

However, when it is remembered that civilian ferrymen were wont to charge \$15 for special night crossings from the city to the island, the cooperation of two-star generals in promoting a free trip seems no more than right.

In the presidential election of 1880 General Hancock was the Democratic candidate opposed to the Republican James Garfield, marking the only time in our history that a regular Army officer on active duty was a candidate for political office. Hancock received the nomination in the Admiral's House. He eventually lost.

Another great boon for which Hancock was responsible was the bringing of city water to Governors Island in 1880, large mains under Buttermilk Channel bountifully supplanting the five pump wells and rain cisterns upon which the island hitherto had been forced to depend. (The geological formation beneath the island precluded the use of artesian wells.) A new hospital was built in the same year.

In line with such improvements was the general's installation of exterior lighting on the island. Previous to his coming there were no street lights at all except for one lantern on a pole near the dock, but thereafter posts with kerosene lamps were set out at all important locations and regularly

tended.

The South Battery Club also owes its beginning to General Hancock who ordered the establishment of an officers' mess in the South Battery on June 20, 1879, under the supervision of the post quartermaster and with one John Rolf as the first steward of the mess. From this grew the South Battery Club as constituted today; the exact date of the founding of the club is uncertain but the records show that the original by-laws and constitution were adopted at a meeting held Feb. 3, 1881. At that time the club membership totaled 31, with these officers: Major General James B. Fry, President; Colonels John Mendenhall and T.C. Baylor, Vice Presidents; Colonel C.T., Treasurer; and Lieutenant J.L. Chamberlain, Secretary.

One of the most important of General Hancock's contributions to our entire military establishment was his sponsorship of the Military Service Institution of the United States, an organization incorporated in June 1884, for "literary, historical and scientific purposes and by the establishment of a museum, publishing of essays, etc., to promote the military interests of the United States." General Scott was the first president of this society with General T. F. Rodenbough as Secretary, whose office was in the old Clock Tower Building. The



Colonel's Row