

## ICE BOATING ON THE HUDSON.

Among all the ice sports which delight the dwellers in northern climes, there is perhaps none that can equal ice boating in excitement. The employment of the force of the wind to propulsion of vehicles upon ice has, moreover, been applied to useful purposes. Dr. Kane, in his arctic explorations, more than once relieved his toilworn men by calling into his service the fierce wind that chilled them, and making it transport boats, crew, and sledges, while the men were buried under furs, thus obtaining the warmth and rest so essential to their safety. We have ourselves made trips in such a boat, upon the smooth ice which occasionally forms upon the upper Hudson, at a speed rivaling a fast railroad train; and it is on record that, last season, the ice boats near Poughkeepsie actually distanced the Chicago express train, which is one of the fastest trains on the Hudson River Railroad. Our engraving represents this impromptu race.

On the 17th January, of this year, a most remarkable feat was performed, the *Whiz*, of the New Hamburg Ice Boat Club, making the astonishing speed of nine miles in eight

minutes. She left New Hamburg in the morning, in the face of a sweeping north-easter, with reefed mainsail and jib, and with three men on board bound for Poughkeepsie. It was a tedious sail up, as scores of tacks had to be made and the weather was bitterly cold; but they got there safely, and having some business up town, transacted it, and returned at noon to their boat. The wind was still blowing a gale.

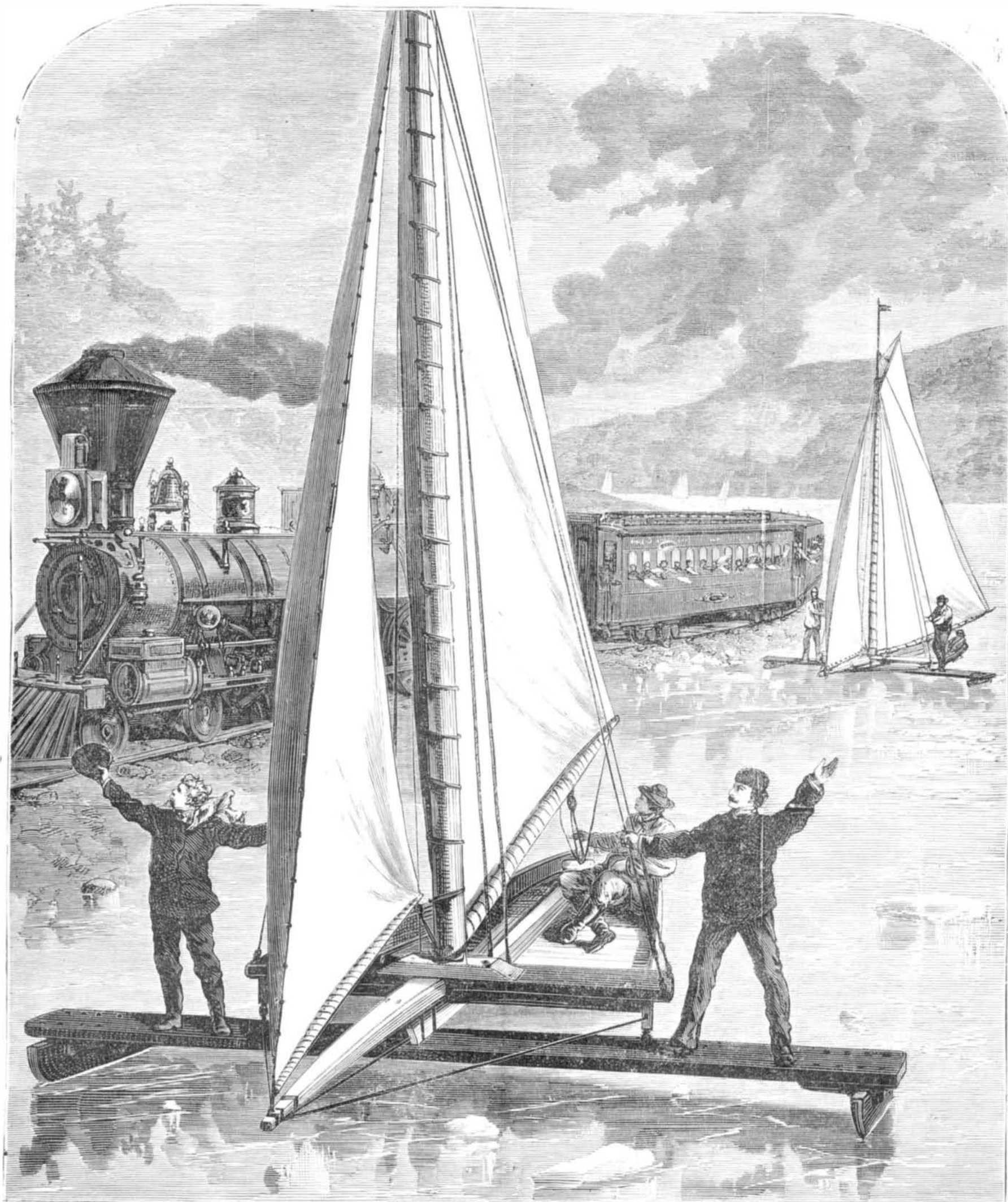
"Now, then, boys," said the helmsman, "let us shake out the reefs and go for time."

All agreed, and every inch of the boat's canvas was soon spread. "Get aboard, quick!" shouted the owner, and in an instant the craft was put before the wind. With a fearful whir-r-r! she started down the river, a perfect fog of fine ice flying from her rudderrunner. Persons gazing at her held their breath at the exciting scene. She had attained fearful speed, and one had hardly time for thought before she was a mile away, and in less than two minutes she was off Blue Point, two miles away. She flew by Milton like a bird on the wing, and was abreast of Marlborough in almost a minute afterward. The men on board could hardly see. Their eyes were greatly affected, and water flowed from them freely.

She had performed a feat which had not been equalled by an ice boat before in a number of years.

In the afternoon the *Ella* and *Zig Zag* had a magnificent race to Milton and back. Both carried full sail though it blew a gale, and each carried five men. "Going down, they sailed five miles in five minutes. It was a close contest—the closest on record. They were never more than one hundred feet apart, and when the *Ella* turned the stake boat ahead, the *Zig Zag's* bowsprit lapped her boom. It seemed impossible for one to draw away from the other. When they got above Blue Point, they were so close together that the greatest interest was felt among the observers who stood upon the home line off the Kaal rock. The judges eyed both boats intently as they neared home, but could come to no conclusion. The *Zig Zag* made for the eastern end of the line as the *Ella* made for the western, and as the former's bow glided over the latter's matched it, and there was great cheering. Neither could be declared the victor.

On the 18th, with a very light breeze at starting, an eight mile race was accomplished in twenty-eight minutes and fifty-five seconds.



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