

during the shove of the ice, and abundantly strong, it was thought, to resist any amount of impact from submerged ice. A most important step was thus taken towards the subsequent progress of the work on the departure of the ice, and with it a *point d'appui* for the commencement of operations in still water, when spring would come. A few days however served to dispel those fond anticipations of progress made, and realizing the words of the poet,—

“The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft’ a-glee.”

The terrific movement had commenced, with nothing visible but millions upon millions of tons of ice crushing past the sentinel-like piers, with their giant heads far above, relieved occasionally by a large stick of timber, wand like, hurled into the air, as the only evidence of the presence of the large and supposed immovable cribs known to exist underneath this awful commotion.

On the subsidence of the water, some of the cribs were found three hundred feet down the river from the places where they were sunk, while others were from 30 to 100 feet, occupying the sites of the masonry, and presenting a truly pitiable condition.

Instead of a step in the right direction, it turned out to be the reverse, as not much progress could be made until these obstructions were removed. This operation, owing to the difficulty of getting the stones out of them, by divers and otherwise, occupied the greater part of the summer. A second step taken by Mr. Hodges, during the winter, produced the most satisfactory and beneficial results. Four pontoons, 160 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 10 feet deep, were built for the sides of the dams belonging to piers 12 and 13, and which so expedited the work, notwithstanding