

Saunders or Clarence Crofton was the most confounded. She recovered her equanimity first; treated the whole matter with impudent audacity, and called me a "meddlesome old frump." But when the cat showed her claws the mask had fallen, and my friend Mrs. Chappell, and Mr. Clarence Crofton, were alike disenchanted.

Neither, however, was willing to give her in custody, and Mr. Varey, careful to avoid a prosecution which might compromise his junior partner, consented with visible reluctance to let her go free—although shorn of her silken fleece.

"And *that* woman! that crafty unprincipled thief, would have been my wife a week hence but for this discovery! What an escape I have had!" exclaimed Clarence Crofton, with a shake of his head, as he watched her departure. "How shall I face my poor father? how shall I tell him that I had been beguiled by

a creature so treacherous and bold? And I was credulous enough to believe her maligned—a type of injured innocence! But I think Quixotism and obstinacy had more to do with my threat to marry her, than any true affection. Had I loved her, this scene must have affected me very differently. Do you not think so, Miss Chappell?"—addressing the graceful young lady then standing by her mother's side.

I put in a word: "I think, sir, you ought to be thankful for your escape, and doubly thankful your kind father has not fallen a sacrifice to——"

"My folly!—Mrs. Marbury, you need not hesitate; I am thankful, profoundly thankful, and I am moreover grateful, most grateful, to you, my father's intelligent nurse, to whom I owe this discovery—and I trust a changed life." His voice faltered, and I really believe there were tears in his eyes, as he shook warmly both hands of

MARY MARBURY.

"BRINGING THE SEA TO LONDON."



"A MINIATURE sea in the centre of London," as recently suggested in the letter of a newspaper correspondent, is an idea which is certainly too good to be allowed to pass by unnoticed. The proposal to bring salt water to London has, we are aware, been made before; but the suggestion of an open

salt-water lake in the heart of the metropolis, available to the public for bathing, &c., is a novel one. The only question which can arise is as to the practicability of the proposal to bring from the sea itself, or to manufacture "on the spot," such a large body of salt water as would be required to form a lake in the metropolis. Of the two alternative methods of attaining the desired result, assuming—and it may, I think, be assumed—that both are practicable, the former would probably prove to be in the end the more economical and the more satisfactory.

