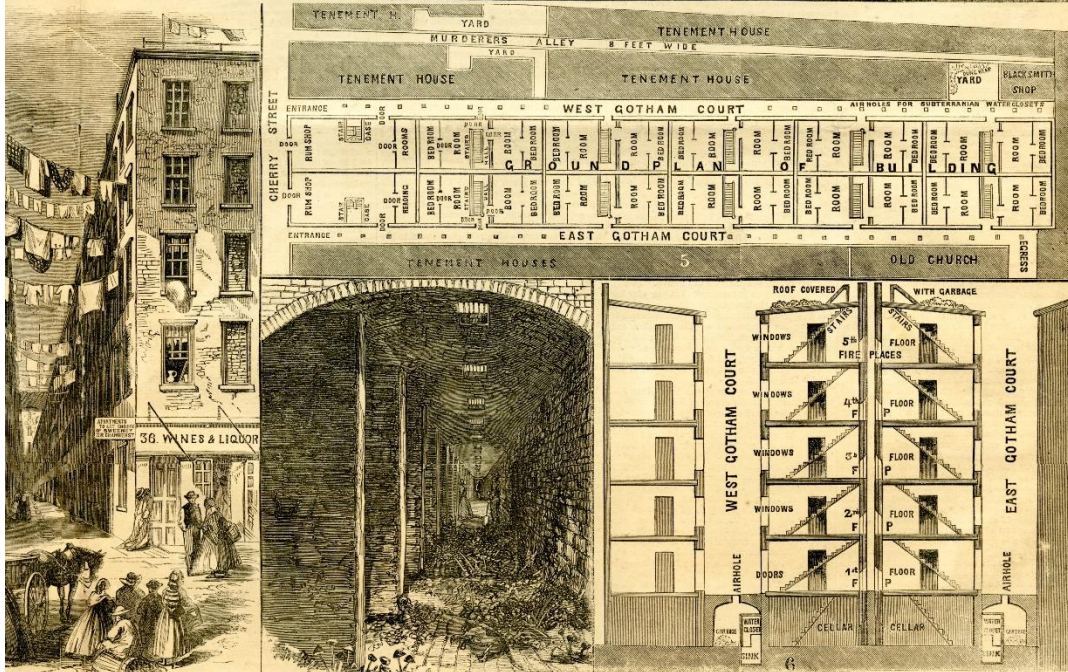


Image



Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, No. 509, Vol. 20, July 1, 1865  
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09674 p4)





ESSED BY OUR ARTIST. 3. LOOKING UP WEST GOTHAM COURT. 4. VAULTS BENEATH THE COURTS. 5. GROUND PLAN. 6. FRONT SECTIONAL VIEW

PARENTS ARE DEMORALIZED AND THEIR CHILDREN DEPRAVED—THE GREAT SOURCE OF DESTITUTION AND CRIME.—FROM SKETCHES BY MR. ALBERT BERGHAUS

pearance. The space occupied by each family is about the same as in West Gotham court, and the price per month similar, running from \$4.50 to \$6 per month, according to the floor.

Now let us compute the number of human souls crowded into the first block of houses which we first inspected. Fronting on West Gotham court are six double houses, each containing 10 families; back of this, in the same block, fronting on West Gotham court, is a like number of houses, containing a like number of

families, in all 240; each family will average five members; so that we have in this one block no less than 1,200 persons, all huddled within a space which, if the locality was wholesome, is not sufficiently large to properly accommodate one-tenth of the number.

The consequences of such a state of things are worthy of the most serious consideration. Stagnant water and decaying garbage generate contagion, disease spreads, and a whole neighborhood soon becomes infected by the unhealthy condition of a single tenement. This is a

matter which affects the lofty as well as the lowly, for all are contiguous in crowded cities. The pestilence radiates from the courts and alleys to the squares and avenues. We do not know exactly what the rate of yearly mortality is in the houses that we describe ; but in some of a similar character it is one in seven ; while in the more habitable portions of the metropolis it is one in sixty—the rate in the whole city being one in thirty-five.

houses is one that ought to be brought before the proper authorities in a manner that will not put them longer to shrink from their proportion of the responsibility. It is a burning shame that New York, the metropolis of a comparatively new country, a city that pays more money than London, Paris and Berlin inclusive, for the maintenance of her municipal government, does not insist upon having the sanitary regulations so administered, that the rate of mortality would not be eight and a half times greater in one locality than another.