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STONE STEPS AT HIGH BRIDGE, NEW YORK CITY.

The Harlem River in the vicinity of High Bridge, across which flows the entire water supply of New York city, has long been a favorite resort, the western bank and wooded slopes affording many secluded and cool resting places. For sightseers the central attraction is the famous bridge, at the western end of which are the mammoth pumps that raise the water to the reservoir on the extreme top of the hill. On the bank of the reservoir, toward the river, stands the stone tower, which serves as a smaller reservoir, furnishing water to the more elevated districts.

The bridge at the opposite side of the river is about on a level with the top of the hill, and it is from this side that the majority of visitors reach the aqueduct. Along the shore runs the railroad track, and through the first arch, a little way up the hill, passes one of the main roads leading to Jerome Park. In former times the searcher after quiet and refreshing nooks reached this stage of his journey feeling encouraged by the few

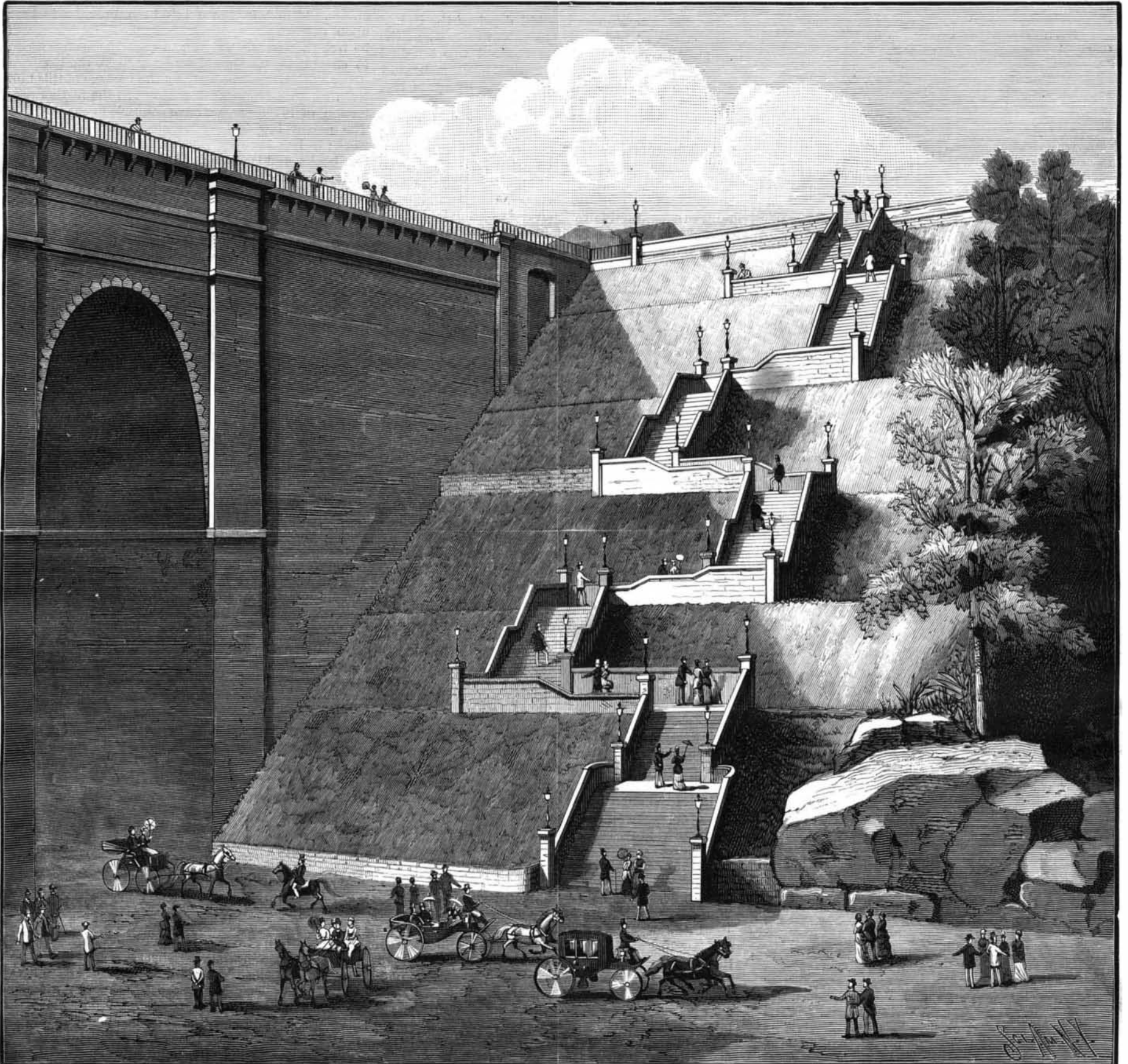
obstacles he had encountered tending to increase by exertion the effects of summer heat; but the first view of the old wooden steps, representing every degree of dilapidation, leading from the road to the summit, and the thought that up these his way led, dispelled all visions of coolness. About three years ago relief was provided, but only for a season, by an individual who combined philanthropy with business, and erected an inclined railroad up the hill.

But last year the Department of Public Works came forward, and built the stone steps shown in our frontispiece. These enhance the natural beauty of the surroundings and harmonize well with the massive bridge, to which they form a most fitting approach. As will be seen from the engraving, there was no attempt by the designer at forced or profuse ornamentation—the whole presenting a plain, rich, and substantial appearance, no matter from what point it may be viewed. The short flights, separated by roomy landings, serve to lessen the fatigue of the

upward journey, and enable the traveler to more fully appreciate the beauties of the more attractive opposite shore, as it gradually expands before him.

The steps, coping and caps are of bluestone, all the rest being built of gneiss. The coping is 2 feet wide, the lowest flight of steps 16 feet wide in the clear, the top flight 12 feet wide, and the intervening ones 8 feet. The extreme width from out to out is 43 feet. The total length of the steps is 207 feet, and the vertical height 88 feet.

THE sheet iron covering for cotton bales, which we have heard considerable about lately, if it proves not to be too expensive, and its weight not objectionable, and one can be used several times, will prove a successful invention. Considerable cotton is burned in transit, and several pounds from each bale is lost in various ways. The iron covering would materially lessen the risk from fire, keep the cotton clean, and the bales from depletion.



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