



THE ENTRANCE OF THE ERIE CANAL FROM THE HUDSON RIVER, AT ALBANY, N. Y.

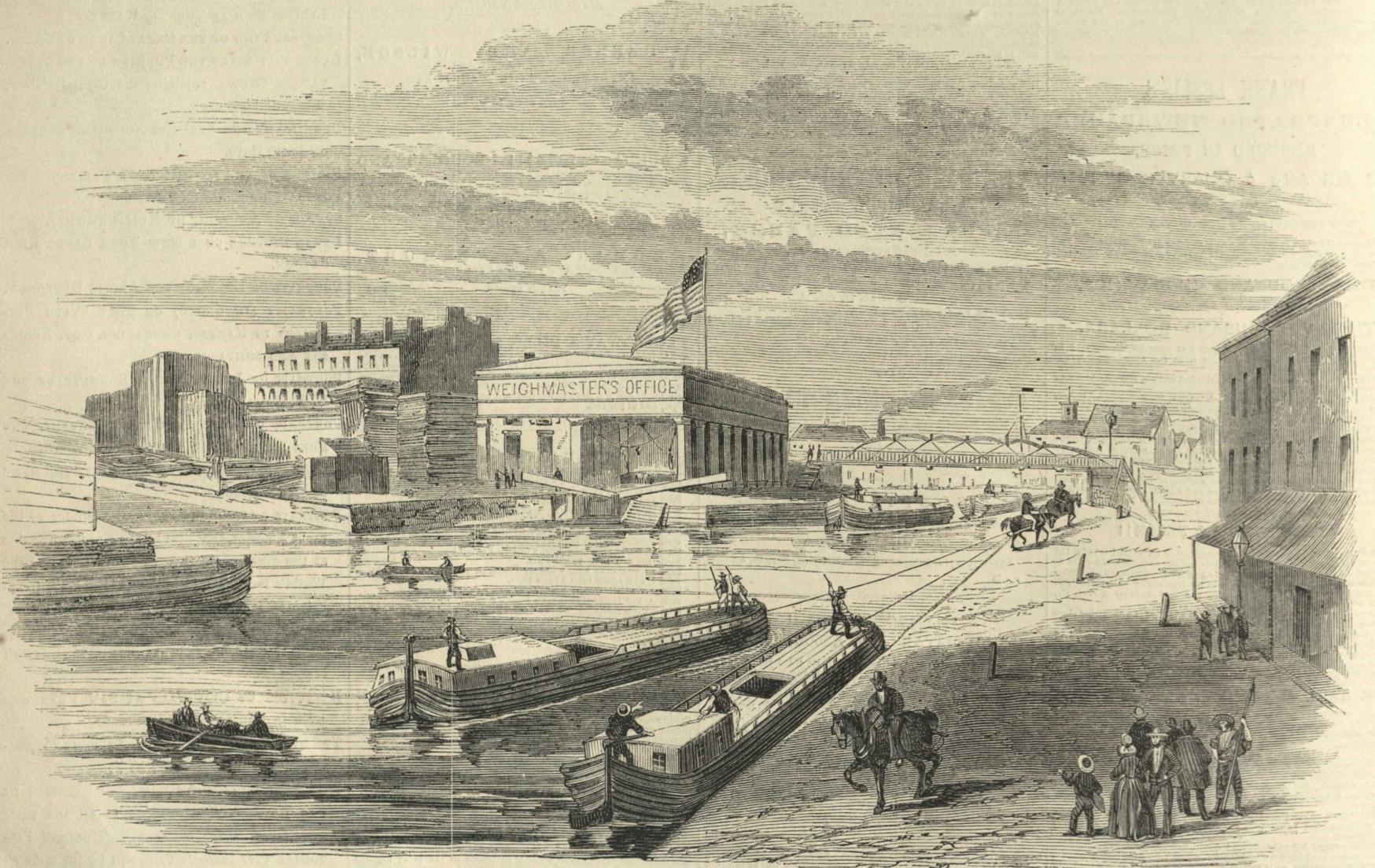
ENTRANCE OF ERIE AND CHAMPLAIN CANALS
FROM THE HUDSON RIVER, AT ALBANY, N. Y.

ALBANY is the second city of importance in the State of New York, of which it is the capital. In 1623 was established by the Dutch Fort Orange, and from beneath its protecting walls sprung up what is now known as Albany, which latter name was given to it in 1664 by the English, in honor of one of the titles borne by the Duke of York, afterwards James II. of England. The city is admirably situated for business purposes, being at the head of the navigation of the Hudson river, and the depository of the agricultural wealth that pours down from the "great West." In 1825 was celebrated the opening of the grand canal which connected the Harbor of New York city with the great lakes, and from that time may be dated the rapid growth and permanent prosperity of the State capital. The statistics of the great agricultural and commercial wealth that finds its way through western New York, by the way of the canals and finally to the Atlantic seaboard, seem almost fabulous, there being a tonnage of internal commerce of vast national importance,

estimated annually at more than fifty millions of dollars. The view we have given, taken especially for our paper by a most skillful artist, represents first, the entrance of the Erie canal from the Hudson river—the boats passing in or out of one of the two locks, which are the first of the immense number that are brought into use along the extended line of over four hundred miles. Overcoming an ascent of some hundred feet, the highest lock in altitude being at Buffalo—the lowest those at Albany, represented in our picture. Of all of these important structures the most remarkable are Lockport, where they form water stairs, of about twenty-five feet each, and cut directly through the solid rock. Canal-boats passing from the Hudson river, pass through the locks and enter the celebrated Albany basin, represented in our second picture, where immense numbers are always to be seen at all seasons. If the canal is frozen, several hundred find a resting place in this basin during the winter. In the centre of the picture is the weigh-master's office; by further examination the weigh-lock may be seen, where all boats, on each trip, are weighed and registered, so that scarcely a pound of freight escapes notice: thus is registered and levied the millions of

our canal tolls, which form so large a portion of the annual income of the State of New York. Among the most striking features of the Albany basin are the vast piles of lumber to be seen on every side, this article forming one of the most important articles of trade. The clear pine of Michigan and Canada, the oak, cherry, poplar of Ohio, the common pine of Pennsylvania and New York, the beach, birch, hemlock, spruce and maple from everywhere, congregate, and pile mountain high, the annual amount being worth over seven millions of dollars. Wheat and flour form the great interest, though not so apparent to the superficial observer. No place in the country exhibits more activity and business thrift, confusion and bustle, than the "Albany basin," it rivals the seaboard cities, and reminds the southern visitor of the levee at New Orleans.

Professor Hedrick, lately removed from the Professorship of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina, for the crime of avowing himself in favor of Free Kansas and Fremont, is in Cambridge, Mass. We believe he intends to reside hereafter in the Free States.



"THE ALBANY BASIN," OR CANAL HARBOR, OF THE ERIE AND CHAMPLAIN CANALS, ALBANY, N. Y.