a thick growth of barnacles. This is a peculiar kind. In San Francisco bay there are two of these species, one of which is found in the shallow estuaries of oyster culture in Long Island sound. This is the common barnacle, or "drift," which lives through the oyster shells and upon the beds of the small oyster animals, are becoming plentiful, having been brought from the Atlantic coast with the oysters.

PUBS TO THE PACIFIC COAST.

But the most dreaded foes to oysters in California waters are starfish. These are ugly, agreeable and sometimes dangerous fishes enter the bays from the ocean in large numbers in spring and remain until late in the fall. They feed exclusively upon the bivalves. Where they feed their mouths are provided with a sort of funnel-like arrangement in each arm. Between spawning time, all beds have to be fenced around with wire netting to keep the starfish out. Where a broken stake allows a school of starfish to enter the beds they destroy many oysters. Inside the lines of stakes, thus destroying many oysters. The starfish are the worst foes that fight against engineering is a heavy expense to the oyster farmers of California.

ON MUD FLATS.

All the eastern oysters now growing in San Francisco bay have been planted on mud flats in shallow water. Such locations are selected in order that the beds may be readily fenced in and kept free from enemies. Stakes are driven to hold the bivalves are out of water and exposed to the sun. This destroys barnacles, ravenous and hot. Probably this is one reason why the oysters do not have a good flavor when first planted on the beds. After they have been there a few months they are said to be fit to eat. Then they are taken up and planted in the bay, where they remain until they are ready for market. The oysters are planted in rows, which soon become