

BRIGHTON, MASS.. SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1884

VOL I.--NO. 12.

## Gone at Last!

THE OLD CATTLE YARDS  
ABANDONED.Sketch of the Institution that  
has Made the Town Fam-  
ous for a Century.The Establishment of a  
New Suburban  
Resort.

Last Wednesday the buying and selling of live stock at the old cattle yards was brought to a close, and a brief sketch of the establishment will no doubt be of much interest to the citizens of the district and to our readers generally.

The establishment of the market for the sale of cattle in Brighton was coeval with the Revolutionary war, and originated in the demand for a supply of provisions for the American army, which encamped in Cambridge under command of General Washington. The Cattle Fair Hotel Corporation was incorporated March 12, 1830, and, next to the Milldam Corporation, was the oldest chartered corporation in the State. The Tremont House Corporation in Boston was next. The Brighton Corporation built the hotel and constructed the system of yards, covering about nine acres of land in the center of the village, with all facilities for the transaction of the large

The following have been the proprietors of the hotel up to the present date: Judson Murdock, Z. B. Porter, W. G. Wilson & Larkin Wright, (the latter copartnership was dissolved after three years, and W. G. Wilson continued as proprietor); then followed T. J. Crawford & Co., Blaisdell & Atwood, T. J. Dunbar & Co., with a Mr. Tyler as their agent, who was succeeded by George Goodnow in the same position; T. H. Broderick, Abel Harrington & Son, and the late proprietor, J. I. Nesmith.

The first break was when the Northern railroads began to transport cattle over the Boston & Lowell and the Fitchburg, and the idea of a cattle market at North Cambridge was started. Unfortunately for the parties at Brighton, about this time there was some misunderstanding between the cattle fair corporation and old Zach Porter, one of the most popular landlords with the public and the habitués of the Brighton market. Porter & Meacham of Watertown purchased a large property on the line of the Fitchburg railroad at North Cambridge, and laid it out for cattle yards, and established a hotel, which for several years was immensely popular. Stephen Bennet, the largest stockholder in the cattle fair corporation, had years before foreseen the possibilities of a new cattle market somewhere on the line of the Fitchburg railroad, and when the Watertown branch was opened he had decided that Watertown would be the proper place, and when the Abijah White property was sold in 1850, he purchased its mansion and grounds with some such intention.

Peter Brigham, one of the directors of the Fitchburg railroad, entertained the same opinion, but Porter & Meach-

am in a less exposed place. It will also be a fine road house for the convenience of sleighing parties in winter and the immense pleasure driving through the suburbs. It is a central stopping place for the Milldam travel to Newton, and from Harvard College and Mount Auburn to Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Jamaica Plain and Brookline. A large area will be reserved and tastefully and ornamentally laid out, with a handsome iron fence extending around the whole front, with the exception of the driveways, and a plan for the grading of a space some fifty or more feet in circumference at the corner of Washington and Market streets, and the erection thereon of an elegant fountain, has been thought of. Negotiations have been in process for some time and at last were concluded, by which the corporation has leased the hotel for a term of years to Mr. Francis E. Balch, who for several years so successfully managed the catering for Memorial Hall, Harvard College, and who is thoroughly qualified to make it what he proposes to have it—second in elegance, comfort and convenience to no hotel outside of Boston proper.

The remaining portion of the nine acres belonging to the corporation will be graded and laid out for building lots, with two cross-sectional avenues, so that the whole area will be surrounded by streets and avenues. As before remarked, these lots will be among the most sightly and pleasant in the entire district. In 1873, when the town was annexed to Boston, there was a plan for extending what is now Market street over Charles river to Cambridge, and to a point in the latter city which would make a broad and direct avenue from Mount Auburn to the Reservoir. There appears to be no reason why this important improvement should not at once be undertaken. There is but one thing remaining to be done in order to make the district one of the most desirable of the suburbs of Boston, and that is the extension of Commonwealth avenue to Chestnut Hill Reservoir; and we are pleased to note the fact that \$50,-

MAY 10, 1884

## Brighton's New Market.

The monotony which has pervaded the Boston & Albany stock yards during the past six months was broken on last Wednesday. The change was the inauguration of a market by the drovers, speculators and jobbers who, for many years, have made the old stock yards in the center of the ward their headquarters. The efforts of several eastern drovers to locate the market at the Watertown stock yards proved a most unsuccessful task. A visit to the Watertown yards found a few drovers looking for customers, but not many were to be seen. The coming to the Brighton market to purchase a milch cow or a pair of working oxen has been so long the custom that to divert buyers to Watertown will be a task not easy to accomplish, and will require more energetic skill than has yet been shown by a few drovers from the State of Maine. The quarters furnished by the Boston & Albany stock yards are well adapted for the trade, and no pains will be spared by the lessee to make any and all necessary arrangements for the comfort of both the buying and selling interests. The dealers in live stock expressed themselves as being well pleased with the sales on the opening day, and all concede that it was the best day's business they have had for some time.