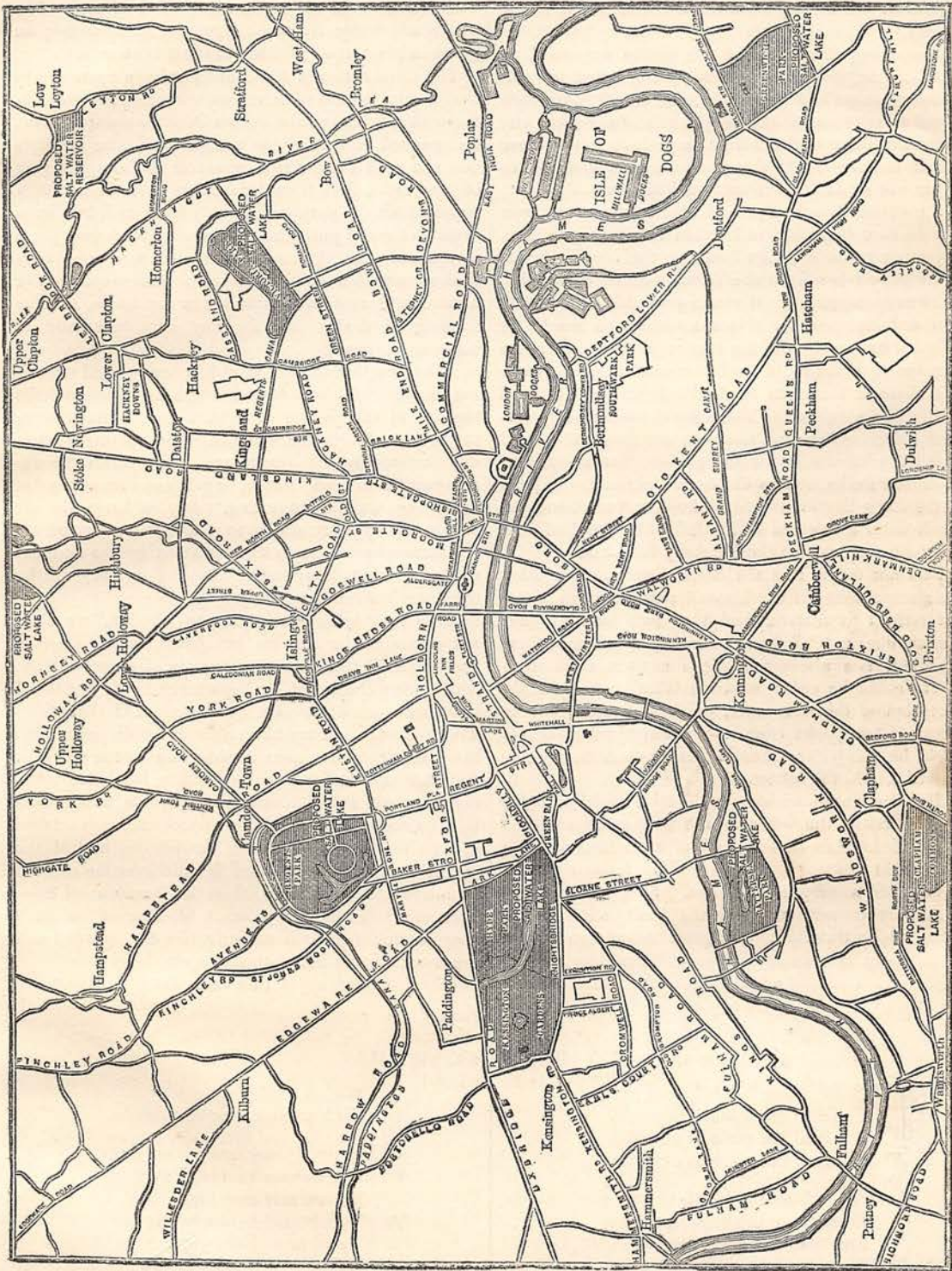
If the plan were adopted of taking the daily supplies of water which would be required at high tide, it might be found feasible to establish a station for taking these supplies from the Thames at a point, say, a little below Gravesend. I have had samples of the river-water taken at Gravesend at high and also at low tide, and

I find it sufficiently salt at that point to warrant the belief that pure sea-water could be obtained at high tide at a short distance eastward of the town. But half a mile or so added to the distance from which it might be proposed to secure the necessary supply of the briny element, would not materially increase the cost of the scheme which I shall presently proceed to suggest; and it would be most desirable to make sure that the water, wherever taken, was sufficiently "briny." At all events, as a mere question of engineering, it is not easy to conceive that there could be any insuperable difficulties in the way of the accomplishment of a project for getting enough salt water within five-and-twenty miles of London, and conveying it there; and British enterprise can well afford to despise difficulties, however great, which are not absolutely insuperable.

The Thames itself actually, therefore, as we have seen, helps us half over the difficulty, from the circumstance that its daily tides bring the waters of the sea half-way from the Nore to London.

As to the means of drawing from the river and distributing the desired volume of salt water, the following may be suggested. Let us suppose that at the selected point of supply two huge reservoirs are constructed, one below the level of high-water mark, and the other immediately above the first. The second and higher reservoir would have to be built at such a level as would be necessary in order to cause the natural flow of the water—through pipes to be constructed for the purpose—towards London. The lower reservoir would, during the flow of the tide, take in the required supply, which could then be pumped by adequate machinery into the higher reservoir.

The cost of such an undertaking would unquestionably be very considerable; but the benefit which the inhabitants of the metropolis would derive from it would be incalculable. A city which has commenced and successfully carried out a gigantic system of main drainage, ought not to hesitate to initiate and complete



SKETCH-MAP OF LONDON, DENOTING POSITIONS OF THE PROPOSED SALT-WATER LAKES.

a reform which certainly would not require anything like so large an expenditure either of time, energy, or capital as the metropolitan main drainage has necessitated.

