

## ICE HARVESTING ON THE HUDSON.

It has been estimated that the domestic consumption of ice in New York, Brooklyn, and vicinity is a tonnage equal to that of the domestic consumption of coal. Whether this estimate be too large or too small, it is certain that ice has become an article of almost as universal demand as coal. The comfort, economy, and convenience secured by the use of ice is so great that it may now be classed as one of the indispensable articles of city consumption. Its harvest and supply has grown into an enormous business, which at times assumes the attitude of a merciless monopoly, and, in the absence of effective competition, is enriching the companies that conduct the business. It has also called into existence the use of improved appliances for cutting and storing ice, by which advantage can be taken in even short seasons, to secure the quantity needed. It has been proposed to use steam appliances for cutting the ice, but at present the ice plow drawn by horses is the principal method employed.

Our engraving shows the way in which the ice is cut into suitable blocks for storing. In our next issue, we shall give engravings of the method employed for elevating and placing the ice in the large buildings employed for its storage.

The harvest this year is late; but if the present cold term continues during February, there will be no difficulty in securing a crop.

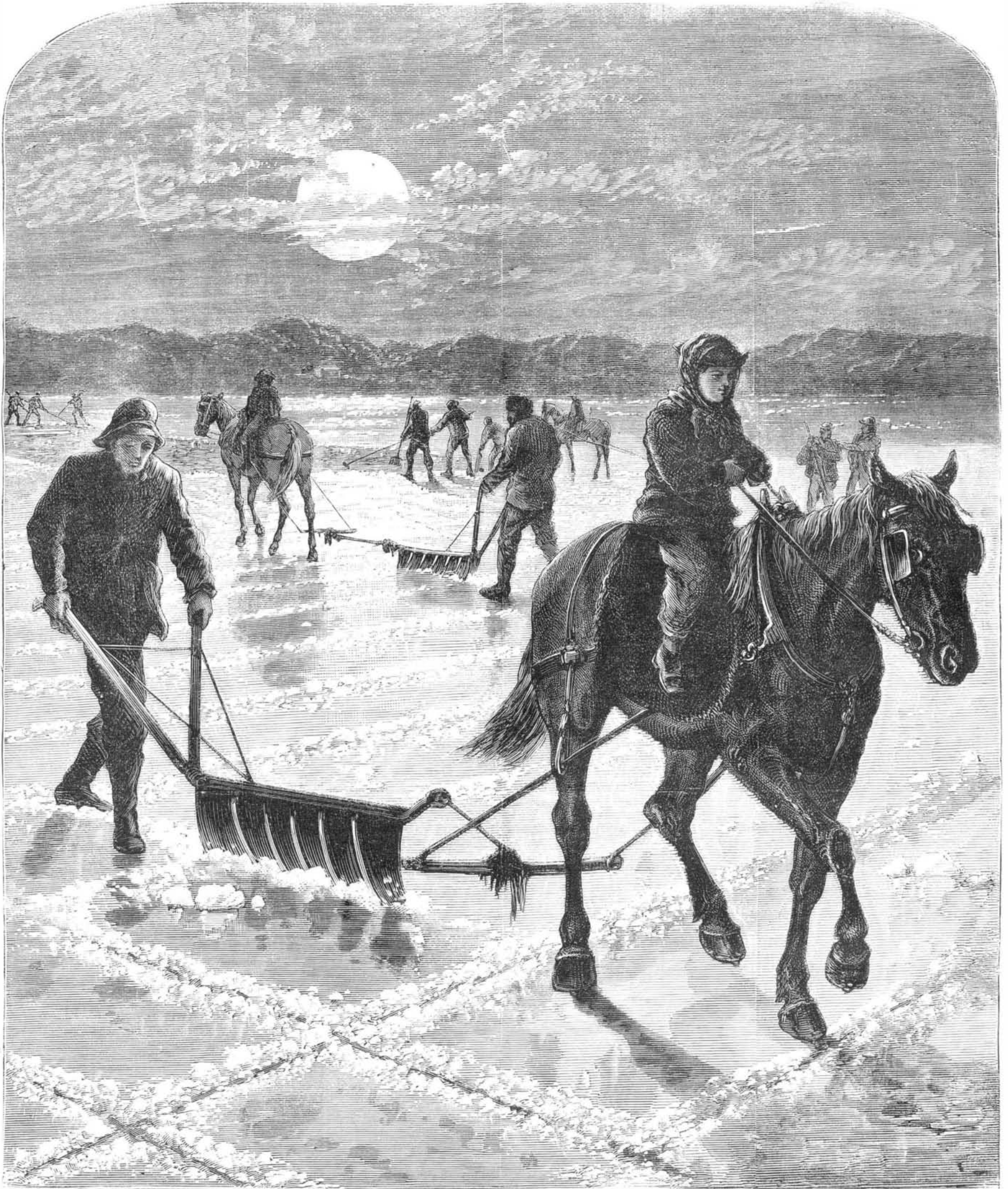
There have been some difficulties, between the employers and workmen, which have retarded work, but these have been settled, we believe, and ice of fine quality is now being rapidly housed. Horse power cutters, steam elevators, and an army of laborers are busily at work, and the houses will undoubtedly be filled before the opening of spring.

The ice plow used for cutting the ice is not very unlike an ordinary plow. For the solitary pointed blade are substituted several long, sharp prongs or teeth, which act saw fashion, and are so adjusted that the ice is cut but half through. When thus cut, the blocks are easily separated

from each other. The furrows are opened in parallel lines, giving a surface dimension to the blocks of two and a half feet by two feet. As the plow passes over a small area, the men, furnished with long poles terminating in strong iron hooks for the purpose, haul the blocks to the source of the canal, where, after twenty-five or thirty blocks are collected, attachments are made, and another horse tows the blocks to shore through the channel previously cut. This channel often extends a mile from the shore, and forms a canal for the transport of the ice rafts.

While the harvest is going on, the ice field presents a busy scene, being dotted all over with laborers. The work is often, in short seasons, pursued by moonlight, and pushed unremittingly to secure the crop before a thaw destroys it.

When the ice reaches the bank, it is hoisted up inclined planes and down others, into the storehouses. These, as well as the methods of hoisting, etc., will form the subject of the article promised for our next issue.



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