

**HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE
UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF NEW
YORK, ITS ORIGIN,
ORGANIZATION, AND WORK,
1863-1879**

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Historical sketch of the Union league club of New York, its origin, organization, and work, 1863-1879 by Henry W. Bellows

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HENRY W. BELLOWS

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*Memoriam quoque ipsam cum voce perdissemus, si tam
in nostra potestate esset oblivisci, quam tacere.—TACITUS.*

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ERRATA.

On the tenth page of the body of this history, Mr. Olmsted is improperly said to be "the originator of the Central Park." This is a mistake which the writer shared with many others. Mr. Olmsted, with his partner, Mr. Calvert Vaux, who has an equal claim to this distinction, was only one of the designers and executors of the plan adopted for the Park. The present design was made and executed by the firm of "Olmsted & Vaux," and they merit equal praise for it. The *idea* of the Park is said to be due to Mr. A. J. Downing, the pioneer of landscape gardening in America, whose lamented death in 1852, in the accident which befel the Henry Clay, deprived the country of one of its most accomplished citizens. What credit belongs to the city government of that day, we are unable to say, but probably not a little, in adopting and maturing Mr. Downing's suggestion. Having gone over the rough ground of the Park, before a spade had been put into it or a rock blasted, with Mr. Olmsted himself, and adhered to his scheme for redeeming the ground to the uses of a park, the writer may be pardoned for having permanently associated him with its authorship.

He did not learn the real facts, and then from a source of perfect authority, until the Sketch was in print. He has deemed it due to all concerned, as well as to himself and the credit of the Sketch for perfect accuracy of intention, amid many possible errors or defects of information, to append this correction: Mr. Olmsted never claimed, it seems, to be sole designer, much less originator, of the Central Park. That has however been claimed for him by friends who did not know, or who, like the writer, forgot the claims of Mr. Vaux and Mr. Downing. The error, we hope by this note, to do something to finally correct.

Another important verbal error, still left in the text, is the misprint on the twelfth page of *arms*-bearers which should read *arms*-bearers.

The name of Carl Schurz, on the one hundred and thirty-sixth page should be spelled without the *t*. And on the one hundred and forty-sixth page, near the bottom, E. R. *Pearlee*, should read, E. A. *Pearlee*.