Supposing, then, that by the means suggested an adequate supply of sea-water were directed towards London, where and how could it be stored and distributed so as to enable the inhabitants of the great city equally to share in the advantages which its presence would confer? The map* which accompanies this paper will explain the plan that I suggest.

I propose that, in the first place, a huge reservoir should be constructed in London at the proper level, for receiving in the first instance the supply of sea-water to be taken from the Thames below Gravesend, as already suggested. It would perhaps be difficult to find a better site for this reservoir than would be afforded by a portion of the Hackney Marshes. From this centre pipes could easily be carried to Finsbury and Victoria Parks, to Hyde Park, and to Regent's Park; and south of the Thames—the pipes being carried either under the river or along piers erected parallel with two of the bridges—to Greenwich and Battersea Parks, and to Clapham Common. In each of the six parks enumerated, and on Clapham Common, a salt-water lake could be formed, to be supplied from the main reservoir on the Hackney Marshes.

I do not forget that the Serpentine and the other ornamental lakes of the London parks furnish winter amusement to skaters, and that salt water in our climate does not "freeze." Bearing these facts, then, in mind, two alternative plans suggest themselves. There could be either separate lakes formed for the reception of the salt water, or the present lakes—in those of the parks enumerated which have lakes—could be salt-water lakes in the summer and fresh-water lakes in the winter.

The next question which would arise would probably be, how could the water in the proposed salt-water lakes of London be disposed of as it became unfit for use for bathing purposes? The answer to this question is a very simple one. Salt water is an admirable disinfectant, and the "waste" from the lakes might therefore, with great advantage to the

public health, be used for the flushing of our sewers and drains, and the watering of our public streets and roads. The following description of the use to which salt water is put in a provincial town may be given in illustration of what has just been said.

The Corporation of Tynemouth have in operation in that town a system of street-watering and sewer-flushing with salt water that, from a sanitary point of view, has proved of very great advantage. The water is pumped from the sea to a reservoir in the upper part of the town, and from this reservoir it is not only supplied for the purposes already indicated, but, by a system of metal pipes, it is distributed to various parts of the town, so that any private persons who may desire it can in their own houses be accommodated, at a moderate cost, with salt water for baths, for the flushing of drains, and for any other domestic or sanitary purposes.

It is important to note what has been stated regarding the especial advantages which are derived from the use of salt in lieu of fresh water for moistening the streets during the summer. By operating as a disinfectant the salt arrests and keeps down the unpleasant "effluvium" which, as every one knows, is not "laid" by ordinary watering. It also keeps the air cooler, and by its readiness to re-absorb moisture from the atmosphere so soon as it is dried by the sun, the roads are kept damp much longer than they are by the usual system of watering.

Even by "bringing the sea to London," we shall not of course be able to bring the sea-air with it, and we shall not bring the change of scene, without which even change of air loses much of its beneficial influence upon our health. Neither would the reform which is here advocated enable us to dispense with the necessity of our annual excursion to the sea-side. But it would at least make London life more tolerable, more healthful, and more enjoyable than it now is. To the great majority of people the advantages of bathing in sea-water are inestimable, and if the means for this were provided by the formation of such "miniature seas" in the heart of London as have been suggested in this paper, a blessing of no small magnitude would be bestowed upon the crowded and toil-worn inhabitants of this vast city.

FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH.

* See page 755.

BY THE HEARTH.

THE dark lane is lonely to-night:
How the tempest shrieks!
And the great oak creaks
And groans in the furious fight.

Let us put down the blind, and turn
From the window-pane,
And the wind and rain,
To the tea and the singing urn.

The children, with bright happy looks,
Have covered the floor

With a motley store
Of their toys and their fairy-books.

Of the spring and summer we tire,
But we may find joy
To last and not cloy,
At play with the bairns by the fire

Town gaieties who can endure?
The life that is best
We find when we rest
At home by the hearth—it is pure.

GUY ROSLYN.