

## RODMAN DRAKE PARK.

Dear Mr. Hall:

It was proposed some years ago to form a park in the Hunt's Point neighborhood, to be called Drake Park. I and others appeared before the Aldermen of the Bronx to explain the conditions and give reasons why Drake, identified as he was with New York, and especially with the Bronx region, (you will recall his charming lines to the River Bronx.) would be particularly fitted to give a name to a park. It was understood then that the park was laid out so that the knoll on which the little burying ground lies, would fall within the boundaries of the park, and that the design had been accepted and the park was to be formed.

That decided the family not to remove the monument to some place in New York, where it would be better cared for and protected from vandals and souvenir hunters. But nothing seems to have been done.

The promised Drake Park appears little better than an amiable suggestion, so that I, for one, am more and more of the opinion that some such disposition should be made of the grave and its contents. Unless the city proposes in earnest to form this park, I think the monument should be removed by the family.

If, however, there is a determined purpose on the part of the citizens of the Bronx to honor Drake by forming this park, I should give my vote to keep the remains where they are, and to place the monument and grave in the hands of the Scenic and Historic Society, which already has done so much to further the preservation of natural scenery and historical landmarks in and about New York. I do not doubt that other descendants of the poet, who are equally interested and fully as competent as I to decide the question, will be found to agree with me. I shall be glad to obtain their consent.

CHARLES DE KAY.

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