☞ The Tunnel.—About the greatest object of interest in the vicinity of our city just now, is the Tunnel of the Water Works Company in the rock under the Erie Canal and the Black Rock harbor to the Niagara River, about half a mile beyond the city line.

The perpendicular shaft or well is about eight feet in diameter and thirty feet deep, nearly the whole being through rock. From the bottom of the well, starts the Tunnel which is nearly circular, and about six and a half feet in diameter, running nearly horizontally towards the bed of the river, which is distant about three hundred and sixty feet. A slight slope upward as the Tunnel advances, allows the water which pours into it from springs or crevices in the rock, to run back into the well out of the way of the workmen who are engaged incessantly, day and night, in blasting the rock. They have now proceeded about two hundred and eighty feet from the well, progressing at about two feet per day. Only four miners are able to work at once, changing three times during the twenty-four hours. The work is all done by lamp light.

The rock is soft and easily drilled, and as yet no crevices have been found of sufficient magnitude to offer very considerable impediments to the work. The blasts are discharged about once in three hours, four charges being let off at once. When the holes are drilled to a sufficient depth and charged, all hands leave the hole, to avoid the deafening roar of the explosions and as a matter of safety in case they should open any water course connecting with the river, in which event the Tunnel would be likely to fill with water uncomfortably fast to people so far away from the external world.

At the mouth of the well the noise of the blasts is like the discharge of heavy artillery, and the earth and buildings are considerably shaken by the shock. The water which accumulates in the well is removed by two large pumps driven by a steam engine, which is also used to lift the broken stone from the pit. The whole work is one of sufficient interest, as lazy as we are, to repay the exertion of a walk twice the distance to it, and even run the risk of a pretty good wetting and some mud in descending and examining the pit.

☞ Business Prospects.—It will be seen on